



## **Neliswa Fente**

Neliswa was born on the 10 January 1986 in Thembisa.

Most of her childhood memories are in Alexandra Township in Eastbank where she grew up. Her school life started in 1994 when she went to Bramley Primary School where she excelled academically.

She then left Bramley and attended the Chinese Kou Ting school where she played sports like Netball, Badmington, was in the wild life club and was in the school choir. Whilst in Primary school Neliswa represented Gambia in the opening ceremony of the All African Games. She was also prefect by the end of her Primary school life.

Neliswa then attended Sandown High School where she was also in the school choir and deputy president of the Interact Club. During high school Neliswa did a lot of volunteering work with Rotary and this is where she found her passion for people.

Neliswa studies a Bcomm in Industrial Psychology through Unisa

She started working at StandardBank as a cell centre agent then moved her way up from that to being a Workplace Coach at the end of her 2 years with the bank. She then worked for a company called AllLife insurance where she was working at a Training and Development Leader.

After AllLife Neliswa then joined Kessels&Smit the Learning company which is an international consulting firm with professionals with a passion for learning and development supporting individuals, organisations and communities around the world in learning & development issues. In this firm Neliswa has worked on numerous projects with the University of Free State, assisted them with their first ever volunteer program, Richard's Bay Minerals, NYDA, the Freedom of Expression Institute and a global project in Georgia with the European Union a project called Democracy starts with you.

In 2013 Neliswa was invited to Russia to work with one of their biggest Banks called Pro Business Banks to assist the branch Managers have an entrepreneurial outlook to their way of doing business.

In 2011 Neliswa co founded a Youth Organisation called SpringAGE.

SpringAGE is a movement of young South African leaders who are coming up with solutions and ideas to create more employment opportunities for young South Africans. The focus of SpringAGE is to create a platform for young leaders to co-create with Business and government and come up with organisations that are scalable and linked to the National Development Plan of South Africa.

Neliswa is an Ambassador as well as a Board member for One Young World and represented South Africa last year in Zurich, Switzerland at the One Young World Conference. The premier global forum for young people of leadership calibre. It manifests the reality of common humanity and the shared existence of all the peoples in one world. Its purpose is to connect and bring together the youngest, brightest and best and to ensure that their concerns, opinions and solutions are heard.

Neliswa is a South African Spark ChangeMaker for 2013 and was named South Africa's top 20 Inspiring Young people of 2013 by Youth Village.

Neliswa has also been selected to be part of the World Economic Forum Global Shapers Community.

Neliswa is passionate about people, youth development and being a citizen of the world. She is passionate about venturing into the unknown. The possibilities and answers to the "what if" statement in people's minds fuels her. She constantly thinks of new ways of working together, the exothermic energy given off when people work together intrigues her. She is very excited about young people around the world (and more so, South Africa) who are making a difference around themselves irrespective of their background and circumstance. It is important to her that those young people always see themselves as better than their circumstances and to showcase those young people and hence exemplify their actions, create a space where young people can speak about their challenges and subsequently provide solutions to the challenges they face. Ultimately, learning is at the heart of everything she does. She believes that one needs to be given an experience to induce learning. People should always learn about themselves, their world and most importantly from each other.