STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY SOCIAL IMPACT AWARD

1.   Purpose and status

Social impact at Stellenbosch University (SU) is guided by the Social Impact Strategic Plan (SISP).[1] While social impact gives effect to the University's values and vision in general, it specifically guides SU in advancing knowledge in service of society (Vision 2040).

The SU Social Impact Award supports these intentions in a focused way by honouring and acknowledging the Social Impact work of SU staff[2] and various sets of SU stakeholders and community partners annually.

In terms of its current SISP, SU supports the following:

1.1   Social impact initiatives that are impactful and should be recognised and acknowledged in all SU environments and in collaboration with various societal stakeholders.

1.2   A paradigm in which social impact is evident in teaching and learning, in research, as well as in open, reciprocal engagement throughout the University community to strengthen and enhance stakeholder relationships.

1.3   The prioritisation of knowledge exchange, performance enhancement (e.g. in staff-related processes) and understanding citizenship in the context of South Africa and beyond, and in relation to our stakeholders, community-based partners and other role players.

In the light of the above, the purpose of the SU Social Impact Award is to give annual recognition to staff[3] in faculties and PASS (professional administrative support service) environments who work to ensure outstanding social impact and who can prove strong and meaningful engagement with stakeholders and communities external to the University.

The SU Social Impact Award is the highest form of honour granted by the University community to staff for achievements in relation to social impact. Therefore, all SU environments shall ensure that other social impact awards that are funded from resources within the University's control and awarded within their context do not detract from the prestige of the SU Social Impact Award.

The award is aimed at celebrating ongoing relationships with stakeholders external to the University; as such, it also celebrates our stakeholders and community-based partners directly, acknowledging that social impact is always a team effort.

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[1] The 2018 SISP is being updated. The revised document will take the form of a Social Impact Policy.
[2] 'Staff' includes all SU employees (both academic and PASS) and, given the nature and purpose of the award, postdoctoral fellows as well.
[3] Should be read in conjunction with 2.2.

**2.	The award**

2.1	The award is known as the Stellenbosch University Social Impact Award.

2.2	Staff members from all SU environments who have been in the University's employ for at least two years qualify for receiving the award.

2.3	Every year, the University recognises SI in two categories:

a) a team[4] award for (an) identified SI initiative(s), being the primary or apex award category. In this award category, the SU staff member or SU team of staff members can be awarded, and the monetary award can go towards strengthening their initiative and work, while the external partner can also be awarded, and the monetary award can go towards enhancing the implementation of the initiative; and

b) an award for an SU individual in an identified initiative. In this award category, the SU team leader and external partner may jointly determine how best to utilise the monetary award.

2.4	The award acknowledges, celebrates and showcases the specific circumstances in which social impact is ensured by the various SU environments.

2.5	The award takes the form of a certificate and a financial reward.

2.6	The office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (DVC): Social Impact, Transformation and Personnel, in consultation with the Social Impact Committee (SIC), determines the amount per award and award category annually.

2.7	The Award Committee (see paragraph 5), in consultation with the recipient, may also consider making available an amount in support of the community partner's work.

2.8	The award may not be made to the same person two years in a row. The Senior Director: Social Impact and Transformation (as secretariat) is responsible for updating the record of all awards made under this regulation.

2.8	No more than three nominations per faculty or responsibility centre shall be considered per year.

2.9	The financial reward is paid directly to the recipients and, where applicable, to the awardee's stakeholder(s)/partner(s).

**3.	Criteria**

All candidates will be invited to submit a full curriculum vitae (CV) and motivation to be used in the evaluation. A motivation template will be provided. The CV must be linked to the relevant SI initiative. In further support of their nominations, candidates may also submit reports from community stakeholders, other reports on SI input and output, as well as performance evaluations. For the Apex Award category "team award" the initiative and its team members should be listed under the nomination.

