



Department of
Education and Training

Media Statement

10 August 2009

Attention: News Editor / Chief of Staff

Training talent puts WA in prime position for economic success

Western Australia is well placed to meet future industry demands for skilled labour with a training system producing world-class professionals, Department of Education and Training Director General Sharyn O'Neill said today.

Ms O'Neill said the naming of 32 finalists in the prestigious WA Training Awards highlighted the depth of talent in Western Australia's training system, with finalists coming from around the State and from across a wide range of industries.

"We received 234 applications for this year's awards and, after narrowing down the field, there are now 32 finalists," she said.

"Each and every one of the individual finalists has demonstrated excellence in their chosen field, including aquaculture, jewellery design, music, as well as oil and gas.

"A highly skilled workforce is essential for our economic and social prosperity.

"I congratulate the finalists across all award categories."

Winners of the WA Training Awards 2009 will be announced on Friday 4 September.

Some will have the opportunity to compete against the best in Australia at the Australian Training Awards in Canberra on Thursday 19 November.

The WA Training Awards 2009 are a joint initiative of the Department of Education and Training and State Training Board.

For more information visit: trainingawards.det.wa.edu.au.

Finalists for 2009 are:

WA Apprentice of the Year – sponsored by ApprentiCentre

Matthew Bailey – Oral Health Care Centre of Western Australia, Central TAFE

Blake McCarthy – Swan TAFE

Wade Reynolds – Industrial Training Institute

Craig Woolley – Challenger TAFE

WA Trainee of the Year – sponsored by GESB

Louise Bythway – West Coast TAFE

Simon Jacques – Central TAFE

Adam Selby – Challenger TAFE

Glenn White – ACEPT, Challenger TAFE

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WA Vocational Student of the Year – sponsored by the Australian Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Jon Arlow – Central West TAFE
Sally Hanbury – Central TAFE
Emma Hudson – West Coast TAFE
Harry Winton – WAAPA (ECU)

WA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year – sponsored by The Graham (Polly) Farmer Foundation

Leanne Councillor – Pilbara TAFE
Salathiel McKay – Pilbara TAFE
Keith Savage – Challenger TAFE
Clinton Stack - Westrac Institute

WA School-based Apprentice of the Year – sponsored by the Perth Convention Exhibition Centre

Zoe Peters – Central West TAFE
Haydn Solomon – Swan TAFE
Joel Green – Australian Technical College, Perth South
Daniel Lowe – Swan TAFE

WA Trainer of the Year – sponsored by the Training Accreditation Council

Ken Gwyer – Challenger TAFE
Linda Holmes – Swan TAFE
Bel Skinner – Kimberley TAFE
Amanda Smith – West Coast TAFE

WA Employer of the Year – sponsored by the Australian Institute of Management

Austal
Disability Services Commission
Forest Products Commission
Hollywood Private Hospital

WA Small Training Provider of the Year – sponsored by the Australian Council for Private Education and Training

Australian College of Training
Jobs South West Inc
Silver Trowel Trade Training

WA Large Training Provider of the Year – sponsored by *The Sunday Times*

Central TAFE
Central West TAFE

WA Training Initiative Award – sponsored by The Chamber of Minerals and Energy Western Australia

Rio Tinto Iron Ore – Mining Operations Training
Aveling – Online Training Portal
Macmahon/BHP Billiton Iron Ore – The Indigenous Mining Skills Program IMSP
Department of Corrective Services – The ASETS Through-Care Model

WA VET in Schools Award – sponsored by Apprenticeships Australia

Hamilton Senior High School
Jurien Bay District High School
WA College of Agriculture - Cunderdin

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