



## "Let your children study."

"It touches my heart," says Rector Anneliese Wellensiek, chairperson of the executive board of the University of Education Heidelberg, in her opening speech of the *University Information Day for Parents and Pupils with a Migration Background*. The assembly hall is well attended. To Wellensiek the matter is personally important, because in her opinion education is essential for successful integration.

The Information Day was arranged by the Baden-Württemberg Ministry for Education, Youth and Sports, the Heidelberg Office of Equal Opportunities and the Heidelberg Centre for Migration Research and Transcultural Education of the University of Education Heidelberg.

The number of students with a migration background has increased. Their parents play an important part in the decision whether and what their children will study in future. Therefore it is important to inform parents and children about study opportunities as early as possible.

The participants of the conference could get a good impression of what studying at university is like and what challenges and difficulties might be involved. Ten students ("*Studienbotschafter*") with a migration background were talking about their own lives and their experiences at university. *Studienbotschafter* are young people who already study. They visit schools to motivate pupils to study at university. They keep telling the parents: "Let your children study." Whether children study or not is not dependent on how much money their parents have, but on how well they are informed about later study opportunities.

Oliver Roth, speaker of the Baden-Württemberg Ministry for Education, Youth and Sports believes that it is not enough to deliver leaflets about universities. In his opinion it is important to parents and pupils to talk directly to persons who can show new perspectives to them and give information about the variety of study opportunities.

The Heidelberg Centre for Migration Research and Transcultural Education ("Hei-MaT") aims to inform better about study opportunities, to get parents involved and to support their children.

Havva Engin, head of the Hei-MaT, emphasizes the importance of the matter: "People with a migration background are a capacity for education that has so far been used too little." The Information Day is an approach to motivate people with a migration background to study and to show the diverse study opportunities.