

March 2018 NSTF Share 'n Dare events

The NSTF, under the Share 'n Dare programme, attended the 2018 Grahamstown Science Festival (Scifest). The Festival ran from the 7-13 March 2018 and was held in multiple venues in and around Grahamstown, Eastern Cape. Participating in Scifest and consequently the March round of the NSTF Share 'n Dare talks, was Prof Lesley Cornish and Prof Eugene Cloete.

Prof Lesley Cornish:

Prof Cornish, part of a Wits team of experts from the academic world of materials for a world built with materials, is one of the 2016/2017 [NSTF-South32 Award winners](#), in the [Communication for outreach and creating awareness category](#). With the aid of Nelson Mandela Science Centre, on 7 March 2018 Prof Cornish spoke to around 54 Solomon Mahlangu High School learners. On 8 March 2018, she addressed 183 learners from various schools. Her topic was: 'Why should I be interested in Materials?'



Prof Cornish spoke about varied materials and their suitability in the environment. She encouraged learners to recycle to preserve materials. She spoke about the different advantages of studying metallurgy and material science. Prof Cornish also encouraged the learners to study to the highest degree possible. "The world is changing, and you need to keep up so one must be constantly studying," she advised.

Prof Eugene Cloete:

Prof Cloete is a winner of the 2016/2017 NSTF-South32 Award in the [Innovation category](#). He has invented several water treatment technologies including a water purification filter considered a world-changing idea. On the 13 March, Prof Cloete participated in speed-date -a-scientist event at Scifest. It involved about 44 students. Learners were given the opportunity to ask professionals questions relating to their profession. The science



professionals interacted with different learners every 6-8 minutes. Prof Cloete spoke to learners about the antibodies found in the different human body that help to fight diseases.

He also gave a science talk to the community on 'The intelligence trap – unlocking your genius'. He told the audience about Maggie Mamba who came from Uganda to South Africa to get a good education. She later studied under him and is now a professor in her own right. He encouraged the audience to look at problems from different angles and to think out of the box when it comes to problem solving. "You cannot get yourself out of a problem with the same mind that got you into the problem," explained Prof Cloete quoting Albert Einstein.

He also showed a video that demonstrated how his Nano Teabag works. This invention was termed one of 10 world-changing ideas by the Scientific American journal in 2010. He encouraged the audience to tackle problems by asking questions and communicating with one another to help share ideas. "Interpersonalisation is the way that we will be able to bring back civilization into the world," he said. He concluded with a question and answer session.