TAFE Illawarra Students Take on WorldSkills National Competition in Sydney

TAFE Illawarra students are amongst Australia's top apprentices, trainees and school students, taking part in the National WorldSkills Competition in Sydney from 30 August to 1 September 2012.

Twenty-four competitors from the TAFE Illawarra team will be vying for gold, silver and bronze medals in categories including Autobody Repair, Bricklaying, Business Services, Cookery, Garment Production, Hairdressing, Meat Retailing, Retail Baking and Welding.

Aaron Vom Bruch is one of the many hopefuls taking part in the National Competition in the Restaurant Service category.

According to Chris van der Wall, Relieving Head Teacher, Tourism, Hospitality and Event Management, Aaron has reached an excellent standard in his chosen field as a result of strong commitment and a positive and professional work ethic over the last eighteen months.

"Aaron began his training in the classroom initially which was great preparation for the regional competition. As a regional winner he then progressed to the state level, and now the prestigious National Competition which is a fantastic achievement," said Mr van der Wall.

"As one of Aaron’s trainers, I have been able to observe his progress and I believe that his involvement in the WorldSkills Competition has benefited his academic endeavours as well as his career progression in the Hospitality industry. Aaron works at the Chifley Hotel in Wollongong as a Food and Beverage Attendant," added Mr van der Wall.

"It has truly been a team effort with employers, TAFE trainers, support staff, sponsors, friends and families all playing their part in ensuring the TAFE Illawarra team members are well prepared for the intense competition,” said Dianne Murray, Institute Director.

"TAFE Illawarra’s National WorldSkills team has been very successful which can be partly attributed to enthusiastic teaching staff who mentor each competitor leading up to the gruelling competition,” added Ms Murray.

"We also have seven chief judges and three judges representing the Illawarra which is a great reflection of the high level of expertise of the TAFE Illawarra staff," added Ms Murray.

Troy Everett (Bricklaying), John Sharples (Construction Steelwork), Paul Condran (Welding), Charles Janszen (Retail Baking – Pastry), Grant Stewart (Plumbing), Donna Drain (Garment Production) and Peter Buttenshaw (Fitting and Turning) have been appointed as Chief Judges, with Richard Twist (Carpentry), Janet MacFarlane (Business Studies) and Michael Doherty (Signage) being selected as Judges.

“We are very proud of the TAFE Illawarra team and we look forward to supporting them and celebrating their achievements,” said Ms Murray.

WorldSkills Australia promotes the standards and status of vocational training and job skills. Its vision is to inspire all young Australians to be national skill champions through competing in school, regional and national skill competitions.

Media are invited to interview and photograph participating students on Tuesday 28 August at Wollongong Campus, Building V between 11.00am and 12.00pm and Wollongong West Campus, Building A between 12.00pm and 1.00pm. Please contact Maria Sevastis if this time is unsuitable.