



## Message from NSTF Executive Director

Top of the news this month is the announcement of the finalists for the 2015/2016 NSTF-South32 Awards. Also read more about the 'Exponential Conference Series' in the USA, and why it is important to take note even if you're not there...[Read more.](#)



## NSTF News

### 2015/2016 NSTF-South32 Awards: Finalists announced

Congratulations to the [finalists](#)! The winners will be announced at the [awards gala dinner](#) with the patron, Ms Naledi Pandor, Minister of Science and Technology, on Thursday, 30 June 2016 in Gauteng. The event is a prestigious community affair attended by the 'who's who' of SET to honour the finalists, and hear the announcement of the winners. Organisations wishing to associate/network with this select audience of organisations and stakeholders, and support the promotion of science and

technology through the NSTF, are invited to contact us at +2712 841 3987/2632 or [enquiries@nstf.co.za](mailto:enquiries@nstf.co.za) to arrange your tailor-made sponsorship or [book tables/seats](#).

## **Getting to know the work of the NSTF Award winners: Dr Thulani Makhalanyane**

Even as a small boy, Dr Thulani Makhalanyane always wanted to know how things work, so he followed his passion into science and now works in the field of microbial ecology. Winner of the 2014/2015 NSTF Award for an emerging researcher (post-doc in a period of up to six years after award of a PhD or equivalent), Thulani's research is specifically about extreme environments, with much of his research taking place in the McMurdo Dry Valleys of Antarctica, and the Namib Desert. [Read more](#).

## **Share 'n Dare activities – Engaging communities through science**

During May, Marina Joubert from Stellenbosch University, 2014/2015 NSTF award winner in the category Communication and Outreach, initiated an online science café where scientists and communicators explored opportunities for synergy. The discussion focused on what engineers, technologists and scientists can do to make their work and research more accessible, meaningful and relevant to public audiences and how communicators can help them achieve this. Marina has recently compiled a [free online guide](#) for science communicators.

## **International Year of the Pulse 2016: Facts and activities**

With the NSTF's [second national discussion forum](#) of the year taking place on 2-3 June 2016, on the topic of pulses and food security, it's perhaps a good time to brush up on your knowledge of pulses. Did you know that beans have been grown by humans for almost 6 000 years? Or that the world's largest pulse pod can grow up to 5 feet long? [Click here](#) to read more about the properties and health benefits of pulses.



## SET Policy News

### Featured SET policy: State of Renewable Energy in SA (2015)

The Department of Energy published the report on the State of Renewable Energy in September 2015 as a “consolidated and authoritative account of progress made thus far in advancing renewable energy technologies to the economy and citizens at large”. The report highlights the main policy documents, legislative framework and institutions that are responsible for driving the RE agenda. [Read more](#)

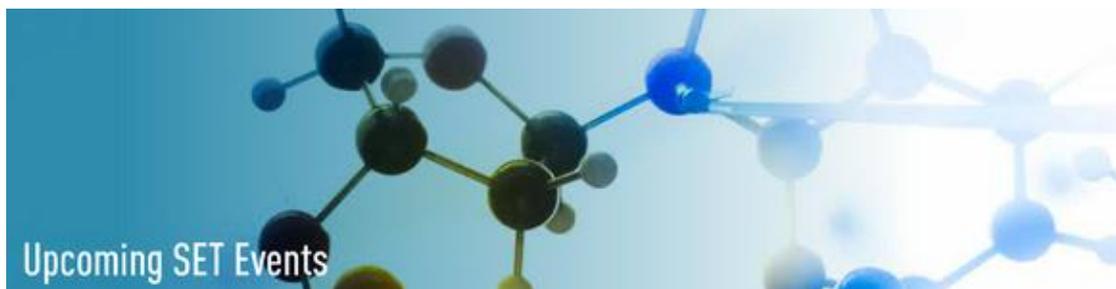
### Other SET-related policies currently open for public comment

- [Plant Breeders' Rights Act: Receipt of applications for plant breeders' rights](#)  
Comments by 26 Aug 2016

### Other SET-related policy news

- [DTI launches gas industrialisation unit](#) (Engineering News)
- [Gas industrialisation could be a game-changer, say industry players](#) (Engineering News)
- [Department of Water and Sanitation advances water policies](#) (Engineering News)
- [Controversial Higher Education Amendment Bill passed](#) (IOL)

