

IT PERSONALITY – JUDGES’ CITATION JOINT WINNERS

The joint winners of the IT Personality of the Year 2013 award are: BARRY DWOLATZKY and MTETO NYATI.

There’s a common link between the joint winners of this year’s IT Personality of the Year Award - Barry Dwolatzky, Director of the Joburg Centre for Software Engineering (JCSE) and Mteto Nyati, MD of Microsoft SA. Both men have a passion for nurturing young talent and emerging entrepreneurs, and both have made that a core principal guiding their careers.

Microsoft already supports the JSCE by supplying lecturers and mentors to work with the young students. We hope the joint recognition will encourage Barry and Mteto to further join forces to amplify their ground-breaking and realise their visions South Africa’s technology future.

Barry Dwolatzky

Director of the Joburg Centre for Software Engineering (JCSE)

Barry’s creative and intellectual energy is focused on two key areas – skills and best practice. He set up JCSE at Wits University as a partnership between academia, industry and government, to promote best practices and the growth of SA’s software industry, and to transform it, too – to get more young women and black people to join.

He cares about everyone that comes into his orbit, whether they are students, colleagues, executives or just seeking opportunities. Making room for everyone means that he never “has time” but he always “finds time”. He reaches to people at risk of being left out – township kids, kids about to drop out, professionals without degree qualifications – and helps those people (re)engage with the mainstream of the industry.

Over the past year, Professor Dwolatzky has turned another ambitious dream into reality – to create a technology hub in Braamfontein, Johannesburg, to nurture the creation of local tech products and services.

Mteto Nyati

MD of Microsoft SA

Mteto is committed to finding African solutions for African people, and demonstrating the power of a multinational, if there is acknowledgement of the value of engaging with the needs of people and benefiting SA’s ICT industry. He has the vision, the clout and the financial resources to do just that – and he is doing it wholeheartedly.

Mteto exemplifies the application of the “think global, act local” philosophy, using the international reach and resources of Microsoft to create opportunities in the development of skills, employment and entrepreneurship for South Africans. Under his leadership, Microsoft is investing close to half a billion rand into small black-owned IT enterprises with the potential to develop software for a global market.

He is also driving the 4Africa Initiative, which champions access to technology though affordable connectivity and devices and promotes local innovation and skills development.