

## NEWS RELEASE

### SAACI AWARDS – EASTERN CAPE WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The Southern African Association for the Conference Industry (SAACI) has announced the names of its 2011 award winners in its Eastern Cape branch.

The awards, which were started in 1997, recognise individuals who have made an extraordinary contribution to the enrichment and development of SAACI.

The Fellowship Award went to Glenn van Eck for his long service and special contribution to SAACI.

Van Eck, a SAACI national board member and chairman of the Eastern Cape branch, joined the association in 1999 and is a Certified Meeting Professional. Among others, he was responsible for the upgrading of the SAACI website and was chairman of the association's 2008 national conference that was held in Grahamstown.

The branch's Young Achiever Award went to Nicole Fowler, who manages her own, newly-formed event management company. She originally joined SAACI as part of the Springbok Atlas corporate membership and has made a huge contribution towards the growth of the Eastern Cape branch by recruiting new members, being innovative when arranging networking events and raising sponsorships.

SAACI General Manager Adene Pringle says the Young Achiever Award has been introduced to recognise a person with a pioneering spirit, but also to encourage involvement of young industry professionals in SAACI.

Award winners in SAACI's other branches – Western Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Northern Territories – will be made over the next few weeks.

Regional winners will then compete for the national awards, which will be presented at the annual SAACI banquet during its conference at the NH Lord Charles Hotel in Somerset West on 25 July.

(Ends)

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