



National Science and Technology Forum

S.E.T. for socio-economic growth

## Reaching out to learners with STEMulator during National Science Week

### NSTF Share 'n Dare activities, August 2022

The NSTF [Share 'n Dare programme](#) provides platforms for [NSTF-South32 Award winners](#) to act as role models and ambassadors for science, engineering, technology (SET) and innovation. The winners share knowledge with learners and the public, inspiring young people to follow careers in SET and innovation. The programme is sponsored by [South32](#).

NSTF staff participated in the National Science Week (NSW) launch in KwaZulu-Natal and NSW exhibitions in Gauteng. The launch, held at Mangosuthu University of Technology in Umlazi, was attended by about 1600 learners, teachers and community members on 30 July 2022.

Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo invited the NSTF and [STEMulator](#) to participate in the NSW at the Johannesburg Botanical Gardens on 2 August. About 400 learners from six schools participated in the event. 2021 [NSTF-South32 Engineering Research Capacity Development Award](#) winner, Prof Philiswa Nomngongo of the University of Johannesburg (UJ) addressed the learners and provided motivation and inspiration for them to follow careers in SET (photo below, left). She is Associate Professor and DSI/NRF SARCHI Chair: Nanotechnology for Water, at the Department of Applied Chemistry at UJ.

Ms Alienke Boot (photo below, right) also addressed the learners at the Botanical Gardens. She is a 2020 NSTF [Brilliant](#) student, now in her third year of studies in microbiology at the University of Pretoria.

On both days the teachers especially appreciated the career guidance component of the event, as this would help steer their learners to exploring new STEM fields as possible career options. They were given STEMulator gift bags that included the STEMulator on USB sticks and a pen. Also on the USB stick are videos of 11 previous [NSTF-South32 Award winners](#) who speak about their careers and the paths they followed to success; and the NSTF [career booklet](#).



