

## **CITATION FOR PROFESSOR JUDITH BRUCE**

We are proud to announce that Professor Judith Bruce, head of the School of Therapeutic Sciences, at Wits University has been nominated as a joint-winner of the 2016 VC's Academic Citizenship Award. The Committee were unanimous in nominating her as joint-winner of this prestigious award.

That Professor Bruce has gone way beyond the duties as the Head of School and launched the NEPAD project on Nursing and Midwifery Education in Africa attest to her as being more than a worthy co-winner.

Professor Judith Bruce is a nurse academic and researcher, with 35 years' experience in the education of nurses – 12 years in the public college sector and the remainder in higher education.

Her specific interest is in problem-based learning, assessment of learning and curricular issues in nursing education. In recognition of her teaching excellence she was awarded the Faculty's Phillip Tobias Distinguished Teacher's Award in 2002 and again in 2010 for maintaining excellence in postgraduate teaching.

As former Head of Nursing, her clinical research interest was in trauma and emergency nursing – a field in which she has remained active until recently. Over that past 18 years, she has successfully mentored over 40 postgraduate students to completion. She has published widely in accredited, peer-reviewed journals, is the author of two nursing textbooks and has contributed to more than 20 chapters in books.

The NEPAD Project on Nursing and Midwifery Education in Africa was designed to respond to the concerns and pledges raised by Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU) in five countries, namely Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda and Tanzania.

Professor Bruce was nominated for this award for her role in conceptualising, developing, implementing and managing needs-based capacity development initiative with key stakeholders in the Republic of Mozambique. This resulted in a collaborative venture with a tertiary institution for health professionals, Instituto Superior de Ciencias de Saude (ISCISA) towards a coordinated approach to address communities' health needs.

The leadership qualities of such a person required:

- Designing a clinical course work and research Masters degree in Nursing;
- Develop collaborative relationships with participating higher education institutions;
- Preparing the identified candidates with appropriate postgraduate qualifications;
- Assisting in improving the countries' health service management skills for specialist nurses; and
- To do clinical and health systems research in the field of work.

From the above, it can be seen that Prof Bruce has made an extraordinary contribution to this intervention over a period of five years and is therefore a most worthy candidate of the Vice-Chancellor's Academic Citizenship Award for 2016.