

Teachers honoured for their positive influence on students

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FOUR teachers were honoured at a gala dinner ceremony hosted by the University of KwaZulu-Natal on Friday night at Durban's Coastlands Hotel.

The annual event recognises teachers who have a positive influence on students and educational impact beyond the classroom.

Professor Suzanne Francis, a senior lecture in political

science at Howard College, received the distinguished teacher award for the second time, making it the first time an academic had received the award twice.

Francis runs a field school

in the southern Kalahari where students who wish to develop their research skills as independent scholars beyond dissertation take part in a programme in a San community.

Crop scientist Professor

Albert Thembinkosi Modi, dean and head of UKZN'S agriculture, earth and environmental sciences at the Pietermaritzburg campus, received the award for outstanding teaching demonstrating effective learning outcomes in community engagement, curriculum development, and the translation of practice into scholarship.

Professor Thabo Msibi, a senior lecturer at the school of education at UKZN Edgewood campus, was recognised for his encouragement of exploration and learning as a journey. He has been extensively involved in providing curricu-



From left, Professor Albert Modi, Rosemary Quilling, Professor Renuka Vithal (deputy vice-chancellor: teaching and learning) and Professor Thabo Msibi.

lum development, especially in designing an education masters curriculum.

Rosemary Quilling, a senior lecturer in the school of management, IT and governance, college of law and management studies at

UKZN Westville campus, was recognised for having a sustaining innovative teaching style. Quilling, according to her students, shared her valuable insights and acknowledged that for her, teaching was a way of life.



Dr Suzanne Francis was unable to attend the ceremony.