



## National Science and Technology Forum

S.E.T. for socio-economic growth

### Inspiring learners to consider careers in engineering

#### NSTF Share 'n Dare activities, September 2019

Professor Elvis Fosso-Kankeu Associate Professor: [School of Chemical and Minerals Engineering, North-West University](#), inspired learners from three schools in the Mafikeng area to be successful and encouraged them to consider careers in engineering. He is a winner of a 2019 [NSTF-South32 Engineering Capacity Development Award](#) for monitoring environmental water to raise awareness among poor communities and nationally.

Prof Fosso-Kankeu attended the [6<sup>th</sup> SA-UNESCO Engineering, Science and Technology Conference](#), hosted by the North-West University at the Mafikeng Campus from 26 to 27 September, where he gave a talk on 'Winning the NSTF Award – Impact of my research' as invited speaker at a plenary session.

He took the opportunity during this time to act as role model for grade 10 and 11 learners from various schools in the area: Leteane Secondary School, Redibone Secondary School and Tshidi Barolong Secondary School. Around 200 learners attended per day in groups of 50. This interaction formed part of the NSTF's [Share 'n Dare Programme](#) which is sponsored by the [Fuchs Foundation](#). "During the two days I encouraged the learners, especially young girls, to consider a career in engineering. I also gave a motivational speech on 'What does it take to be/become successful'," he says.

According to the learners it was a very inspiring speech which allowed them to understand that setting their own goals; being disciplined; and working hard are very important criteria to consider if they want to become successful. During this session he also shared with them his personal life story, highlighting his journey to becoming an award winning professional. He stressed that there were times of failure, but that perseverance was very important. He advised them to never consider giving up, even at times when things are not going as they had hoped.



*Professor Fosso-Kankeu (centre in checked shirt) of North-West University with a group of learners from the Mafikeng area. He addressed them on careers in engineering and motivated them to aspire to become successful.*