



Congratulations to the 16th Annual National Teachers Awards Finalists and Winners

SchoolNet wishes to congratulate the deserving winners and finalists of the 2016 National Teachers Awards. The prestigious ceremony was held at the Gallagher Convention Centre in Johannesburg on Saturday 27 February. The awards is in its sixteenth year and has 12 categories. SchoolNet's Megan Rademeyer has been an adjudicator in the Technology-Enhanced Teaching and Learning category since the inception of this category. Deputy President, Cyril Ramaphosa stepped in, to open the ceremony, when the President's plane was delayed in Burundi. The Deputy President delivered an impressive address, outlining how committed the government was to education and how it had prioritised schools and the improvement of working conditions for teachers.



The Excellence in Technology–Enhanced, Teaching and Learning category was won by Gafieza Ismail-Le Chat from Spine Road in the Western Cape. Gafieza is instrumental in facilitating training for other like-minded teachers in the Mitchells Plain area. She creates her own video and audio resources for lessons and is creating an e-curriculum for English First Additional language.

Roshan Behareelall from ML Sultan Primary in KwaZulu Natal and Morne Smit and Dejon Weyers from Hoer Volksskool in the North West were runners up.

In addition to the other prizes awarded, the top three teachers in this category also won a prize from SchoolNet. They are each able to select any one of the SACE-endorsed SchoolNet SA courses to be facilitated for teachers at their respective schools. Furthermore each of the top three teachers will have an opportunity to attend/present at a conference in South Africa relating to educational uses of technology in the classroom.

SchoolNet once again congratulates all teachers in South Africa who work tirelessly to build better futures. To read about the finalists and winners in each category see below:

[Excellence in Primary School Teaching](#)

The winner in this category was Sarah Elizabeth Hattingh from Graanveld Primary School in the Free State. Sarah has been a teacher for 12 years and was instrumental in setting up a telephone line and WhatsApp group for learners and parents to deal with school-related issues. Sarah's contribution to her learners extends beyond the act of teaching where she prepares lunchboxes for learners on financial aid, washes their uniform and arranges donations for those that do not have. "It is fulfilling when you meet a child you have taught and see how you have molded their life. And when you see how much better they have become and how they make other people's lives better, you realise we make a better world, one child at a time.

The other finalists in the Excellence in Primary School Teaching category were Mojela Kwena Betty from Rev MP Malatjie Primary School in Limpopo and Tasnim Muradmia from IR Griffith Primary School in Gauteng.

Excellence in Secondary School Teaching

Ntobozuko Mkizwana from Mandela School of Science and technology Secondary in the Eastern Cape was the winner of this category. She has taught in all phases of schooling and realizes that learners who live in far communities, those who have no parents or little interaction with parents are more vulnerable and more susceptible to poor discipline and work ethic when it comes to completing school work. She introduced activities such as Public speaking, Maths Olympiads and other engaging activities that create awareness and encourages learners to achieve.

Ntobozuko is joined by her fellow finalists Lindiwe Ndlamlenze from St Paul II Secondary in KwaZulu Natal and Jason Fisher from Randfontein High School in Gauteng.



Excellence in Primary and Secondary School Leadership

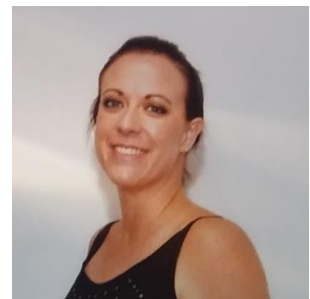
School Leadership is a crucial element to all schools functioning at optimum with all teachers, learners and parents moving forward for the improvement of the school with a common vision.

The winner in the primary school category was **Puseletso Tebogo Mashishi** from Moitshoki Mofenyi Primary School in North West province. The other finalists were Joseph Matlala from Mampatile Primary School in Limpopo and Christopher Thomas from St Andrews Primary School in the Free State.

Coenrad Venter from Witteberg High in Bethlehem was the winner of the Secondary school Leadership category and the runner's up were Themba Mthethwa from Panorama Combined School in KwaZulu Natal and Charles Marthinussen from Atlantis Secondary School in the Western Cape.

Excellence in Mathematics Teaching (GET)

Mabore Lekalakala, from Toronto Primary in Limpopo is a Microsoft Innovative Education Expert and ISPA Super Teacher and won the category for Excellence in Mathematics Teaching. She volunteers as a trainer to help



other educators create engaging mathematics resources.

Other finalists in this category were Ashara Sookraj from Forderville Primary School and Sharifa Suliman from Koster Intermediate School in North West.

Excellence in Natural Sciences Teaching (GET)

Iketsetseng Comprehensive Secondary School's (Free State), Sphiwe Sibanyoni took first place in this category who cites his Physical science teacher for his love of the sciences. He uses a variety of teaching strategies to appeal to different abilities of learners. He uses the Internet Broadcast project to watch video and stream live science demonstrations during his science lessons.

Other finalists in this category include Letsaolo Koena from Maune Primary School in Limpopo and Micalla Lucas from Sol Plaatje Primary in the North West.

Excellence in Grade R Teaching

Lindiwe Gumede took the spoils in this category and hails from Vondlo Primary School in KwaZulu Natal. Her passion for teaching ensure that she prepares her classroom space and resources every Friday. She coordinates Soul Buddies and the school's vegetable garden at her school.

Mandisa Mfuywa from DiDi Senior Primary school, Eastern Cape and Madelein Burns from Assjassies Pre-Primary in the North West were the runners up.

Excellence in Special Needs and Inclusive Teaching

Often under-valued teaching in special needs schools requires staff that are committed and highly compassionate. This is certainly true of the winner, Dr. Sharon Townsend from Merryvale Specialised School in the Eastern Cape. Sharon's first post as a teacher was in an impoverished area where she encountered learners with many barriers to learning. Through that experience Sharon, realized that many teachers did not have the skills required for inclusive education and this is where her special needs work became more intense.

Her counterparts in this category were Chrisna Wessels from Gelukwaarts Farm School in the Free State and Elsie Shabangu from Bukhosibetfu Inclusive School in Mpumalanga.

Lifetime Achievement Award

The lifetime achievement award was won by Lesiba Isaac Pila who has been in education for 33 years and a principal at Rutanang Primary Enrichment Centre in the North West. In addition to being a leader in education, he is also the President of School Sports in the Rustenburg Region, secretary general for Motsepe Foundation in his district which provides bursaries to deserving students. His work is also focused on clustering childhood development centres to work together and thereby enhance the preparedness of learners entering primary school.

Twitter followers will have seen the action unfolding on #NTA2016. SABC2 will broadcast The National Teachers Awards on Tuesday 8 March at 20:30.

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