



## **Laudatio Platform Studying without Limitations**

This year, the jury received nine nominations from both inside and outside the university. The candidates put forth for this award have all pursued highly remarkable endeavours. This makes for fascinating reading, but also for a difficult decision. Nevertheless, the jury is unanimous in its desire to present this Student Award for Exceptional Extracurricular Achievements to the pioneers behind the Platform Onbeperkt studeren (Studying without Limitations platform).

This platform was created in response to a survey conducted by students among students regarding the facilities available to students with a disability. The results revealed a need for an accessible way to obtain help and advice from hands-on experts.

Demonstrating enormous energy and motivation, the pioneers set to work with the results of this survey and, in a short span of time, translated several outcomes of the survey into concrete deeds and action points. The Platform is providing information, for example, and has launched a buddy programme this year as well.

In the near future, the makers of the Platform hope, by reviewing studies, to learn how to realise effective labour-market preparation for this target demographic.

The jury is touched by the dedication, ingenuity, involvement and perseverance shown by these pioneers. They serve as an example for other students of how inspiring and activating studying can be. In addition, the pioneers carried out this project in their free time, outside their studies.

Another aspect that appealed to the jury was that the Platform has fairly quickly become a fixture within the university. Not only the survey, but the Platform itself as well, are generating enough ideas to keep us occupied for years to come – and therefore contribute to our efforts to realise a more inclusive and diverse university.

The Platform has the potential to develop into a valuable think tank for students, lecturers, policymakers and the Executive Board. Through their activities, the members of the Platform themselves may serve a demonstrative purpose as well.

The jury is therefore extremely pleased to offer a spotlight, in the form of this Student Award, for these students and their efforts on behalf of people with a disability.

The potential for expansion will be supported in part by the K.F. Hein Fund: together with the Fund, students will explore ways to take their initiatives public and give their plans concrete form.