

Feedback from students

Lavina Yuyada • *Civil Engineering*

Being a part of the WELA team this year has presented a lot of benefits to me – from making new friends from different parts of engineering to being coupled with a mentor. In this challenging field of Engineering; guidance and advice from peers is greatly appreciated. It feels so good to enter a room filled entirely with females as opposed to a lecture room filled with males. It gives us an opportunity to share our common views – WELA not only connects us but also grooms us to become the aspiring engineers of tomorrow.

Aleena Mathew • *Electrical Engineering*

Through WELA, I have come to understand my weaknesses and learnt ways to work around them and convert them into strengths – and then capitalise on these strengths.

Jerusha Van Den Heever • *Mechatronics*

WELA creates an environment where women can come together and freely share and empower each other. The highlight of my year with WELA has been the connections I have made. I would never have had the opportunity to meet most of the women in the group if it hadn't been for this initiative. I have become more confident in myself and as a female engineer in a male-dominated workplace.

Majamana Nwabisa • *Industrial Engineering*

Thanks to the WELA workshops I have attended, I have changed the way I view the world. I also got the chance to meet students I never knew before and interact with women who are already in the working world. From the interactions with these women, I have received advice on how to handle various challenges on campus and in the working world. I have also learnt how to dress appropriately for a work situation as well as how to conduct myself at functions and over the internet.

Philasande Ntongana • *Mechanical Engineering*

Being a part of WELA has taught me that I'm not the only one who faces the fear of not being taken seriously as a female in a male-dominated profession. I have learnt how to express myself freely and confidently and lastly, I have learnt that I can achieve all the things that I set my mind to. WELA has taught me to be the best version of myself.

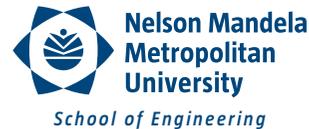


For more information on wela,
please contact:

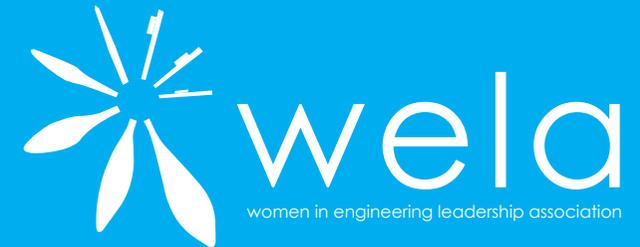
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inspirational women

The wela logo is a metamorphosis from mechanical to organic shapes. The mechanical shape symbolizes engineering, while the organic flower-like shape represents femininity. The logo symbolizes the evolution of younger women, molded by their mentors to grow into successful engineers. It also represents the evolution of an idea from the initial concept stages to the actual realization of an engineering project. The logo radiates the association's initiative to change the engineering sector and establish a support structure for women in engineering. Wela is the Xhosa word for change/transition.



The women in engineering leadership association (wela) is one of five projects initiated and managed by the MERSETA Chair in Engineering Development.

MERSETA together with Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University initiated the wela programme with the aim of empowering young female engineering students at the institution. The duo has recognised the importance of promoting and developing women into this emerging field and to market it as a desirable career aspiration.

It is the intention of wela to focus on academic, professional and personal development of women in engineering and be of service to the community.

VISION

To be recognised as the first choice University for supporting Women in Engineering.

MISSION

To offer a diverse range of support and developmental services to Women in the field of Engineering.

GOALS

- Establish Engineering as a desirable career aspiration for girls and Women.
- Develop retention and growth strategies for Women already studying in the field of Engineering.
- Mentor, assist and advance Women already in the field of Engineering.
- Focus on academic, professional and personal development and be of service to the community.



wela Leadership Development Programme

Junior members

- **Student counselling development workshops**
 - Team building and portfolio development
 - Wellness and strength assessment
 - True colours
 - Assertiveness
 - Conflict management
- **Professional development workshops**
 - Professionalism
 - Etiquette and netiquette
 - Personal grooming
 - 7 Choices for successful women
- **Academic development workshops**
 - Getting ready for exams
 - Panel discussion

Senior members

- Mentorship
- Technical project
- Engineering related short courses
- Factory visits
- Panel discussion
- Personal grooming
- Professionalism
- Leadership practice
- Presentation skills
- Job interviews
- Self-leadership

Working wela's

- 7 Choices for successful women
- Project management
- Lean workshop