The Northern Territory’s best students and training organisations have been honoured in the 2009 NT Training Awards.

The Education and Training Minister Paul Henderson attended the awards ceremony at the Darwin Convention Centre this evening.

“A skilled workforce is essential to maintaining economic and social growth in the Territory,” Mr Henderson said.

“The Vocational Education and Training sector plays an integral role in skilling and training our workforce, and gives more students the chance to make the most of the opportunities the Territory has to offer.

“In recognition of the importance of VET to our education and employment system, my Government has changed the NT Certificate of Education to recognise training courses.

“We are also well on the way to reach our second target of 10,000 apprentices and trainees in the next four years.”

Mr Henderson said the NT Training Awards honour the Territory’s top apprentices, trainees, vocational education and VET students, employers, businesses, VET teachers/trainers and registered training organisations.

The awards highlight business best practice and recognise personal excellence.

This year’s awards were made up of eleven categories. Winners of the student categories are:

**VET in Schools Student of the Year**

Sponsored by McArthur River Mining

**Kirsten Hunter**, Certificate II in Sport and Recreation
School: Katherine High School

Runner-up: Bryce McIntyre, Certificate I in Engineering and Certificate I in Information Technology
School: Nhulunbuy High School
School Based Apprentice or Trainee of the Year

Sponsored by Group Training NT

**Jarrod Benton**, Certificate II in Conservation & Land Management
School: Kormilda College

Runner-up: Bianca Erlandson, Certificate III Business Administration
School: Centralian Senior Secondary College

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year

Sponsored by Australian Apprenticeships NT

Employer: Airborne Solutions

Runner-up: Anthony Lew-Fatt, Certificate III in Financial Services
Employer: National Australia Bank

Vocational Student of the Year

Sponsored by Chamber of Commerce NT and Australian Council for Private Education and Training

**Samantha Ziegler**, Certificate III in Business
Employer: YBE(2) Pty Ltd

Trainee of the Year

Sponsored by Australia Post

**Heath Wheeler**, Certificate IV Transport Logistics (Rail Operations)
Employer: Genesee Wyoming Australia

Runner Up: Katharina Gerste, Certificate III in Multimedia
Employer: Service Industries Training Advisory Council

Austin Asche Apprentice of the Year

Sponsored by Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
Raymond Brown, Certificate III in Carpentry
Employer: Patrick Brown Pty Ltd

Runner-up: Damien Clarke, Certificate III in Electrotechnology Communication
Employer: CVC Network Ltd

The winners of the organisation categories are:

**VET Teacher/Trainer of the Year Award**
Sponsored by: Mr Richard Ryan AO
Awarded to Marlene Organ, Nhulunbuy High School
Runner-up: Angela Pattison NT Department of Justice – Darwin Correctional Services

**Training Initiative Award**
Sponsored by Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
Awarded to Rio Tinto Alcan for their ALERT Program
Runner-up: Northern Territory Police Fire & Emergency Services in partnership with Group Training Northern Territory for their Aboriginal Community Police Officer Program

**VET in Schools Excellence Award**
Sponsored by Conoco Phillips
Awarded to Taminmin High School for their Remote Training Program
Runner-up: Charles Darwin University for their delivery of flexible programs in unique and innovative ways that meet the needs of individual schools and students across the NT

**Employer of the Year**
Sponsored by Southern Cross Television
Awarded to Hastings Deering (Australia) Ltd
Runner-up:  Traditional Credit Union Ltd

**Training Provider of the Year**

Sponsored by Royal Australian Navy in the North

Awarded to **Charles Darwin University**

Runner-up:  Taminmin High School

Four of the six student categories will represent the NT at the Australian Training Awards. Winners of the organisational categories can nominate to represent the Territory at the national awards. The 2009 Australian Training Awards will be held in Canberra in November.

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