

MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Unisa Professors scoop the 2016/2017 NSTF-SOUTH32 AWARDS

The University of South Africa (Unisa) congratulates its academics for winning the 19th Annual National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) 2016/2017 Awards. The awards recognise and reward the excellence achieved in the fields of science, engineering and technology (SET) and innovation in South Africa.

Champion of Research Capacity Development Award Winner: Prof Diane Hildebrandt is a professor in Chemical Engineering and the Director of the Material and Process Synthesis (MaPS) research unit at Unisa. She achieved the ideal mix of chemical engineering research and its practical applications to find and implement effective solutions to global challenges such as energy shortage, carbon dioxide emissions, global warming and waste disposal. Her research is focused on synthesising and optimising chemical processes; and she has supervised more than 100 postgraduate engineering students in green energy and processes for Africa. She heads up a group that researches on how to help and improve quality of life to the most poorest and vulnerable communities in the country. She is a B1 NRF-rated researcher.

Water Research Commission (WRC)-NSTF Award Winner: Prof Bhekhe Mamba is the Executive Dean of the College of Science, Engineering and Technology. He is responsible for significant scientific and technological contributions and achievements in the fabrication of advanced nanostructured materials and systems for water treatment. His research has led to the creation of new nanotechnology-based system to tackle major challenges in sustainability providing safe and clean water to disadvantaged communities. Prof Mamba is a C1 NRF-rated researcher.

“Unisa and the rest of science and technology community at large would like to congratulate the winners for their contributions in making new discoveries to improve quality of life through science” said Professor Mandla Makhanya, Unisa Principal and Vice Chancellor.

END!



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