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KIEP Schools First Awards

People who might also be contacted:

- Kerry Chipchase, Principal Rockingham Senior High
- Mayors Carol Adams and Barry Sammels
- Jacqui Bridger, Rockingham NAB Branch Manager

Kwinana Industries Education Partnership (KIEP) has won another award in recognition of its school and industry partnership work.

Under the Schools First Awards Program KIEP has won a State 2009 Impact Award for its Real World Science program, and whilst this is recognition at the State level, there is a possibility the recognition may even extend to the national level, as the merits of our program are pitted against other state finalists and winners.

The Schools First Awards are the product of a partnership between National Australia Bank (NAB) and two not-for-profit organisations: the Foundation for Young Australians and the Australian Council for Educational Research.

The Awards originated from a desire to improve the educational outcomes of young people through strong partnerships between schools and their communities.

They are based on research that shows highly effective school-community partnerships can have a positive impact on benefits for students.

KIEP Chairman and KIC Director, Chris Oughton, said, "I am proud to be able to represent both KIEP and Kwinana industry in receiving this award. At the end of the day we are all part of the Rockingham Kwinana community; schools, Challenger TAFE, Murdoch University and Kwinana Industry working together for the benefit of future generations of students."

"The Schools First Awards recognise and reward outstanding school-community partnerships. In this case the 'community' part of the partnership is industry, and specifically with the industries located in the Kwinana Industrial Area, and in particular those companies who are members of Kwinana Industries Council. The KIEP schools and industry have a long, proud and successful history of working together to make the transition from school life to industry careers easier for local students. Everyone benefits from this" he said.

Ms. Kerry Chipchase, Principal of Rockingham Senior High School said, "The Schools First Impact Award that we have won recognises the hard work, achievement and commitment of the 13 KIEP schools, local business and our industries that have been working together in partnership for over a decade. It belongs to our local business and

industry partners, in particular the Kwinana Industries Council. It belongs to our partners in Murdoch University and Challenger TAFE."

The award recognises specifically the successful outcomes of the Real World Science Program that has been supported by the KIEP for many years. Real World Science was originally developed to improve student engagement in science and the number of science tertiary graduates into local industry employment

Ms. Chipchase said, "The main aim of the Real World Science program was to address student enrolments in science and engineering, and the perception of career options in these fields. Students who are interested in science may have no or little perception of science and engineering as a career prospect."

With industry input, projects were developed that created positive links between industry and education and provided 'real life' contexts for the development of student/community understanding and learning.

Mr. Oughton said, "We would all agree that KIEP has an outstanding record of achievement, and that this latest award, coupled with previous national and international awards places the KIEP as a serious contributor to the educational health and wellbeing of this region."

KIEP Awards for community partnerships

- September 2009 - Award of a \$50,000 grant from School's First
- September 2009 – Finalist in the Rockingham Kwinana Chamber of Commerce Small Business Awards for Community Commitment (Winner to be announced 31st October 2009).
- International Winner 2006 Global Best - Regional Development Award)
- Joint Winner 2006 South Coast Regional Chamber of Commerce Community Commitment Award - KIC Design for Industry & The Nufarm Youth Encouragement Industry/Community Arts Partnership
- Joint Winner 2005 WA State Arts Sponsorship Scheme - Community Investment Category - KIC Design for Industry & The Nufarm Youth Encouragement Industry/Community Arts Partnership
- Winner 2001 Chairman's Award - Australia Day Council of Western Australia
- International Winner 2000 Millennium Global Best Award for School/Industry Partnerships
- State Winner 2000 WA Training Awards
- Winner 1999 Australian Best School - Industry Partnership Award
- Winner 2000 Australian Training Awards Vocational Education Training in Schools Excellence
- Finalist 1999 Australian Training Awards Vocational Education Training in Schools Excellence
- International Finalist 1998 Dusseldorp Learning Community Awards

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