In evaluating submissions, the following criteria shall be considered:

3.1	The extent to which there is a portfolio of evidence of the candidate's/team's work at SU, with a focus on ongoing engagement. The depth and continuity of social impact involvement and the sustainability of social impact initiatives, as shown by their embeddedness in the University's programmes and community/industry stakeholder relationships and contexts.

3.2	Whether the initiative(s) is/are registered on the Social Impact Knowledge Platform (SIKP), where applicable.

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[4] 'Team' refers to (an) individual(s) and their collaborators/partners who jointly engage in social impact at the University.

3.3 The extent to which candidates are knowledgeable about current and emerging social impact topics within their respective disciplines and areas of expertise/specialisation.

3.4 The extent to which candidates pursue dialogue and collaboration internally at the University, with societal stakeholders, and with other social impact practitioners in South Africa and abroad.

3.5 The sustainability of social impact initiatives, as shown by their embeddedness in the University's programmes and community/industry stakeholder relationships and contexts.

3.6 The measurable impact of social impact initiatives, demonstrated through specific outcomes, indicators, and effects on target communities or society in addressing a social issue or challenge. The extent of candidates' meaningful output and impact, considering their specific environment as SU staff. The degree to which candidates disseminate their social impact involvement through presentations at national and international conferences, publications in journals and popular media, and, where possible, in ways accessible to the public.

3.7 The extent to which candidates have taken note of the social impact plans and programmes of the University, and of other institutions beyond SU, and have made use of the opportunities that these plans and programmes present.

3.8 The extent to which the candidates' social impact has been acknowledged, for example in the form of peer reviews and community/industry stakeholder feedback.

3.9 The extent to which candidates have contributed to engaged research, engaged teaching and learning, and engaged citizenship in or beyond their field of expertise, and have helped apply these in a particular environment. The alignment of social impact initiatives with the goals of the National Development Plan, the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the African Union Agenda 2030, as well as other relevant local parameters of societal change, such as municipal integrated development plans.

3.10 The extent to which candidates have improved the profile of the University through the quality of their social impact and its outputs.

3.11 Whether the social impact initiative complies with the University's code of conduct and is consistent with the institution's values and principles.

4.   Award procedure

4.1 The DVC: Social Impact, Transformation and Personnel determines the time schedule for the award procedure and issues an open invitation to all SU deans and responsibility centre heads to nominate candidates in their environments for the award.

4.2 Candidates may be nominated by colleagues or may self-nominate. Nominations are submitted via the respective environments or via the office of the Senior Director: Social Impact and Transformation.

4.3 The SIC may also nominate candidates for the award. This should be done in consultation with the chair of the SIC, the relevant dean and/or responsibility centre head.

4.4 The names of the nominees are forwarded to the DVC: Social Impact, Transformation and Personnel, to be brought before the Award Committee for final selection.

4.5 All candidates will be invited to submit a full curriculum vitae and motivation to be used in the evaluation. A motivation template will be provided. In further support of their nominations, candidates may also submit reports from community stakeholders, other reports on SI input and output, as well as performance evaluations.

4.6 Should no suitable candidates be identified for the award in a given faculty or environment in a

particular year, the unutilised opportunity may be retained for a subsequent round of awards.

4.7   The DVC: Social Impact, Transformation and Personnel submits the names of the successful candidates to the SIC for information.

4.8   The DVC: Social Impact, Transformation and Personnel determines the time and nature of the award ceremony.

4.9   Awardees, their teams and community stakeholders will be invited to the award ceremony.

4.10   The ceremony is coordinated by the office of the Senior Director: Social Impact and Transformation.

5.   Composition of the Award Committee

The award committee will comprise the following people:

5.1   The DVC: Social Impact, Transformation and Personnel, as chair.

5.2   The Senior Director: Social Impact and Transformation, as secretariat.

5.3   A deputy vice-chancellor nominated by the DVC: Social Impact, Transformation and Personnel.

5.4   A dean nominated by the deans from among their ranks.

5.5   Two (2) representatives nominated by the SIC(S).

5.6   A representative of an SU community partner nominated by the Senior Director: Social Impact and Transformation in consultation with the SIC(S).