

Market still suffers skills shortages

INDUSTRY still has a huge shortage of trade, finance, IT and engineering skills.

Some of the careers identified as being in short supply of skills include:

- Boilermakers;
- Fitters and Turners;
- Retail specialists;
- Information Technology (IT) professionals;
- Electricians;
- Mechanics;
- Plumbers;
- Engineers (electrical, mining, mechanical, meteorological);
- Accountants, creditors clerks and auditors; and
- Doctors.

The PAG's Bonnie Currin said should a matriculant be unsure of what career to follow, a BCom would always be a sought-after generic qualification.

And if the matriculant preferred to attend technikon, a Marketing Diploma was a good qualification to have as it opened a number of doors.

Should finances be a challenge, the alternative would be to study part-time through an institution such as Unisa while working part-time.

A matriculant could also gain a National Qualifications Framework (NQF) qualification through a learnership, while at the same time gaining practical work experience.

The first thing school-leavers looking to enter the working world should do is compile a CV and get it out into the market, she said.

"A good place to begin is with youth development funds and Setas, who offer career guidance and have helped many young people gain access to learnerships, internships and jobs," said Currin.

"There's also nothing stopping school leavers from phoning the big corporations themselves and asking them what they offer in terms of learnerships and how to go about applying for a place in one of these programmes." — *Asa Sokopo*

