



NSTF e-Newsletter

S.E.T. for socio-economic growth

Message from NSTF Executive Director

Welcome back to all our readers; with January already 'done and dusted', I hope you are still feeling energised and motivated for the challenges of 2016! We are proud and happy to report that more than 230 nominations have so far been registered for the [2015/2016 NSTF Awards](#), in partnership with South32. [Read more.](#)



NSTF News

Upcoming discussion forums and other NSTF events

We are still finalising the dates for a number of events scheduled to take place this year, but we can provide a broad outline of our programme for the year ahead. Watch your mailbox for more information on these and other forthcoming events. [Read more.](#)

Getting to know the 2014/2015 NSTF Award winners

In the next instalment of our monthly series of articles introducing the 2014/2015 award winners to our readers, the spotlight falls on the [Western Cape Primary Science Programme \(PSP\)](#), which won the award for achievement by an NGO through technology transfer or training activities. We also feature [Ms Marina Joubert](#), winner of the science communication award. Her work at several SET organisations over the past 15 years has contributed to establishing science communication as a field of practice in South Africa.

Brilliants – investing in our future innovators

Want to know how the country's top learners achieve such remarkable results? Read the success stories of the top male and female learners from the Free State, Lebohang Mphono, a mechanical engineering student at the University of Cape Town, and Hannah Nel, who is studying animal science at the University of Pretoria. [Read more.](#)

Share 'n Dare activities – Engaging communities through science

Do you know what “li-fi” technology is? In December 2015, Prof Andrew Forbes of Wits University discussed this ground-breaking, light-based communication technology and a number of other interesting facts during a talk at Stellenbosch University on the topic “[Communicating light](#)”, in celebration of the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies. [Click here](#) to read more about activities planned for February.



Featured SET policy: Higher Education Amendment Bill (2015)

According to government, the aim of the Higher Education Amendment Bill (2015) is to achieve a suitable balance between institutional autonomy and public accountability of universities. However, some stakeholders have warned that in-depth discussions are required to determine where institutional autonomy ends and public accountability begins. [Read more.](#)

SET-related policies currently open for public comment

- [National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 \(Act No. 39 of 2004\) National Pollution Prevention Plans, Regulations](#) - Comments by 8 Feb 2016
- [National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 \(Act No 10 of 2004\) Draft Amendment of the Norms and Standards for the Marking of Rhinoceros and Rhinoceros Horn, and for the Hunting of Rhinoceros for Trophy Hunting Purposes](#) - Comments by 12 Feb 2016
- [Perishable Products Export Control Bill, 2015](#) – Comments by 15 Feb 2016

Other SET-related policy news

- [SA ranked middle-of-the-road in terms of global innovation support](#) (Engineering News)
- [Task team readies to boost R&D](#) (IT Web Africa)
- [Sapoa, National Treasury work together on improving SA's spatial development](#) (Engineering News)
- [Policy reform key for future of mining](#) (Polity.org)
- [Sustaining SA science forum](#) (Scidev.net)
- [Zuma appoints commission of inquiry into higher-education funding](#) (Polity.org)
- [New nuclear lacks business case for SA - Lovins](#) (Engineering News)
- [Montalto: SA's nuclear energy plan likely to fail](#) (Engineering News)



- [Power & Electricity World Africa: Johannesburg, 15 March 2016](#)
- [IASTEM: 29th International Conference on Science, Technology and Management: Cape Town, 30 March 2016](#)
- [Water Institute of Southern Africa \(WISA\) Biennial Conference: Durban, 15-19 May 2016](#)
- [7th World Nano Conference: Cape Town, 20-22 June 2016](#)
- [International Conference on Mining and Metallurgy: Cape Town, 27-29 June 2016](#)
- [5th International Conference on Agriculture & Horticulture: Cape Town, 27-29 June 2016](#)
- [International Bat Research Conference: Durban, 31 July- 5 August 2016](#)
- [35th International Geological Congress: Cape Town, 27 August-4 Sept 2016](#)

From the proSET Committee

With a brand new NSTF website and the launch of the new-look NSTF newsletter for February 2016, it would not be right for proSET to be left behind. We are proud to present the first [proSET newsletter!](#)

Engineering

- [Municipal agency moves to pioneer framework contracts in water milieu](#) (Engineering News)
- [CSIR's robots help to tell ocean story in SA](#) (scidev.net)
- [Wits, Unilever to pioneer practical work training for engineering students](#) (Engineering News)
- [CSIR scientists detect sinkholes with new technology](#) (Engineering News)

Science and pure research

- [Breast cancer scanner made in SA offers ray of hope](#) (Dataweek)
- [Southern African Large Telescope plays major role in discovery of huge supernova](#) (Engineering News)

Environment, Climate Change and Energy

- [Western Cape plans ahead to help farmers cope with climate change](#) (Polity.org)
- [Company launches container-fitted solar power solution](#) (Engineering News)
- [Eskom aiming to freeze pollution from power-station and mine wastewater streams](#) (Polity.org)
- [Finnish climate-change research in Africa pays off](#) (yle.fi)
- [Explainer: SA's developing solar-energy landscape](#) (Polity.org)
- [Climate change could wreak havoc on half of world's power plants](#) (newrepublic.com)
- [Baobab could settle climate-change debate](#) (Times Live)
- [SA suffers driest year on record](#) (yahoo.com)

- [Africa takes fresh look at GMO crops as drought blights continent](#) (Engineering News)

Higher Education

- [Researchers must take their work beyond developed world](#) (Times Higher Education)
- [Education Bill to help govt achieve transformation](#) (EWN)



- [Rising stars: This millennial might be the new Einstein](#) (ozy.com)
- [Satellite shows sky no limit for SA women in science](#) (TimesLive)

Please forward this e-mail to your colleagues, business contacts and all interested persons!

Send us your news

The NSTF invites all our members, as well as all SET and innovation role players, to send us information on meetings, conferences and activities of interest to the broader S&T community. Please send us your news by the 20th of the month, for distribution at the beginning of the following month, to enquiries@nstf.co.za.

Feedback

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

About the NSTF

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

The NSTF Awards are unique in SA, recognising the outstanding contributions of individuals and groups to SET and innovation.

The science bursaries page <http://www.nstf.org.za/bursary/> provides information on bursaries and bursary providers for science, engineering and related studies.

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.

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