**Thabiso**

Years of Experience : 14 years in Higher Education

Years of Experience : 20 years working with LO (Taught Garde 9 & Grade 11 at school level while working as the principal for 6 years) before working at UP.

1. **In your view, what can LO teachers do to support Grade 12 learners in transitioning from high school to tertiary education?**

I think ammm teachers must assist the learners with the applications for the university, student funding opportunities , advise them about the admission requirements of various qualification and at the different universities because each university has its own admission requirements.

The support should not only be about career choices and applications, but they need to assist them on how to overcome anxiety once they become first year students at universities and also how to manage their time. Actually there is a number of life skills to share with them like goal setting

We do a number of community outreach projects. For example , last week we went to schools around Kimberly to work with LO teachers about supporting their Grade 11 and 12 learners.

We also have what we call LO toolkit developed by UP for LO teachers to use and share with their Grade 12 learners. The toolkit has a lot of information about faculties, what you can study and all the support available financial information at the university, and also information on how to make online applications. The toolkit can be useful even if the student does not want to study at our university because some information might be similar.

Next week Friday we have visitors - all LO teachers around the country will be visiting UP for a relationship building with teachers workshop/session - we are going to tell them exactly what they need to do to prepare their Grade 12 learners for studying at UP.

The toolkit is available on Junior tekkie.online – go to Apply at UP and then you will find everything right there.

1. **Reflecting about your tertiary institution, which support mechanisms are in place to support LO teachers in their role of preparing Grade 12 learners to transition to tertiary education?**

Okay we have videos , PowerPoints , pdf documents/files , brochures for Garde 10 subject choice, toolbox that we developed , Grade 9 parents information, also Grade 11 parents information session now only , go to different schools to visit LO teachers and share with them all the information about the faculties.

**Feeder areas, only Pretoria?**

We cover all the provinces in SA and we also service SADC countries, with 07 Advisors they service SA schools,

We have LO teachers outreaches to offer information

We do training for LO teachers in Polokwane and Mpumalanga

We identify all the schools that give UP 10 or more students in a year over a 3 year period and we visit such schools, but we do service more schools as long as we have the invite – but due to demand we are unbale to honor all the invitations.

We also have Junior Tukkie programmes that has a lot of information for high school learners generally. It has a number of programmes such as life skills information, other enrichments programmes such as LO teachers toolkit. We also have Junior Tekkie students Ambassadors society whereby those students also to go schools especially their home schools to share information about programmes offered at UP especially the science qualifications , they also assist prospective students with application to study further but the focus is mainly applications to study at UP.

**How do you advocate these services to the community?**

We have Junior Tekkie online programme, and we have Yotube channel to share information with prospective students, their parents and teachers.

Realizing that we have some schools who struggle with data --- we also developed an offline programme, we put the information on the memory stick with information about UP and what needs to be known by prospective students and we distribute these memory sticks to the schools so that they can have information that they require.

Student Advisors at UP have created WhatsApp groups with LO teachers where they continuously share with them all the relevant information.

1. **Which role does your institution play in collaborating with the LO teachers in preparing Grade 12 learners for transitioning to tertiary institution?**

We do play a critical role in collaborating with LO teachers and schools.

Our …ehhh….my Student Advisors have contact of LO teachers, especially that which we work with closely ….so we created a WhatsApp group where LO teachers send us their queries and student Advisors respond promptly to those queries.

1. **Share any support strategies that you think may be useful in preparing Grade 12 learners for tertiary education?**

I think the strategy must be done earlier ….if you want to do it do it earlier maybe in Grade 11….in Grade 12 is already late . In Grade 12 it must just be follow-ups and refresher information because the Applications already opens in April. Grade 12s are very busy focusing on their academics, but we still collaborate with the LO to give them information about our university … we also assist with them on how to complete contracts for studying at UP and residence placements…eeemmm…we also share with LO teachers our Career focus booklet that we also developed for the LO teachers, Leaners and parents. JD app ??? We try to assist the Grade 12 learners as much as we can though the time becomes limited.

1. **In your view, which aspects/factors do you think can assist Grade 12 learners in transitioning to tertiary education?**

* Okay emmmmmm…..Up the Grade 12 marks , improve the time management , they must develop study methods, emmmmmm know how to prepare for the examination, emmmm I call it varsity wise up – make sure you have the right information of the university you want to study with. Financial readiness – how to manage your money.
* Learners need to know how to manage anxiety, stress and your money matters…yah and financial readiness is also critical

1. **In your view, which aspects/factors do you think can be the barriers for Grade 12 learners in transitioning to tertiary education?**

* Lack of access to internet connectivity because applications are mostly online only. I think there is only 5% of public schools in South Africa that have stable internet connectivity most schools do not have.
* Being a first-generation student - their parents do not have information about tertiary education studies
* Finances – student financial aid assistance – some Grade 12 learners still do not know that there is NSFAS that can assist them with funding for their higher education studies.
* Coming from a poor background – learners who come from poor background may struggle to come to the university because of finances and never been in a big city may have an overwhelming experience and experience culture shock.
* Poor information from the LO teachers - some LO teachers do not put extra effort to assist Grade 12 learners to research some updated information, they sometimes give learners them information that is outdated.
* Grade 11 marks that are not good enough to be used to apply for higher education studies . Learners need to be made aware of the importance of performing excellently in Grade 11 because the Grade 11 results are critical in applying for higher education studies at Universities.
* Late applications for admissions at University – you find that a student passed with 80% when results are released but unfortunately because the student did not apply there is nothing that the university can do to admit the learners because the enrolment figures have been reached. This then becomes painful for the prospective student.
* DBE is not supportive to LO teachers , actually principals are not supportive to LO teachers - LO teachers do not have the know how because according to me and the experience I acquired while working as the Principal, an LO teacher can do 40% of things - actually a lot to assist the learners to transition – the problem is when the principal is not supportive of the initiatives that the LO teacher brings to the table.