



Call for nominations SAAHE Emerging Educator Award 2026

The annual SAAHE Emerging Health Professional Educator Award recognizes an emerging academic in Health Professions Education (HPE) who demonstrates exceptional potential, innovation, and excellence in teaching, research, leadership, or scholarly engagement. This award celebrates emerging educators who are shaping the future of HPE through creative, evidence-informed, and student-centered approaches, while contributing to the growing body of educational scholarship in the Southern African region.

The recipient of this award will receive a certificate of recognition. The award will cover SAAHE conference registration for the following year.

Eligibility

Any SAAHE member who has demonstrated excellence and innovation in teaching, learning and educational scholarship within the health professions, and who is at an early stage of their academic career, is eligible for nomination. This includes individuals who are currently pursuing their PHD or have completed within the last five years. The nominee should be affiliated with a public higher education institution where a SAAHE chapter is established.

Criteria

The evaluation of nominees will be based on evidence of excellence and potential in the following areas:

- Innovation and creativity in teaching and learning practices.
- Engagement with educational research and contribution to scholarship in HPE.
- Mentorship and development of students or junior colleagues.
- Demonstrated leadership or initiative in HPE-related activities.
- Commitment to reflective practice and continuous professional growth.
- Contribution to SAAHE or HPE communities through active participation or collaboration.

The closing date for nominations is Monday 1 April 2026

- Nominations must be submitted to awards@saahe.org.za (and copy pillayp@dut.ac.za & rmaart@uwc.ac.za).
- Potential candidates must be nominated by a SAAHE member.
- The nomination must include the following:
 - A completed nomination form (see below) indicating the name and affiliation of the person being nominated, as well as the name and contact details of the nominator.
 - A critical overview (of not more than 750 words) of the nominee's contribution, as relevant to the criteria of the award (see below).
 - A recent CV of the nominee.
 - A portfolio of evidence (not exceeding 15 pages) relevant to the criteria for the

award. The portfolio must include the teaching philosophy of the nominee.

- A panel of reviewers, as stipulated in the Award Guidelines document, nominated by the SAAHE Regional Council will assess each application and make a recommendation for ratification by SAAHE Council.
- Unsuccessful nominees are encouraged to apply again.

SAAHE Emerging Educator 2026 Nomination form

Name of nominee:	
Institutional affiliation:	
Name and contact details of nominator:	
Critical evaluation of the nominee's contribution, as relevant to the criteria of the award (maximum 750 words)	
I accept this nomination and if successful I am prepared to deliver the "Emerging Educator's address" at the SAAHE conference in 2026	
Signature (Nominee):	Date:
Signature (Nominated by):	Date:

SAAHE Emerging Educator Award 2026

Criteria

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1.Evidence of promoting dialogue; exchange of ideas in HPE (e.g. disseminating information, sharing innovations, either in person, or using digital platforms).	Little or none	Emerging engagement	Active and consistent engagement	Highly influential; inspires peers
2.Evidence of promoting excellence and effectiveness in HPE (i.e., providing, supporting, and promoting activities which support health educationalists in their teaching tasks.	Little or none	Moderate	Strong	Exceptional influence for an early-career educator
3. Evidence of providing HPE support or mentorship of others (e.g. students, peer support, HPE practitioners, researchers and/or administrators)	Little or none	Moderate	Strong	Remarkably supportive and inspiring to peers
4. Evidence of contributing to the body of knowledge in the field of HPE (e.g., studies, presentations, co-authorships, reflective pieces, sharing innovations)	Little or none	Moderate	Strong	Outstanding emerging scholarship
5.Evidence of a contribution to supporting, encouraging and promoting research into matters concerning the education of healthcare workers / professionals (e.g., involvement in research groups, assisting with proposals/data, encouraging peers)	Little or none	Moderate	Strong	Exceptional early contribution
6. Evidence of playing a leadership role in HPE (e.g., coordinating modules, committee work, leading small initiatives)	Little or none	Moderate	Strong	Strong early leadership presence
7. Evidence of a contribution to SAAHE structures regionally and/or in a chapter and/or in special interest groups (e.g., attending meetings, volunteering, SIG participation, presenting)	Little or none	Moderate	Strong	Highly engaged and influential
8.Evidence of cooperation and collaboration with local/, national and/ international stakeholders in the HPE environment	Own institution	Local region	Nationally	Internationally
9.Evidence contributing to the discourse relating to the delivery of adequately prepared healthcare workers / professionals (e.g., by contributing feedback and recommendations based on contextual experiences in HPE and health service delivery).	Own institution	Local region	Nationally	Internationally
10 Evidence of contributing to an environment that values and rewards excellence in HPE (e.g., promoting reflective practice)	Own institution	Local region	Nationally	Internationally