TAFE Illawarra Celebrates its award winning students

TAFE Illawarra celebrated the achievements of its students and staff throughout 2011 at the 2012 TAFE Illawarra Awards Gala Dinner held at the City Beach Function Centre on Thursday 24 May.

“The Institute Awards evening is our opportunity to recognise student and staff excellence and celebrate their commitment and achievements,” said Dianne Murray, Institute Director.

This year, several students and staff from Wollongong and Wollongong West Campus were recognised for awards in various categories.

Benjamin Field received the Hospitality and Cookery award after completing a Certificate III in Meat Processing (Meat Retailing) at Wollongong West Campus. He also won the Apprentice of the Year and the prestigious TAFE Illawarra Student of the Year award.

“Benjamin is a model student. He is extremely competent, innovative, creative and committed to his chosen discipline of Meat Retailing. He was signed off early from his apprenticeship and has since been appointed as Manager of Luke penman’s new Blue River Meats store in Engadine,” said Ms Murray.

Some of Benjamin’s accomplishments include being awarded the 2011 Australian Meat Industry Council (AMIC) Apprentice of the Year and first place in the 2011 Illawarra Regional WorldSkills competition.

Two students from Wollongong Campus were also awarded TAFE NSW State Medals.

“Congratulations to Flavio Fedele for receiving the Highest Pass for Certificate III in Painting and Decorating. Also to Matthew Pallister for receiving not only a State Medal but also a TAFE NSW Statewide Student prize sponsored by Reece Pty Ltd for Certificate III in Plumbing,” said Ms Murray.

Trainee of the Year was awarded to Ashlee Nackovski after successfully undertaking a Certificate III in Property Services (Agency) at Wollongong Campus.

“Ashlee’s teachers and her employer speak highly of her professionalism and eagerness to learn. The fact that she completed her traineeship early is a testament to the bright future that lies ahead of her,” she said.

Other awards for students include:

Simon Weston received the award for Building and Construction after undertaking a Certificate III in Off-site Construction (Sign Writing/Computer Operation) at Wollongong Campus.

Aaron Robinson was awarded the student award for Business and Administration after completing a Diploma of Accounting.

Another talented student to win an award was Gary Kisten who took out the Electrotechnology, Engineering, Manufacturing and Mining award for a Certificate III in Engineering – Fabrication Trade.

Courtney Troughton received the award for Events, Tourism and Travel after completing an Advanced Diploma of Tourism.
Susthma Shrestha was awarded the student award for Information Communication and Technology (ICT) and Library Services.

Several staff members were also honoured at the annual awards evening for their accomplishments, including the Trades and Technology and Business Development unit teams who won the Business Initiative Award for their involvement in the BlueScope Steel tender.

“This was another brilliant result for TAFE Illawarra as the team successfully secured the largest ever commercial business contract with one of the largest employers in the Illawarra region,” she said.

Other staff members recognised were the Food and Beverage team at Wollongong Campus who were awarded the Environmental Sustainability Award for implementing a range of sustainable work practices and training and Michael Doherty, a Teacher in signage who was awarded the Teaching Excellence Award.

Please contact Maria Sevastis on 4222 2928 if you would like to organise an interview with any of the student or staff award winners.