



# **NRF AWARDS 2015**

## **NOMINATIONS PROCEDURE**

# Contents

- Introduction..... 2
- 1. Lifetime Achievement ..... 2
- 2. Champion of Research Capacity Development at South African Higher Education Institutions .... 3
- 3. Transformation of the Science Cohort ..... 3
- 4. Excellence in Science Engagement..... 4
- Call for nominations ..... 4
- Outcome..... 5
- Definition of Research ..... 5
- NRF Reviews & Evaluation..... 5

## Introduction

The mandate of the National Research Foundation (NRF) stipulates that the organisation supports and promotes research in the broadest sense. The annual NRF Awards ceremony recognises South African scientists for their achievements as indicated through the NRF rating system. In addition to the rating linked awards, **special recognition awards** provide a platform to honour researchers for career achievements and contributions to knowledge creation and dissemination, as well as capacity development and transformation in the national research system. The 2015 NRF Awards ceremony will be held on 27 August 2015.

Institutions from the National System of Innovation (NSI) may submit nominations for awards in the following categories:

- Lifetime Achievement
- Champion of Research Capacity Development at South African Higher Education Institutions
- Transformation of the Science Cohort  
*\*Note that this award is in the process of being renamed, but the definition and criteria will remain exactly the same*
- Excellence in Science Engagement

Nominees in these categories may not necessarily be researchers rated by the NRF.

### 1. Lifetime Achievement

The Lifetime Achievement award honours a deserving South African individual who is considered to have made outstanding or extraordinary contribution(s) to the development of science in and for South Africa over an extended period of time. These contributions must be of international standard and impact.

#### *Criteria (eligibility) for nomination*

The selection of the candidate for the Lifetime Achievement award must fulfil the following criteria:

- The nominee must be a South African citizen or permanent resident, generally above 60 years of age;
- Her/his science/innovation-related contribution and/or achievements in and for South Africa must be of international standard and have been recognised internationally;
- Must have made a contribution to the lives of South Africans, through her/his science/innovation-related work and achievements that can be categorised as being significant, recognisably developmental, beneficial and have made significant impact; and
- Need not be associated with a research or higher education institution at the point of being recognised for this award.

## **2. Champion of Research Capacity Development at South African Higher Education Institutions**

This category recognises individuals within the research community who contribute to the transformation of South Africa's community and landscape. The aim of this award is to encourage and promote this activity across the South African research community. It should be noted that the award is dependent on the number of students in the designated groups that had been trained, as well as the quality and impact of research outputs of the students.

### *Criteria (eligibility) for nomination*

The nominee for the Champion of Research Capacity development at SA HEIs award must:

- clearly indicate the number of black Master's and PhD students supervised;
- clearly identify the strategy in place to develop capacity;
- clearly indicate research outputs by students under their supervision;
- be a permanent or contracted employee at the institution that makes the nomination;
- be characterised by his/her peers as an active researcher in any discipline;
- be acknowledged to have made, or to be making, a significant contribution to:
  - the identification of research talent within designated groups,
  - the nurturing of this talent,
  - the moulding and developing of research excellence;
- have achieved this through the respect of everyone in the research institution; and
- have a track record of success in achieving transformation for at least the past three years.

## **3. Transformation of the Science Cohort**

*\*Note that this award is in the process of being renamed, but the definition and criteria will remain exactly the same*

This category honours the challenge of attracting more black scientists moving towards world class research performance by giving them encouragement and recognition for their efforts to advance their careers in science, despite considerable equity challenges. The award is focused on transforming the science cohort to be more representative of South African demographics.

### *Criteria (eligibility) for nomination*

The nominee for the Transformation of the Science Cohort award must:

- be a black South African citizen or permanent resident;
- be an active researcher at a South African research institution in any research field which could qualify for support from the NRF; and
- have an impressive research performance record as indicated by the standard research performance indicators and/or judged by peers.

#### 4. Excellence in Science Engagement

This award recognises individuals in the research community at South African higher education institutions and science councils who make outstanding contributions to public engagement with science over a sustained period. The aim of the award is to encourage academics, while working in their fields, to also contribute substantially and be committed to enhancing the public's engagement with science, technology and innovation, and the social sciences and humanities.

##### *Criteria (eligibility) for nomination*

- Only materials produced over the past three years for general audiences, as opposed to professional audiences, will be considered. This includes works intended for children. Creative activities to be considered include books, collections of poems, magazine and newspaper articles including commentary and opinion pieces; broadcasting; public lectures; exhibit design; TV programmes, films, online videos, radio segments, podcasts and works of new media; theatre productions, and other public outreach activities, local, national, and/or international.
- Nominators must clearly indicate all public engagement activities and include examples of these activities, such as title pages of books, programmes of lectures or productions, copies of articles, clips of radio or television broadcasts where possible, and links to electronic activities. They should also include an indication of the distribution and number of people reached by these activities, e.g. print run, footprint of broadcast, reader or listenership.
- Nominators must assess the impact of the work entered and supply direct supporting evidence or proxies that attest to impact.
- Nominators are encouraged to identify candidates whose contributions reach broad audiences that include especially women and persons from the designated groups.
- Material will be evaluated on scientific content, influence, innovation, evaluation and feedback, impact on society and working with “difficult to reach” sectors.

##### **Call for nominations**

The process for the identification of nominees comprises the following steps:

- The NRF will communicate a call for nominations through the Designated Authorities (DAs) at Department of Science and Technology (DST) recognised research institutions, and will also advise DAs of the closing date for nominations.
- Institutions will be requested to identify no more than one nominee per category.
- An appropriate internal nomination and screening process should be employed by the institution.
- All nominations must be submitted through the research offices of a DST recognised research institution, or responsible authorities within the institution (endorsed by the CEO).
- Written motivations on the template provided for the different categories as well as the *curriculum vitae* (CV) of the applicant, should be included with each nomination and submitted to the NRF.

## **Outcome**

As soon as the decisions have been finalised, the outcome of the selection process will be communicated to employing institutions. The formal announcement of awardees will be made at the annual NRF Awards Ceremony.

The office of the NRF Chief Executive Officer will be responsible for all aspects related to the NRF Awards Ceremony and the publicity of the awards.

## **Definition of Research**

For purposes of the NRF, research is defined as original investigation undertaken to gain knowledge and/or enhance understanding.

*Research specifically includes:*

- the creation and development of the intellectual infrastructure of subjects and disciplines (e.g. through dictionaries, scholarly editions, catalogues and contributions to major research databases);
- the invention or generation of ideas, images, performances and artefacts where these manifestly embody new or substantially developed insights; and
- building on existing knowledge to produce new or substantially improved materials, devices, products, policies or processes.

*It specifically excludes:*

- routine testing and analysis of materials, components, instruments and processes, as distinct from the development of new analytical techniques; and
- the development of teaching materials and teaching practices that do not embody substantial original enquiry.

## **NRF Reviews & Evaluation**

The following Reviews & Evaluation staff members are involved with the nominations process, and can be contacted for assistance in this regard:

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