

2013/14 NSTF-BHP Billiton Awards

Today's research ... tomorrow's innovation

Winners

Outstanding contributions to scientific research, technological innovation, management, capacity building and science communication were announced and celebrated in Gauteng on Thursday, 3 July 2014, at the 16th NSTF-BHP Billiton Awards Gala Dinner.

According to the chairman of the adjudication panel, Mr Denis Hunt, the event saw an increased number of nominations, reflecting robust participation across all sectors, levels, gender and race, by researchers in and contributors to science and technology. "This is a reflection of the wealth of research and development being done in South Africa," he said.

BHP Billiton SA Chairman, Xolani Mkhwanazi said, "BHP Billiton's involvement in initiatives such as the NSTF gives us (BHP Billiton) the unique opportunity to connect with those people and communities who seek to innovate, create and discover as much as we do. It is this talent that will drive the scientific, technological and engineering development of our country and help South Africa achieve its goal of long-term economic and environmental sustainability".

The awards were presented by the Honourable Minister of Science and Technology, Ms Naledi Pandor, who is also the patron of the event, and celebrated along with almost 600 guests from the broader science community.

Details on the work of the award winners is accessible online at nstfawards.org.za

The Award winners were:



Professor Eric Bateman

Emeritus Professor and Director, University of Cape Town Lung Institute; and Honorary Consultant, Division of Pulmonology, Department of Medicine, University of Cape Town

Award for an outstanding contribution to science, engineering and technology (SET) over a lifetime



Professor Lyn Wadley

Honorary Professor: Department of Archaeology, University of the Witwatersrand

TW Kambule NRF-NSTF Awards for an outstanding contribution to SET through research and its outputs over the last 5 to 10 years – sponsored by the National Research Foundation (NRF)



Professor Keertan Dheda

Professor: Division of Pulmonology, Department of Medicine, University of Cape Town and Groote Schuur Hospital

TW Kambule NRF-NSTF Awards for an outstanding contribution to SET through research and its outputs over the last 5 to 10 years – sponsored by the NRF



Professor Wanda Markotter

Associate Professor: Natural and Agricultural Sciences, University of Pretoria

TW Kambule NRF-NSTF Awards for an emerging researcher for an outstanding contribution to SET through research and its outputs over a period of up to 6 years after award of a PhD or equivalent in research – sponsored by the NRF



Professor Oriel Matlhahane Thekisoe

Associate Professor: Department of Zoology and Entomology, University of the Free State

TW Kambule NRF-NSTF Awards for an emerging researcher for an outstanding contribution to SET through research and its outputs over a period of up to 6 years after award of a PhD or equivalent in research – sponsored by the NRF



Professor Anne Grobler

(Director of the DST/NWU Preclinical Drug Development Platform, North-West University

Award for an outstanding contribution to SET through management and related activities over the last 5 to 10 years



Professor Brenda Wingfield

Professor and Deputy Dean: Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, University of Pretoria

Awards for researchers for an outstanding contribution to SET through research capacity development over the last 5 to 10 years – sponsored by Eskom



Professor Donald Cowan

Director: Genomics Research Institute; Director: Centre for Microbial Ecology and Genomics, University of Pretoria

Awards for researchers for an outstanding contribution to SET through research capacity development over the last 5 to 10 years – sponsored by Eskom



Professor Azwinndini Muronga

Associate Professor of Physics and Director of the University of Johannesburg Soweto Science Centre

Award for an individual or a team for an outstanding contribution to science, engineering, technology and innovation (SETI) through communication for outreach and creating awareness over the last 5 years (sponsored by the South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement [SAASTA])



Elemental

Associate Professor Arnaud Malan, Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Cape Town

Award for an individual or a team for an outstanding contribution to SET through research leading to innovation in a corporate organisation or institution



Hearing Loss Detection by Smartphone

Team Leader: Prof De Wet Swanepoel, Department of Speech, Language Pathology and Audiology, University of Pretoria

Award for an individual or a team for an outstanding contribution to SET through research leading to innovation in a corporate organisation or institution



Treatment Group, Tshwane University of Technology

Team Leader: Professor Johannes Philippus Maree, Rand Water Chair in Water Utilisation and Key Structure Holdings (Pty) Ltd

Award for an individual or a team for an outstanding contribution to SET through research leading to innovation in a Small, Medium or Micro Enterprise (SMME) – sponsored by the Technology and Human Resources for Industry Programme (THRIP), an initiative of the Department of Trade and Industry (**the dti**)

The National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) Awards, hosted in partnership with BHP Billiton since 2011, is the flagship project of the largest, most prominent, multi-stakeholder, non-profit forum for science, engineering and technology in South Africa – promoting science-related activities through collaborative effort.

In conjunction with the NSTF-BHP Billiton Awards, the NSTF runs the Brilliants Programme aimed at recognising and rewarding first-year science and engineering students (a young man and woman from each of the nine provinces), who obtained top marks in Mathematics and Physical Science in the 2013 National Senior Certificate Examinations.

Travel and accommodation for the students are sponsored by the NSTF, enabling them to attend the main Awards Gala Dinner as special guests of honour and gain exposure to the research fraternity of South Africa.

“The Brilliants Programme has been very useful in recognising deserving top performing students, most of whom are previously disadvantaged, and in assisting them to get bursaries,” says Jansie Niehaus, Executive Director of the NSTF. “The THRIP Programme, funded by **the dti**, has committed to providing bursaries to at least two of these students every year.”

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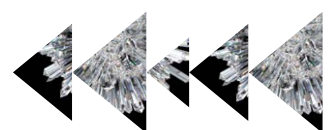
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