



National Science and Technology Forum

S.E.T. for socio-economic growth

Message from Jansie Niehaus, NSTF Executive Director

The seventeenth awards evening of the NSTF, held in partnership with South32 on 9 July 2015, was a fitting celebration of excellence in science, engineering, technology (SET) and innovation. As the Minister of Science and Technology, Ms Naledi Pandor, said in her opening address, "...the finalists tell us a great deal about science in democratic South Africa. Over the past seventeen years of the NSTF awards we have had 171 winners (teams and individuals). Out of the 122 individual winners 41 (34%) were women and 53 (43%) were black. These statistics signify a welcome change in terms of both race and gender and we celebrate that."

Our heartiest congratulations to the [winners](#), and all the finalists.

As you can see from the SET Policy News section of this newsletter, SA's energy sector remains a hot topic of discussion in the media, particularly the role of nuclear energy.

In our monthly Policy Brief (see below under SET Policy News) we focus on the Infrastructure Development Act, which aims to fast-track regulatory decision-making and support the implementation of strategic infrastructure projects.

Digital Wellness Workshop: Towards Policy Design on Digital Security, Cybercrime and Cybercrime Prevention: Emperors Palace Convention Centre, Kempton Park, Gauteng: 21 August 2015

The workshop, co-hosted by The African Centre of Excellence for Information Ethics at the University of Pretoria, the Civilian Secretariat for Police and NSTF, will discuss the need and possible framework for policy design on matters related to digital wellness in South Africa. It will be the first event of its kind to focus particularly on policing, policy development and human behaviour towards safe access to safe information. This event is a follow-up to the [NSTF's ICT Security & Privacy Discussion Forum held on 15 May 2015](#) in Gauteng. The workshop will also observe practical aspects of human trafficking, drug trafficking and terrorism on the Internet. Visit the NSTF website [for more information](#) or to [RSVP](#).

[Getting to know the winners of the 2014/2015 NSTF Awards, in partnership with South 32](#)

Starting this month, we will be introducing one or two of the 2014/2015 award winners to our readers every month. In this issue, the focus is on Professor Helen Rees, founder and executive director of the Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute, and professor in the Wits department of obstetrics and gynaecology. Prof Rees was one of two

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Jansie Niehaus

[SET Policy news](#)

[Upcoming SETI events](#)

[Community News](#)

Share your organisation's bursary information - www.sciencebursaries.org.za - S.E.T. for life!

The [NSTF Science Bursaries website](#) allows bursary providers to register and upload the bursaries they are offering, with total control over their bursary information. The site also provides career guidance in SETI-related fields, and regularly profiles young SETI achievers, as well as accomplished senior role models in the field.

Do let us know if you are planning a youth outreach event; we will be more than happy to arrange for one of the NSTF-BHP Billiton Award winners to be present at your event.

Contact us at enquiries@nstf.co.za for more information.

winners of the award for achievement over a lifetime, by an individual. She was recognised for her contributions in the field of HIV prevention, reproductive health and vaccines, where she enjoys global recognition, and as a public health strategist with a unique ability to translate research into policy and practice. [Read more](#)

[The Brilliants Programme – nurturing our future innovators](#)

The NSTF Brilliants Programme, sponsored this year by the Department of Science and Technology, recognises 18 first-year students studying in the science, medicine and engineering fields, who had received top marks in mathematics and physical science in the National Senior Certificate Examinations last year. A young man and woman are chosen from each of the nine provinces. Four of these students have received a bursary from THRIP, (funded by the Department of Trade and Industry). [Click here](#) to learn more about this initiative and to meet this year's group of Brilliants students. Starting next month, we will introduce you to some of the individual students through a series of interviews.

SET Policy News

[Policy Brief 6/2015: Infrastructure Development Act](#)

The Infrastructure Development Act, signed into law by the President on 30 May 2014, is aimed at fast-tracking regulatory decision-making and speeding up the implementation of strategic infrastructure projects. [Read more](#).



- [Europe to make proposal on carbon capture cooperation with SA](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [Redefine Africa with knowledge - Pandor](#) (*Scidev.net*)
- [When and how spending on science can lead to big social returns](#) (*Polity.org*)

[Beneficiation of SA's platinum resources: Tantalising opportunities beckon, but breakthroughs needed](#) (*BD Live*)

- [Rural roads critical to meeting developmental goals](#) (*Engineering News*)

Energy policy news

- [SA nuclear corporation tells MPs it is ready for nuclear new-build programme](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [Alternative renewables funding to be considered as sector matures](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [Nuclear 'a must' to meet SA's energy needs, renewables limited - energy expert](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [Nuclear energy procurement process to start this month, budget not revealed](#) (*Polity.org*)
- [Nuclear power: Who will foot the bill?](#) (*Times Live*)
- [Rosatom, SA fortify nuclear partnership through signing of MOUs](#) (*Engineering News*)