- [SA should study how Australia exports degrees](#) (BD Live)
- [Improving maths, science and technology education still a priority](#) (BD Live)
- [SA's research and development going nowhere slowly](#) (IT Web)
- [Pandor vows to pursue research goal](#) (BD Live)
- [International links key for research and development - Pandor](#) (IOL)
- [Draft mining charter under intense legal scrutiny](#) (Engineering News)
- [There is a business case for nuclear in SA - Necsa CEO](#) (Engineering News)
- [Nuclear awareness low, rational debate needed in SA](#) (Engineering News)
- [Nuclear RFP will yield binding financial information - Minister](#) (Engineering News)
- [Call for certainty on nuclear energy in SA](#) (Engineering News)
- [DoE tests market appetite for three new public-private solar parks](#) (Engineering News)
- [SA prepares to shield itself against climate-change fallout](#) (SABC)



## UpcomingSET Events

- [Singularity University presents Exponential Conference Series 2016: Finance, Medicine, Manufacturing & Global Summit](#)
- [7<sup>th</sup> World Nano Conference: Cape Town, 20-22 June 2016](#)
- [International Conference on Mining and Metallurgy: Cape Town, 27-29 June 2016](#)
- [5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Agriculture & Horticulture: Cape Town, 27-29 June 2016](#)
- [International Bat Research Conference: Durban, 31 July- 5 August 2016](#)
- [35<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress: Cape Town, 27 August- 4 Sept 2016](#)
- [Change of dates: Geomatics Indaba 2016: 12-14 Sept, Gauteng](#)
- [Mathematical Sciences Workshop: 15-16 Sept 2016](#)
- [Celebrating a Centenary of Geography in SA: Stellenbosch, 25-28 Sept 2016](#)
- [Digital Education Show Africa: Johannesburg, 18-19 Oct 2016](#)
- [World Psychiatric Association International Congress 2016: Cape Town, 18-22 Nov 2016](#)
- [Science Forum SA: Pretoria, 6-7 December 2016](#)
- [1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Sustainable Materials Processing & Manufacturing: Kruger National Park, 23-25 January 2017](#)



# proSET News

## Maths Foundation News

- [News on Maths Olympiads – May 2016](#)

## Engineering

- [NMMU launches state-of-the-art bitumen lab](#) (rnews.co.za)
- [SAICE launches new marine division](#) (Engineering News)
- [Scarce skills most attractive to engineering employers](#) (Engineering News)



# SET Community News

## Environment, Climate Change and Energy

- [Eskom, CSIR sign strategic partnership agreement](#) (Engineering News)
- [Wind power potential in SA on par with solar - CSIR](#) (Engineering News)
- [SA Weather Service says El Nino fast decaying](#) (Polity.org)
- [New highly profitable acid-mine water solution unveiled](#) (Engineering News)

- [Water extracted from Sterkfontein still not replaced - Muller](#) (Engineering News)
- [Long-term acid-mine drainage solution launched](#) (Engineering News)
- [Anti-fracking coalition delivers petition to Parliament](#) (Times Live)
- [CSIR launches biomanufacturing facility to support local bio-industry](#) (Engineering News)
- [Drought-hit SA partners with Iran to build desalination plants](#) (Polity.org)
- [Shale-gas research necessary to put uncertainty to rest](#) (Engineering News)
- [Deal opens way for commercialisation of Free State gas deposit, helium plant investment](#) (Engineering News)
- [Environmental Affairs pumps R40m into water research at Walter Sisulu University](#) (Engineering News)
- [Without GMOs, SA maize yields would be lower - industry group](#) (Engineering News)

## Higher Education

- [The best universities in SA for maths and science](#) (businessstech.co.za)
- [Educor launches academic advising centre](#) (highwaymail.co.za)
- [Global higher education connections a 'force for good'](#) (University World News)
- [Pandor launches three new chairs as part of initiative to retain talent](#) (Engineering News)

- [First UK/SA research chair launched](#) (rnews.co.za)



## People in SET

- [ASSAf member leads international women's organisation](#) (DST)

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](mailto: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](mailto: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 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.

### **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**

[www.nstf.org.za](http://www.nstf.org.za)

E-mail: [enquiries@nstf.co.za](mailto:enquiries@nstf.co.za)

Tel: 27 12 841 3987

Fax: 27 12 841 3025

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