

## INVITATION TO THE 2019 CONFERENCE

**Conference Theme: “#Free Education – The Future of Financial Aid Offices”**

**Co-Hosted by**

Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) and Stellenbosch University

**Monday, 24 June – Wednesday 26 June 2019**  
Century City Conference and Hotel, Cape Town

### Dear Colleagues

FAPSA, since 2001 has always played a pivotal role in determining what the Best Practices and Processed would be in assisting Financial Aid Offices, and in assisting NSFAS and Donors alike in the management, administration and allocation of funds within the industry. The past few years turned out to be some of the most challenging years within the industry, since the inception of FAPSA. The changes and challenges we were subjected to over the past few years seem endless and sometimes, we need to take step back and ask ourselves the question, “When will it ever end?”. To date, the so-called, “Central Application System” and “#FeesMustFall”, processes and procedures, seem to do done nothing, other than complicate, the way we operate within our Financial Aid Offices. Change has always been accepted within our sector, as we all believe in changing for the betterment in the way we offer our services to our clients (both students and donors) in the way we administer our funding nationally and in compliance with the sponsor’s rules. The changes we as FAPSA were subjected to over the past few years, are endless. We have however have all been affected by the statement made by our former President in relation to Free Education and hence our theme for this year’s conference, “**#Free Education – The Future of the Financial Aid Offices**”

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 was, **#Free Education and our role**, in 2018, “**#Free Education – The Impact**”, and for this year’s conference, our theme, “**#Free Education – The Future of the Financial Aid Offices**”. We as FAPSA believe that our theme for this year’s conference clearly indicates that we have come to yet another milestone that will affect the future of the Financial Aid Offices in line with the demands and the implementation of Free Higher Education. The Financial Aid Offices throughout South Africa continue to be left out of critical decision-making process. This in turn, is communicated to our students before we actually are informed of the way forward, for any academic year as well as the process that need to be followed, in relation to the new changes that are to be implemented at our offices. Critical to these changes are time frames for implementation. We have throughout the past few years emphasized on the importance of communication from NSFAS to FAO’s, and sometimes it seems to have been ignored. To date the role of the FAO’s has not been clearly defined. 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 2019 and 18<sup>th</sup> FAPSA Conference.

Early Bird Registration fee of R5,000.00 per delegate **until 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019, thereafter the fee will be R5 500.00 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 2019 and no manual registration forms will be accepted this year’s conference. 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](mailto:alai-wing@ufh.ac.za) before making bookings for additional delegates.

Registration starts @ 18H00 – 20H00 on 23 June 2019, continuing in the following morning at 08h30am to 09h30. The last session of this year's conference will conclude @ 14H00 on 26 June 2019.

**The FAPSA website is under construction, but we have activated the Registration portal. All registration will take place on this portal and invoices are automatically generated via the portal. All registrations for this year's conference must be done on line at [www.fapsa.org.za](http://www.fapsa.org.za).**

This invitation serves as a call to member institutions and partners to start with your the preparations for the 2019 FAPSA Conference and the 18<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**