TAFE Illawarra wins award at the 2012 TAFE NSW Innovation and Excellence Showcase

TAFE Illawarra received the silver award in the Learning Outcomes category for the Celebrity Chef – A Recipe for Success project at a special awards and cocktail reception held at the Convention Centre in Darling Harbour on Thursday 8 November 2012.

Awards were presented to outstanding projects undertaken by TAFE NSW in association with industry, government and community organisations. The five categories were Inclusion, Learning Outcomes, Partnerships, Support Services and Sustainability and included an overall Innovation and Excellence Project of the Year and the People’s Choice Award.

According to Belinda Mackinnon, Faculty Director of Human Services, Tourism and Hospitality, the Showcase was a resounding success and a fantastic opportunity for us to celebrate the achievements and innovation of our staff.

“We are so proud of this Award - the students and staff who have been involved in the annual Celebrity Chef Scholarship Dinner since its inception in 2001 have worked extremely hard to ensure its success each year,” said Ms Mackinnon.

“The Celebrity Chef Dinners provide our students and staff with the opportunity to work closely with high profile chefs. The Commercial Cookery apprentices awarded scholarships are able to undertake fully funded work experience in a celebrated Chef’s restaurant. Our Event Management students awarded scholarships are able to work with a prestigious event management team,” added Ms Mackinnon.

“This experience is invaluable in the hospitality industry and many TAFE Illawarra scholarship students have established very successful careers as a result,” said Ms Mackinnon.

The project also provides opportunities for students in Retail Travel, Events, Communication and Media Studies, Information Technology, and Children’s Services to gain practical experience while completing projects associated with the Celebrity Chef event.

TAFE Illawarra also had two other projects nominated for awards. The Moodle + NBN = Success project highlighted how TAFE Illawarra has partnered with TAFE New England Institute to deliver competencies from the Diploma of Children’s Services, utilising NBN and using innovative technologies such as Adobe Connect and video conferencing and with the support of the Diploma of Children’s Services MOODLE, the theory component of training was delivered 100% online in a supported learning environment.

The other project nominated was the Reconnecting to Country and Culture (Moyengully Group) project which was a partnership with the ‘Moyengully Natural Resource Management Group’. This project provided Indigenous people, especially youth, with opportunities for education, employment on the land and the encouragement to reconnect to country and culture.

The 60 projects on show reflected TAFE NSW’s diversity and enormous capability in creating and delivering training to overcome barriers to learning, building strong partnerships with industry and community organisations and leading the way in sustainable education practices.

Pam Christie, Managing Director of TAFE NSW said, “Our staff value these events because they inspire us to push forward with new ideas and new ways of teaching and learning. It really is something I am very proud of and I congratulate all the award winners along with all who attended and supported the event.”

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