

3 November 2011

New Trainees Join Prestigious School Based Program

Local Kwinana industry partners, parents and teachers welcomed 14 new students to the 2012 KIC Metals and Engineering School Based Traineeship during an event at Gilmore College on Thursday.

The new students, selected through a competitive process, will commence their traineeship in 2012. Students are enrolled full time at school, receive training one day a week at Challenger Institute of Technology and spend blocks of time in work placements with member companies of Kwinana Industries Council.

If the success of past students in the program is anything to go by, the recruits can look forward to offers of employment at the completion of their studies.

The new students were joined by existing Year 11 students who are moving into their final year of the program in 2012.

The event acknowledged the important role of the trainee's parents, the support and commitment of industry partners and highlighted the collaborative approach of the school based program.

Chris Oughton, Director at Kwinana Industries Council who presented certificates to the selected students, said the high regard in which industry holds the KIC program is the reason placement rates for students into apprenticeships are high at the end of their Year 12.

"Kwinana industries recognise the need for young talented men and women to become a part of their future workforce," he said.

"The partnership between Kwinana Industries Council and Gilmore College has stood the test of time, with many careers beginning as a result of this program. I am confident that the students here today will eventually contribute to the growth and development of the Kwinana Industrial Area."

Many KIC members have taken on the trainees over the years, with a large number of trainees offered employment within the hosting companies. Members have reported that the high calibre of the engineering education the trainees present with, together with their workshop experience and their great attitudes, makes for trainees that fit easily into the workforce due to the excellent education they receive during their traineeships.

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 or moving directly into apprenticeships in industry.

-end-