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National Science and
Technology Forum

Media Release

S.E.T. for socio-economic growth

NSTF and SKA SA collaborate on astronomy tour for 2016 top matriculants in mathematics and science

The [National Science and Technology Forum \(NSTF\)](#) is proud to announce a new collaboration with the [Square Kilometre Array \(SKA\) South Africa](#) to reward South Africa's 2016 top matriculants in mathematics and physical science. The collaboration will see SKA SA support a national astronomy tour from 22-29 June for participants selected for the [NSTF Brilliants Programme](#).

The programme recognises first-year students studying in the fields of science, medicine and engineering. The 2016 top-performing female and male matriculant from each of the nine provinces was selected for the programme, based on their marks in mathematics and physical science in the most recent National Senior Certificate (Grade 12) Examinations.

NSTF and SKA SA celebrate youth: The astronomy tour will conclude with the prestigious [NSTF-South32 Awards Gala Dinner](#) to be held at Emperor's Palace, Kempton Park, Gauteng on 29 June. The Brilliants Awardees will be recognised and introduced to the science, engineering, technology (SET) and innovation community. Both events were scheduled in Youth Month to celebrate:

- the brilliance and potential of the South African [youth](#)
- the excellence of South Africa's SET professionals and their standing as [role models](#) for the youth; and
- the [2017 International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development](#) and the outstanding contributions that research has made to support sustainable tourism in South Africa

Young people are our future innovators: NSTF's Executive Director, Ms Jansie Niehaus said that top results in Grade 12 do not guarantee success. Many school leavers and even graduates struggle to find appropriate work and direction in their lives. This is a concern for SET industries, professionals and for the NSTF.

"By honouring the Brilliants top performers, these youth feel more encouraged, motivated and inspired to pursue their goals and realise their dreams. They also have a clearer understanding of the many interesting and fulfilling positions and possibilities that the National System of Innovation (which includes scientific research, engineering and industry) can offer" said Ms Niehaus.

Brilliants students to visit astronomy tourism sites: The astronomy tour hosted by SKA

SA will see the Brilliants Awardees visit various astronomy sites, including the Hartebeesthoek Radio Astronomy Observatory outside Johannesburg, SKA site outside Carnarvon, South African Large Telescope (SALT) outside Sutherland, and South African Astronomical Observatory in Cape Town. Awardees will also be trained to assist during stargazing outreach events in the Karoo, participate in an introduction to big data workshop by Google, and visits various scientific tourism sites in Cape Town.

The tour will expose students to new fields of study and [careers in SET](#), [bursary opportunities](#) at SKA SA, and [role models](#) in SET and innovation in South Africa. It is hoped that a visit to the various astronomy tourism sites will inspire the students to promote astronomy and astronomy tourism in South Africa.

Eastern Cape	Eastern Cape
Ms Athini Mqolora	Mr Siyabonga Ntshongela
Wongalethu High School	Umtata Technical High School
MBChB (Medicine)	BSc (Civil Engineering)
University of Cape Town	Durban University of Technology
Bursary: None	Bursary: National Youth Development Agency
Free State	Free State
Ms Riana Nel	Mr Ngakana Lawrence Salemane
C&N Meisieskool Oranje	Le Reng Secondary School
MBChB (Medicine)	BSc (Electro Mechanical Engineering)
University of the Free State	University of Cape Town
Bursary: Free State Department of Education	Bursary: Free State Department of Education
Gauteng (There were two individuals in the	top place for both men and women)
Ms Margaret Jane Mouton	Mr Bafana Mbata
Pretoria High School for Girls	Sijabulile Secondary School
BSc (Mechanical Engineering)	BSc (General)
University of Pretoria	University of the Witwatersrand
Bursary: None	Bursary: Ekurhuleni Municipality
and	and
Ms Marlie Lente Harris	Mr Thembinkosi Johannes Manyeruke
Afrikaanse Hoër Meisieskool	Tsakane Secondary School
BSc (Veterinary Science)	BSc (Mathematical Statistics)
University of Pretoria	University of Pretoria
Bursary: None	Bursary: Peermont Education Trust (Emperors Palace)

KwaZulu-Natal	KwaZulu-Natal
Ms Romal Naidoo	Mr Ndumiso Perfect Ndamane
Danville Park Girls' High School	Umlazi Comtech Secondary School
MBChB (Medicine)	BSc (Electrical Engineering)
Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University	University of KwaZulu-Natal
Bursary: None	Bursary: Ethekwini Municipality
Limpopo	Limpopo
Ms Tovhowani Mulovhedzi	Mr Dylan Hlamulo Maluleke
Thohoyandou Secondary	Thohoyandou Technical High
MBChB (Medicine)	BSc (Civil Engineering)
University of Pretoria	University of Cape Town
Bursary: AfroCentric Group	Bursary: Sasol
Mpumalanga	Mpumalanga
Ms Naheeda Ebrahim	Mr Nomaan Shoukat Mulla
Hoërskool Piet Retief	Hoërskool Rob Ferreira
BPharm (Pharmacy)	MBChB (Medicine)
University of KwaZulu-Natal	University of the Witwatersrand
Bursary: Mpumalanga Department of Education	Bursary: Mpumalanga Department of Education
North West	North West
Ms Adriana Christiena Dodkins	Mr Phemelo Ontiretse Nawane
Hoërskool Bergsig	Holy Family Combined School
BSc (Veterinary Science)	BSc (Mechanical Engineering)
Free State University	University of the Witwatersrand
Bursary: None	Bursary: Anglo American Platinum
Northern Cape	Northern Cape
Ms Danique Visser	Mr Gift Neo Smith
Hoërskool Hartswater	Thabane High School
MBChB (Medicine)	BDS (Dentistry)
University of Pretoria	University of the Western Cape
Bursary: None	Bursary: None
Western Cape	Western Cape
Ms Jacobie Christina Mouton	Mr Bronson Luke Rudner

Bloemhof High School	SA College High School
BSc (General)	BSc (General)
Stellenbosch University	University of Cape Town
Bursary: None	Bursary: None

Role of the NSTF: The [NSTF](#) is a [stakeholder forum](#) that includes organisations in state entities, business and communities. The NSTF engages with [policy issues](#) across various government departments and promotes collaboration and critical thinking among a broad range of stakeholders.

Objectives and background of the NSTF Awards: The [NSTF Awards](#) celebrate, acknowledge and promote excellence in the South African SET and innovation community by cross-cutting sectors, levels, gender, and race while recognising individuals, teams and organisations. These awards celebrate scientific research that is professional, innovative, forward looking and relevant to both South Africa and the rest of the world. The awards effort includes initiatives to raise awareness among the youth and the general public about local research and its relevance, as well as science-related careers.

The NSTF Awards have been held annually since 1998. There are a variety of [sponsors](#), from both the public and private sector. The co-branding sponsor is South32 (the company that took over BHP Billiton's operations in South Africa. Previously BHP Billiton was the co-branding sponsor).

The winners are announced at the [NSTF-South32 Awards Gala Dinner](#), where 500-600 guests attend and the "who's who" of SET and innovation can be found. The list of 17 [winners](#) is strictly embargoed until the night of the Awards Gala Dinner.

For more information on the NSTF initiatives: Visit www.nstf.org.za/awards and www.nstf.org.za/youth or contact us at the contact details below.

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SKA SA spokesperson: Mr Lorenzo Raynard, SKA SA General Manager: Communications & Stakeholder Relations, lraynard@ska.ac.za

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For more information

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.