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Media Release

S.E.T. for socio-economic growth

NSTF, SAAO and SARAQ collaborate on astronomy tour for 2018 top matriculants in science and mathematics

#NSTFbrilliant2019 #NSTFawards2019

The [National Science and Technology Forum \(NSTF\)](#) in collaboration with the South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO) and South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAQ) is proud to collaborate for the third time to reward South Africa's 2018 outstanding performers in matric in physical science and mathematics.

The NSTF Brilliant2019 Programme for our future innovators: The partnership will see the SAAO and SARAQ support a national astronomy tour from 20-27 June for participants selected for the [NSTF Brilliant2019 Programme](#). This unique Programme recognises the top woman and man chosen from each of the nine provinces based on their marks in physical science and mathematics in the 2018 National Senior Certificate Examinations (Grade 12), and their choice for studies in science, engineering and technology (SET)-related courses.

The NSTF-South32 Awards: The astronomy tour will conclude with the prestigious 2018/2019 [NSTF-South32 Awards](#) at its 21st [Gala Dinner](#) in Gauteng on Thursday, 27 June 2019. The Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Dr Blade Nzimande, is the Awards patron, and has been invited to officiate at the event. These Awards are known as the 'Science Oscars of South Africa'. The event is attended by the broad SET and innovation community and leaders in South Africa, as well as stakeholders from the international community. The Brilliant2019 Programme coincides appropriately with Youth Month to celebrate the brilliance and potential of South African youth. The NSTF-South32 Awards celebrates the excellence of South Africa's SET and innovation professionals and their standing as [role models](#) for the youth.

Tour to a SET-related facility: The astronomy tour hosted by the SAAO and SARAQ will see the Brilliant2019 Awardees visit 4 provinces, the Boyden Observatory and Naval Hill Planetarium outside Bloemfontein, the Iziko Planetarium in Cape Town, the South African Large Telescope (SALT) outside Sutherland, and the Hartebeesthoek Radio Astronomy Observatory (HartRAO) outside Johannesburg.

The tour will expose students to new fields of [study](#) and [careers](#) in SET, [bursaries](#), opportunities and inspiration through [role models](#) in SET and innovation in South Africa. Visiting the various astronomy tourism sites inspires the students to also promote astronomy and astronomy tourism in South Africa. The NSTF requests bursaries for these deserving students at the Awards Gala Dinner. Organisations interested can donate to the NSTF Bursary Fund to support the future innovators of our country.

Brilliants Programme awardees: The NSTF and its sponsors takes pride in congratulating the 2018/2019 Brilliants Awardees as follows:

<p>Eastern cape</p>	<p>Ms Tyla van Huyssteen Pearson High School Bachelor in Radiography (Diagnostics) Nelson Mandela University (NMU) Bursary: NMU Vice-Chancellor’s Scholarship</p> <p>Mr Vuyo Nogqala St James Senior Secondary School BSc Eng (Mechatronics) University of Cape Town (UCT) Bursary: Eastern Cape Department of Education</p>
<p>Free State</p>	<p>Ms Molelekeng Annah Mokoena Tsebo Secondary School Bachelor of Medicine (MBChB) University of The Witwatersrand (Wits) Bursary: Free State Department of Education</p> <p>Mr Thekiso Aron Mokoena Morena Mokopela Secondary School BEng (Chemical Engineering) University of Pretoria (UP) Bursary: Free State Provincial Government</p>
<p>Gauteng</p>	<p>Ms Olebogeng Mncwabe Princess High School BSc (Biological Science) UP Bursary: Gauteng City Region Academy</p> <p>Mr Tiisetso Molata PJ Simelane Secondary School BEng (Electrical Engineering) UP Bursary: Sasol</p>

KwaZulu-Natal	<p>Ms Nadya Rohinton Meherjina Westville Girls' High School BEng (Mechanical Engineering) UP</p> <p>Mr Thobani Zungu Mana High School MBChB UCT Bursary: KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health</p>
Limpopo	<p>Ms Mulondoti Prudence Tshishonga Thengwe Secondary School MBChB Wits Bursary: Mazi Asset Management (Pty) Ltd</p> <p>Mr Londanani Tshikhudo Tshikhudo Dimani Agricultural High School BEng (Mechanical Engineering) UCT</p>
Mpumalanga	<p>Ms Carla Venter Hoërskool Nelspruit MBChB UP Bursary: Mpumalanga Department of Education</p> <p>Mr Muzomuhle Wiseman Mthembu Ndlela Secondary School BEng (Chemical Engineering) Wits Bursary: Wits Equality Scholarship</p>
North West	<p>Ms Qudsiyya Ismail Hoërskool Lichtenburg MBChB Wits Bursary: Wits Vice Chancellor Scholarship</p> <p>Mr Hamman Prinsloo Hoërskool Rustenburg MBChB UP Bursary: UP Vice Chancellor Discretionary Merit Award</p>
Northern Cape	<p>Ms Janneke Pienaar Hoërskool Diamantveld</p>

	<p>BEng (Industrial Engineering) Stellenbosch University</p> <p>Mr Oageng Ejang Remmogo High School BSc (Astrophysics) Wits Bursary: Motsepe Foundation</p>
<p>Western Cape (There were two individuals in the top place for men)</p>	<p>Ms Justine Lara Crook-Mansour Rustenburg Girls' High School BSc (Astrophysics and Physics) UCT Bursary: Allan Gray</p> <p>Mr Jean Durand Paul Roos Gimnasium BSc (Mathematical Sciences) Stellenbosch University (SU)</p> <p>Mr Jean van der Walt Paul Roos Gimnasium BEng (Electric and Electronic) SU</p>

About the NSTF and the awards: The NSTF is the most representative multi-stakeholder non-profit [stakeholder forum](#) in South Africa promoting SET and innovation. The membership 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](#).

the NSTF-South32 Awards showcases the research and development capacity of our nation. The excellent output of the winners supports South Africa's advancement, economic growth and the social upliftment of our people.

For more information on NSTF initiatives:

Visit www.nstf.org.za; www.nstf.org.za/awards and www.nstf.org.za/youth or contact us at the contact details below.

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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.

For more information

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