





The first thesis, 'X-Factor for innovation: identifying future excellent professionals', was defended by Janina Banis-Den Hertog at the University of Twente on 23 November. Main question was: *which individual antecedents predict professional excellence?* One of the conclusions is that the honors context positively influences innovative behavior, the development of innovative behavior and the level of achievement of students. More info can be found [here](#).

The second thesis, 'Excellence in higher education: Students' personal qualities and the effects of undergraduate honours programmes', was defended by Ada Kool at Utrecht University on 2 December 2016. Aims of these study were to help to determine how to optimally support students with different personal qualities across their study career, how to identify potential honours students, and how to increase the effectiveness of honours programmes. Results regarding the effectiveness of honours programmes show that former honours students could be distinguished from their non-honours peers after graduation during the first years of their professional career. This thesis has been published in open access and can be downloaded [here](#).

### **Lectures international honors experts in Groningen 19/20 January**

Would you like to be inspired two international experts in honours? Next week, the Research Centre Talent Development in Higher Education and Society at Hanze University of Applied Sciences in Groningen (Netherlands) hosts lectures and discussions with prof. Kirsi Tirri from Finland and Dr. Leonie Kronborg from Australia.

Prof. dr. [Kirsi Tirri](#), professor of Education, University of Helsinki, Finland, specialist in the field of moral education and giftedness, will give a lecture in the afternoon of Thursday 19 January (15.30). This lecture closes an international Ph.D. day, but can also be attended on its own. More info can be found [here](#). Please register [here](#).

On the next morning, Friday 20 January, Dr. Leonie Kronborg, expert in the field of Gifted Education from the Faculty of Education, Monash University, Victoria, Australia will give a lecture titled "Effective teaching of gifted and highly able secondary students for talent development: a case study". This will take place at 9.30 am, Zernikeplein 11, room H0.100, Groningen. Due to the limited number of places, you are requested to send an [e-mail](#) if you would like to join this presentation.

### **More info?**

Please feel free to send this newsletter around to colleagues and friends, and invite them to also [join](#) the EHC. See [www.honorscouncil.eu](http://www.honorscouncil.eu)  
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