

## INVITATION TO THE 2018 CONFERENCE

Conference Theme: “#Free Education – The Impact”

Co-Hosted by

Vaal University of Technology (VUT), Tshwane South TVET College & Ekurhuleni East Coast TVET College

**Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018**  
Birchwood Hotel, Boksburg, Johannesburg

**Dear Colleagues**

FAPSA, since 2001 has always played a pivotal role in determining what the Best Practices would be in assisting Financial Aid Offices and also the Best Processes in assisting NSFAS and Donors alike in the management, administration and allocation of funds within the industry. Over the past few years we have been subjected to numerous changes within the industry, taking into account the student centred model of NSFAS, “Central Application System”, “#FeesMustFall”, system requirements, changes in how we operate within our sector, etc. Change has always been accepted within our sector, as we all believe in changing for the betterment and to improve the way we administer our funding nationally in compliance with the sponsors rules. We as FAPSA have been subjected to numerous changes over the past few years and the ultimate roll out of the new on-line system for all HEI’s and TVET’s. We have however all been affected by the statement made by our President in relation to Free Education and hence our theme for this year’s conference, “#Free Education – The Impact”

At last year’s conference our topic was “#Free Education and our role”. Throughout the conference we discussed what the effect of #Free Education” would have on the daily operations of the Financial Aid Office and NSFAS, not to mention the consequences thereof. At some point in our conference we questioned the existence of the Financial Aid Office, if Free Education were to be implemented. What would happen to all staff that worked within the Financial Aid Office environment? Quite a lot of concerns were raised to which to date we still do not have any answers. We discussed various scenarios and factors that would affect the Financial Aid Office moving forward.

On 16 December 2017, former President Jacob Zuma announced that government will subsidise free higher education for the poor, which will be rolled out in the 2018 academic year, starting with students in their first year of study at our public universities.

Over the past few years we have always aligned our conference theme in line with the current challenges or circumstances that we faced within our sector. In 2016 our theme was, “#Crossroads: Where to next?”, in 2017, our theme for conference was, #Free Education and our role” and this year as stated above, it is, “#Free Education – The Impact”. We as FAPSA believe that our theme for this year’s conference clearly indicates that we have come to yet another mile stone that will affect the future of the Financial Aid Offices in line with the demands and the implementation of Free Higher Education. The conference hopes to enlighten all of us on the way forward.

It is from this premise that FAPSA invites all member institutions and organizations to the 2018 and 17<sup>th</sup> FAPSA Conference.

Early Bird Registration fee of R4,500.00 per delegate until 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018, thereafter the fee will be R5 000.00 per delegate which includes FAPSA Membership Fee, Gala Dinner, Conference fee, Goody bags, Gifts, Teas & Lunches. Late Registration will end at the end of May 2018 and no registration forms will be accepted after this date. A Maximum of 250 delegates will be accepted on a First come first payment basis. Institutions must make their own travel and accommodation arrangements.

A maximum of 5 delegates per University/University of Technology/FET College/Educational NGO and a maximum of 2 delegates per Provincial Department of Education and any other organization is hereby invited.

Institutions/organizations intending to send more than the stipulated maximum number of delegates should contact Alberto Lai Wing at 043 704 7245 or alai-wing@ufh.ac.za before making bookings for additional delegates.

Registration starts @ 18H00 – 20H00 on 01 July 2018, continuing in the following morning at 08h30am to 09h30. The last session of this year's conference will conclude @ 14H00 on 04 July 2018.

This invitation serves as a call to member institutions and partners to start with the preparations for the 2018 Conference and the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting where **You** will begin developing and bringing to life the request made by the former leaders of FAPSA, that of “**Building a better and more focused organisation aimed at better servicing our members, institutions and students**”.

Yours sincerely

**Alberto Lai Wing**  
**FAPSA President**