



# Esri User Conference 2018 San Diego



## YSA Winner **2018**

Student: Lehlohonolo Thipe  
University: University of Pretoria

### Esri Young Scholar Award 2018 South Africa Winner

Esri Young Scholar Award recognizes the exemplary work of current undergraduate and graduate students majoring in geospatial science disciplines at international universities. Winning entries are selected by Esri's distributor in the recipient's respective country.

Award winners travel to San Diego to present their work and join more than 15,500 GIS professionals in a weeklong program of presentations, workshops, and social events. The GIS project includes comprehensive research papers, software development, impactful maps, and apps that promote education, conservation, disaster response, and urban planning. This year's Esri South Africa's Young Scholar Award recipient is Lehlohonolo Thipe, a master student from the Department of Geography, Geoinformatics and Meteorology, University of Pretoria, South Africa.

Lehlohonolo's research project titled, 'The Evaluation of animated 3D geovisualisations for teaching of the El Nino phenomenon at the University of Pretoria' intention was to evaluate the effectiveness of animated 3D geovisualisations for teaching purposes.

The focus of the geovisualisations was on El Nino, a meteorological phenomenon that explains the temperature anomalies over a specific region and at a certain time of the year. There are various factors that influence and are in turn influenced by this phenomenon. However, these factors are usually not visualized in the most effective way. Esri technology was used to create the geovisualisations and so improve students' understanding of the phenomenon.