



S.E.T. for socio-economic growth

National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF)

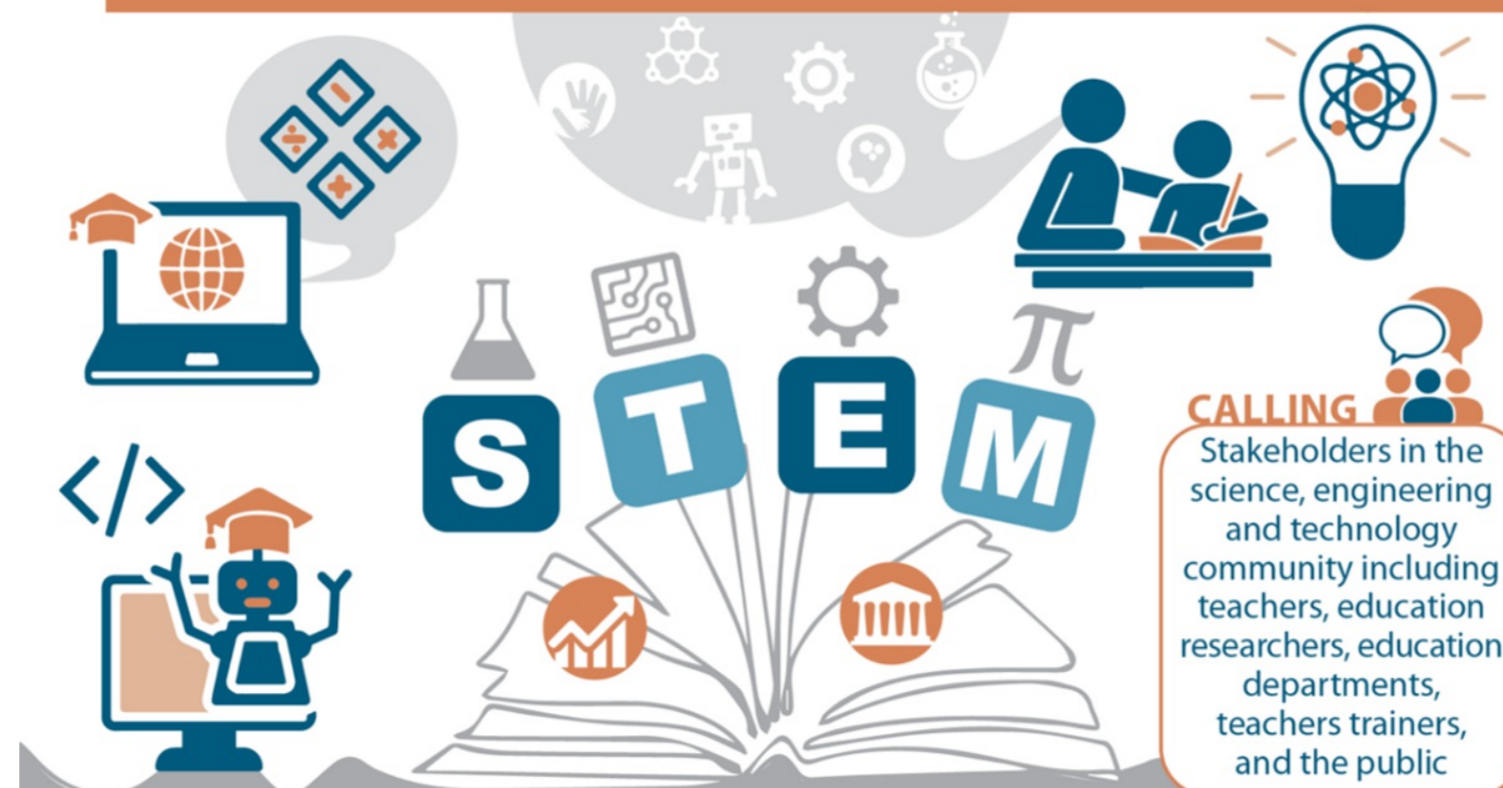
discussion forum

STEM education in SA: academic and vocational

17-18 September 2024

The **National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF)** invites you to an online NSTF Discussion Forum on **STEM education in South Africa (SA) – academic and vocational** from 17-18 September 2024. (STEM = science, technology, engineering and mathematics.) This event is held under the auspices of **proSET** (Professionals in science, engineering and technology), the **professional societies sector** of the NSTF.

