

Unisa Professor scoops the 2017 NRF AWARD!

The College of Science, Engineering and Technology and the entire Unisa community congratulate Professor *Diane Hildebrandt* for winning an NRF 2017 award for her outstanding work in the category of Research Capacity Development and Transformation at South African Higher Institutions. The awards recognises an individual for their contributions to the transformation of SA's science community and landscape.



Professor Hildebrandt has met a challenge of development SA's next generation of researchers and engineers while at the same time exploring new and cleaner methods of making energy accessible to all. She has successfully supervised 49 MSc and 54 PhD students to completion. 54 of which were black researchers. A number of students have gone on to win awards in their fields, underscoring her commitment to mentoring the next generation of scientists

"Professor Diane Hildebrandt continues to raise the bar as far as the research agenda is concerned. The NRF Award signifies the commitment of Unisa to transforming the Science and Engineering research front through producing high calibre postgraduate students who will make contributions to various sectors of the country's economy. For the College of Science, Engineering and Technology, the award attests to the fact that the vision of becoming a well-recognised College in research and innovation is on track. This award is yet another recognition of one of the top researchers in our College who is highly rated internationally". Said the Executive Dean of the College of Science, Engineering and Technology, Professor Bhekie Mamba.

Champion of Research Capacity Development Award Winner: Prof Diane Hildebrandt is a professor in Chemical Engineering and the Director of the Material and Process Synthesis (MaPS) research unit at Unisa. She heads up a group that researches on how to help and improve quality of lives to the most poorest and vulnerable communities in the country. She is a B1 NRF-rated researcher.