IT IS refreshing to read in The Mercury (Tuesday, February 3) that the new vice-chancellor of UKZN, Albert van Jaarsveld, recognises the importance of the contribution that the people in the organisation make to its success and that measures will be put in place to improve access to the underprivileged (see article: New vice-chancellor is focused on UKZN staff).

In our society “purpose” and “targets” are often the prime emphasis of our actions, often to the exclusion of the need to ensure that people feel valued and appreciated for what they bring to the collective effort.

As a lecturer at UKZN I felt honoured to have been contacted in January by one of my past students who asked me advice on his preparation for a job interview for which he was preparing. It felt good to realise that at least for one of my students what had been covered in the lectures seemed useful for his future development.

After this article I feel more motivated than ever to play my part in the development of the young and upcoming generation.

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