

Microsoft Innovative Teachers Forum Awards

September 2007

The Microsoft Innovative Teachers Forum Awards recognises teachers who are using technology to create exciting teaching and learning opportunities within their classrooms.

This year, to encourage more teachers to enter and to make the competition accessible to a wider audience, Microsoft in partnership with SchoolNet held five workshops on Innovation in Cape Town, Polokwane, Bloemfontein, Johannesburg and Pietermaritzburg. Teachers who are using technology in interesting ways or who have demonstrated the potential to be innovative were selected by their provincial departments of education to attend the workshops.



From the entries received, twenty finalists were selected to attend the finals event which was held at Microsoft in September 2007. At the event finalists presented their entries to a panel of judges and to one another. Teachers enjoyed networking with one another and gathering ideas that they could take back to their schools. Workshops on Innovation and Using Cell Phones for Education were also conducted.

Feedback was provided to those finalists who were not successful which carefully explained where entries could be improved in future years. This feedback is available on the SchoolNet website at <http://www.school.za/itf/2007finalists.htm> along with descriptions of the top 20 entries.



Victor Ngobeni

The event culminated with the presentation of awards and Victor Ngobeni (from Limpopo) and Kumaris Pillay (from KwaZulu Natal) were selected to attend the Worldwide Innovative Teachers Forum in Helsinki, Finland. Victor's project made innovative use of multiple intelligences and multimedia for a school field trip in deep rural

Limpopo and Kumaras was recognised for his innovative use of cell phone technology to make maths and science content more easily accessible at virtually no cost.



Kumaris Pillay



Abdullah Sujee

Abdullah Sujee from Gauteng won the Peer Review prize and received an interactive whiteboard for his school for his multimedia project on the "Vaal Hearings".

“These awards are one of the pillars of Microsoft’s Partners in Learning Programme,” said Ashley De Klerk, Public Sector Director of Microsoft South Africa. “Through the awards, we can help our teachers to share their innovative; best of class practices and in the long term empower our learners with the necessary skills they need to enter the knowledge economy.”

“Educating our youth is the cornerstone to sustainable growth of our economy and active citizenship. We encourage and welcome innovative teaching practices that inspire and encourage our teachers and ultimately benefit our learners,” said Deputy Minister of Education, Mr. Enver Surty.



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