

24 February 2010

KIC Metals and Engineering School Based Traineeship

The Kwinana Industries Council (KIC) presented certificates to the students of Gilmore College who were selected to join the KIC Metals and Engineering School Based Traineeship for 2010.

The traineeship has been going since 1999 and since then, over 200 students have graduated at the end of the two years, with 98% of them either taking up further studies at Challenger Institute of Technology (Certificate II Engineering – Production) or moving directly into apprenticeships in industry.

KIC Director Chris Oughton said the Metals and Engineering School Based Traineeship is an initiative of the Kwinana Industries Council and based at Gilmore College. Students are enrolled full time at school, receive training one day a week at Challenger and spend blocks of time in work placements with member companies of KIC.

The school selects about 14 Year 11 students each year to participate in the traineeship, which ends as they graduate from Year 12.

Most students who successfully complete the prestigious traineeship move to employment in industrial fabrication or mechanical apprenticeships, with many of these being offered by local companies operating in the Kwinana Industrial Area.

During his opening speech KIC President Thys Heyns said the KIC program is held in high regard in industry and placement rates for students into apprenticeships are very high at the end of their Year 12.

“Industry needs young talented men and women to join us as a part of our future workforce. If you can succeed in the first few years you can expect to have a very rewarding career.”

“The partnership between Kwinana Industries Council and Gilmore College has stood the test of time, and there are so many careers that have begun as a result of this partnership, the students here today will eventually be a part of this.”

Speaking at the ceremony was Kwinana Mayor Carol Adams. “I cannot stress enough how lucky our community is to be in close proximity to the most important industrial area in Western Australia, a place that is known internationally and provides billions of dollars into Australia’s economy.

Our source of local jobs and opportunities is second to none and something that young people should be excited about – it’s an opportunity to work for some of the biggest and most successful organisations in the world – right here in Kwinana.

And of course, through employment of local people, all Kwinana residents ultimately gain from the health and wellbeing of a successful and productive community.

When our residents have good jobs they have more money to spend and this in turn filters through to other local businesses and organisations.

Families thrive on success too. I can guarantee many of the parents of the young people choosing to take this traineeship are very proud of their children – and so they should be.

Kwinana has the brightest of futures. At present we have millions of dollars of infrastructure popping up all around Town. With modern facilities, state of the art educational facilities, outstanding job opportunities, stunning new developments, beautiful parks and gardens, and a progressive and happy community, I believe there is no better place to be at present than here in Kwinana.

The KIC Metals and Engineering School Based Traineeship is integral to this bright future.”

Gilmore College Principal Graham Butler said “It is a fantastic celebration of the sustainable partnerships that industry has made with the local community. It is our flagship program that has, for thirteen years, provided a gateway to employment for our local students.

A past graduate (2003) of the Traineeship Jason Harding spoke to the students about what it did for his career. “The KIC program is one of the reasons why I am where I am today, in my career path. By completing my trade with the help of the KIC program, I am now the youngest full time mechanical technician on the site”.

“At the moment I believe I have one of the best jobs in the world, with full on adventure, exercise, busy, communication, teamwork, meeting new people and most of all working safely.” Said Jason

Jason is applying to Brisbane University for entry to an engineering degree by correspondence. In 2003 he won the World Skills Metals and Engineering State Final, and later went on to win the bronze prize at the Australian Nationals. Not content with that, he now goes on to the Nationals again, having won the State Competition last year.

Luke Williams, a current student also spoke. He said “I am currently in the second and final year of the KIC program. During the first few years of school leading up to year 11, I was not a model student as I would regularly misbehave and get distracted.”

“Leading up to the end of year ten I realised I had to stop misbehaving and create myself a future. I was unsure what career path I wanted to follow until I heard about the KIC program through the school and my older brother who had previously participated in the KIC program.”

“This opened up new opportunities and a great career in the metals industry. I was accepted into the KIC program, and since beginning the KIC program in year eleven my engineering skills have continually improved with the guidance of Mr Guest in yr 11 and from Mr Matson this year in yr 12.”

“Because of these skills, I have won a Rising Star Scholarship through Verve Energy. I’ve also placed 1st in the World Skills State Competition in the Vet-in-Schools category and now I’ll be representing WA at the World Skills Nationals in Brisbane this year in May.”

The event was attended by over 90 people from industry, the education sector, and students. It was admirably catered for by students from Gilmore College’s hospitality students completing their Certificate II in Kitchen Operations.

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Photos will be supplied following the event.