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PhD graduate on a mission to advance astronomy education in Africa



Dr Tshiamiso Makwela

Photo: Je'nine May

Dr Tshiamiso Makwela recently graduated with a doctorate in Astronomy at the University of Cape Town (UCT) and she wants to advance astronomy education in Africa through her research work.

Makwela's thesis was titled: "Probing students understanding of celestial bodies of sizes and distances."

Born and bred in Diepkloof, Soweto, Makwela said: "Astronomy is something that I've always loved as a young child. First, it was just being fascinated by the moon and the stars. My mom then, would go out with me every single night to look at the stars and the moon you know, it was a whole routine."

Makwela's passion for inclusion, diversity and access to education has seen her do some groundbreaking research that will assist students from all walks of life as they "reach for the sky."

[Watch Dr Makwela talk about advancing astronomy education.](#)

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