Upcoming SETI events

- [8th SA Innovation Summit: Cape Town, 26-29 August 2015](#)
- [9th Annual UKZN Teaching & Learning Conference: Durban, 21-23 September 2015](#)
- [5th CSIR Conference: Ideas that Work: Pretoria, 8-9 October 2015](#)
- [8th Annual SATN International Conference 2015: Entrepreneurship Education for Economic Renewal: Vaal University of Technology, 19-21 October 2015](#)
- [16th Annual International Conference: Rapid Product Development Association of SA \(RAPDASA\): Pretoria, 4-6 November 2015](#)
- [17th Annual Conference: Southern African Association of Science and Technology Centres: Mafikeng, 16-19 November 2015](#)
- [Smart and Sustainable Built Environments: University of Pretoria, 9-11 December 2015](#)
- [International Conference on Competitive Manufacturing \(COMA '16\): Stellenbosch, 27-29 January 2016](#)



- [35th International Geological Congress: Cape Town, 27 August-4 Sept 2016](#)

Send us your news

The NSTF invites you to send us information on news, meetings, conferences and activities of interest to the broader SETI community. The deadline for all items is the 20th of every month, for publication in the NSTF eNews that is distributed at the end of the month. Send your contributions to enquiries@nstf.co.za.

Community News

Science

- [Pandor launches National Science Week](#) (AllAfrica.com)
- [New nuclear medicine procedure pioneered in Pretoria](#) (Polity.org)
- [Department of Science and Technology awaits Africa budget allocation for SKA](#) (BD Live)
- [Biosafety and biosecurity in SA](#) (AllAfrica.com)
- [SA Agulhas II embarks on winter research expedition](#) (AllAfrica.com)
- [Researchers discover new approach to higher thermoelectric efficiencies](#) (Engineering News)
- [Scientific research in Africa more than economic boost](#) (Polity.org)
- [Malnutrition shock for SA](#) (IOL)
- [Garlic kills cancer cells - UCT study](#) (IOL)
- [Single-dose malaria cure undergoes clinical trials](#) (enca.com)



Engineering & Technology

- [Local engineers need to be paid more, says former energy DG](#) (Polity.org)
- [Pandor launches casting simulation network](#) (AllAfrica.com)

Environment, Climate Change and Energy

- [Technical solutions alone can't fix climate change - scientists](#) (AllAfrica.com)
- [Renewables group makes case for combined wind, solar baseload alternative](#) (Polity.org)

Higher Education

- [CSIR, SU launch research chairs in physics, artificial intelligence](#) (Polity.org)
- [UJ Robotics Centre services extended to disadvantaged learners](#) (Engineering News)
- [UKZN unveils solar car for global race](#) (Engineering News)
- [Decolonise more than just curriculum, content - change the structure too](#) (Polity.org)
- [SA's 14 universities rated against BRICS, mostly sliding](#) (Biznews.com)

SET people in the news

- [Former herder becomes president of the SA Institute of Physics](#) (Times Live)

Resources and Opportunities

- [Online course in Science Communication: An introduction to theory, best practice and practical skills: Stellenbosch University, 5 October – 15 December 2015](#) (Applications close 31 August 2015)

What do you [think of this newsletter?](#)

If you have any comments or suggestions on how we can improve this newsletter, please email the NSTF Secretariat at enquiries@nstf.co.za

Send us your news

The NSTF invites all our members, as well as all SETI role players, to send us information on meetings, conferences and activities of interest to the broader S&T community. We require one month's notice to communicate your news to all stakeholders on our database, and publish it in our newsletter. Contact Wilna Eksteen (details below) for more information.

Disclaimer:

The NSTF has taken all practical measures to ensure that the material contained in this newsletter is correct. The NSTF reserves the right to make changes as it deems necessary. Contact details submitted by individuals for subscription purposes will be treated confidentially.

The **National Science and Technology Forum** (NSTF), established in 1995, is a broadly-representative stakeholder body for all SETI organisations in South Africa, which seeks to influence policy formulation and delivery.

The **NSTF-BHP Billiton Awards** are unique in SA, recognising the outstanding contributions of individuals and groups to SETI.

www.sciencebursaries.org.za - SET for life! This exciting web portal is a 'one-stop shop' for learners and students who are interested in pursuing a career in the sciences, engineering or technology.

Privacy

Registration details submitted to the NSTF will be treated confidentially and will only be used by NSTF to communicate with its members and subscribers.

For more information, contact the NSTF Secretariat at:

E-mail: enquiries@nstf.co.za

Tel: 27 12 841 3987

Fax: 27 12 841 3025

Non Profit Company Registration Number: 2007/029165/08

NPO registration nr. 92042

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