

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ACADEMIC CITIZENSHIP'S AWARD (INDIVIDUAL CATEGORY)

Academic citizenship can be said to involve the design, implementation, evaluation and refinement of academically-based community service, or a civic engagement in teaching, in collaboration with relevant partners. The award seeks to offer recognition to academics and professional staff at the University for whom citizenship is an integral part of their academic and professional activities, and who consequently make a significant contribution to civil society. The award is open to academic employees from all ranks. Submissions may be considered from staff who are not formally classified as academic employees, but who work in a discipline or subject-related field, and where academic citizenship is expected as part of their key performance areas.

The Screening Committee acknowledged the substantial work undertaken by Ms Denise Nicholson from the Library. The Committee agreed that her submission exhibited clear evidence of academic citizenship. The Committee was of the opinion that her submission displayed evidence of a unique contribution to the educational, library and scholarly community to improve access to knowledge and help build capacity and sustainable communities – both nationally and internationally. Her work had extended beyond the call of normal duty and raised the international profile of the University. Her submission further emphasised her role in providing outreach services to the broader community on copyright, plagiarism, and related topics, and to organisations such as the South African Human Rights Commission and various Government departments.

Ladies and gentleman, it gives me pleasure to call on Denise Nicholson Team to receive the VC's Academic Citizenship award.