Discussion forum in collaboration with proSET, the professional bodies sector of the NSTF
STEM education in SA: academic and vocational



**Join the online conversation and make your voice heard.
 Click to register.**

Education is the cornerstone of a successful career, especially in the rapidly evolving fields of STEM. STEM education not only provides knowledge but also cultivates essential skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity, and adaptability. These skills are crucial for navigating complex challenges in various industries, from healthcare and technology to environmental sustainability. As the global demand for STEM expertise continues to rise, so too does the need for a workforce that is equipped to innovate and drive progress. Preparing today's learners with strong STEM foundations is key to building a future-ready society capable of thriving in an increasingly digital and interconnected world.

Following on **the previous NSTF Discussion Forum: STEM education – disruptions and the future**, the NSTF is hosting this discussion forum to provide an update on developments and to keep the conversation going with critical feedback and suggestions of solutions, and focus attention on the academic and vocational training of STEM in SA. See the **concept document** for the background.

Purpose and objectives:

This discussion forum provides a platform for scientists, professionals, government officials and the public to share their insights about the current state of STEM education in SA. The purpose is to focus on STEM education both in VET (vocational education and training) and the academic programme of STEM in schools.

Objectives:

- Address the important aspects of VET and raise awareness around that
- To emphasise the importance of STEM learning and training
- To provide a platform for TVET colleges and teachers to share challenges and get involved
- To get an update on education policies

Themes

1. Update on the Department of Basic Education's (DBE) policy on maths and science education, and on science and technology focused schools
2. Digital and remote learning and teaching of maths and science
3. Learning and teaching of IT – robotics and coding
4. STEAM – learning maths and science in context and integrated with other subjects
5. Outreach – assisting and enriching learning and teaching experiences
6. Update on the Department of Higher Education and Training's (DHET) policy on Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Colleges
7. Learning and teaching of technical and technological subjects at TVET Colleges
8. 'Mobility' of learners between mainstream schools and TVET Colleges, and within these
9. Readiness of learners for tertiary studies

Outputs:

As is usual for **NSTF Discussion Forums**, a media release will be issued which summarises the most important issues and conclusions. The following outputs will also be made available on the **event page** and through social media platforms (**Facebook, Instagram, X, YouTube** and **LinkedIn**):

- Video recordings of speakers' presentations (subject to the speakers' agreement)
- Presentation slides (if available and subject to the speakers' agreement)
- Speakers' biographies
- Useful links
- NSTF will engage the media on possible interviews and/or articles, and post on social media before, during and after the event.

Delegate registration information

Date: 17-18 September 2024

Time: 11:00-14:30 (on both days)

Continuous Professional Development (CPD) points: CPD points will be awarded to attendees who are registered with **SACNASP** (South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions). For other affiliations, please contact the NSTF office at enquiries@nstf.org.za.

Register (online event): The event is held online via the NSTF Zoom platform. You will receive an email to confirm your subscription, whereafter you will be diverted to a web page with the Zoom link. Click here to **register**.

Attendance and participation in this NSTF Discussion Forum is FREE to all those interested.

Please note that if you do not register, the NSTF cannot be held responsible for any unforeseen changes or cancellations of programmes. Communications are sent only via e-mail or through notifications on the NSTF website.

About the NSTF: The NSTF is a non-profit **stakeholder forum** representing the science, engineering, technology (SET) and innovation community in SA. The **membership** consists of more than 130 organisations, and ranges from research institutions, universities and state entities to business, **professional societies (proSET)** and civil society. The NSTF promotes collaboration and critical thinking among a broad range of stakeholders. **NSTF Discussion Forums** gather stakeholders together, across the public and private sectors, to exchange knowledge and ideas, and give feedback to government and relevant authorities.

About the NSTF

The National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF), established in 1995:

- is a broadly-representative stakeholder body for all science, engineering and technology (SET) and innovation organisations in South Africa
- gathers stakeholders around burning issues of national and global interest, across the public and private sectors, including matters of public policy
- includes a network of professional societies in SET and STEM education (STEM = science, technology, engineering and mathematics) - the NSTF **proSET** membership sector.
- recognises, awards and profiles the outstanding contributions of individuals and groups to SET and innovation through the prestigious NSTF Awards
- runs and supports collaborative projects and youth outreach, including recognition of top performance in mathematics and science, role modelling, bursary and STEM career information
- runs and supports the **STEMulator.org** which attracts youth and educators to Explore>Discover>Learn the world of STEM including careers. (Established by NSTF **proSET**)

For more information
www.nstf.org.za
 E-mail: enquiries@nstf.org.za

Disclaimer

The NSTF has taken all practical measures to ensure that the material contained in this newsletter is correct.

Privacy

Registration details submitted to the NSTF will be treated confidentially and will only be used by NSTF to communicate with its members and subscribers, as required by the South African Protection of Personal Information Act.

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