Cashbuild, southern Africa’s largest building materials retailer, has for the first time ever awarded academic bursaries to assist two exceptional young adults further their education and pursue their dreams. These are generous, full bursaries which include tuition, study books, residence fees and a monthly stipend for the duration of the degree as well as guaranteed employment thereafter. Vacation employment and on-site skills development at Cashbuild also form part of the Cashbuild bursary programme which is designed to be life changing for its recipients.

Cashbuild has for many years supported education and has to date donated in excess of R22,5 million worth of building material to schools across southern Africa as part of its Art-at-Heart Community Support Initiative.

This new bursary scheme, which is being piloted in 2014, is for learners studying towards business degrees and aims to not only reward hard working students but also to enrich Cashbuild’s human resource by ultimately adding new, young and talented employees to its already strong workforce.

Cashbuild’s Human Resources Executive, Peter Champion, advised that the selection was guided by Mapula Hlongwane, acting Chief Education Specialist for Johannesburg South, which is a Sub-Directorate of Education Operations and Support in the Gauteng Provincial Government.

A short list of potential schools in the area and top students were supplied to Cashbuild. Students who made it onto this short list had to have the following in place: a good academic record, provisional university acceptance and require financial assistance towards tertiary education.

Candidates on the short list were interviewed by Cashbuild and the final decision was based on attitude, attitude towards study, attitude and methods used to prepare for examinations and general attitude towards life.

Both of these dynamic learners have shown extraordinary levels of commitment and resourcefulness and are well deserving of their bursaries.

When interviewed Tshidiso and Buhle were very quick to say that this opportunity is a dream come true. “There’s never been such a blessing in my family. I screamed!” is what Buhle had to say when she was asked how she felt about being selected for this bursary. Tshidiso said that his mom, a single parent, is very, very proud of him. “She is always encouraging me to study hard and learn from her mistakes. She supported me throughout the year.”

Tshidiso has his sights set on becoming a Financial Auditor, whilst Buhle plans to work hard to become an Auditor.

Both Tshidiso and Buhle have advice for learners wanting to succeed. Buhle says that she has always strived to do well. She says that: “Sometimes you see the situation you want to change and YOU have to do something.” Tshidiso believes that hard work pays. “What do I want? is a question you need to ask yourself, then you have to have internal motivation. External motivation is not enough.” “Your past doesn’t matter and you need to dream!” This extremely wise young man says that initially he wasn’t that serious about school because he thought that financial limitations were going to always be a hindrance, then one day he realised that “Money cannot stop me, I just have to work hard to get financial resources.”

According to Linda Dumani, Cashbuild’s Training and Development Manager, Cashbuild is so excited about this programme and is looking forward to great things from Buhle and Tshidiso and also its future bursary recipients. “We are totally committed to education and making this bursary scheme work.” He also added that “Cashbuild has in the last four years taken 232 unemployed learners through NQF 2 Learnership and offered them employment in the company after completing the learnership.”

To follow Tshidiso and Buhle’s journey log on to Cashbuild’s website www.Cashbuild.co.za or join Cashbuild’s facebook page.