Peter Chandler
Deputy Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

2014 NT Training Awards

14 September 2014

The Territory’s Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector celebrated its outstanding achievers at the 59th annual Northern Territory Training Awards in Darwin last night.

“The VET sector plays an integral role in the ongoing economic and social growth of the Territory by skilling and training the workforce we need to develop Northern Australia,” Deputy Chief Minister Peter Chandler said.

“It was an honour to present the awards to the Territory’s highest achievers and great to see families, friends, employers and trainers there to support the finalists, who were reunited after spending a professional development weekend together in June.

“Guest MC Lochie Daddo kept diners entertained as winners and runners-up of 11 awards categories were announced.

“I am proud to confirm that the Austin Asche Apprentice of the Year is Shawn DuVenage from Central Australia.

“Shawn took the leap from running his own business to becoming a mature age apprentice so he could follow his long-held dream of working in the electrical industry.

“He says taking up an apprenticeship later in life was challenging but ultimately rewarding. Shawn now works as operator and maintainer at Yulara Power Station.

“Shawn’s story proves that it’s never too late to change careers and learn new skills. During his studies towards his Certificate III as an Electro-technology Electrician he had the opportunity to learn from skilled colleagues and he now hopes to mentor apprentices himself in the future.”

Winners will go on to represent the NT in their respective categories at the Australian Training Awards in November.

The NT Training Awards are organised each year by the Department of Business and a record total of 71 nominations across 11 categories were received.

“Past winners of these awards continue to stand out as leaders in the community, not just in their chosen profession,” Mr Chandler said.

“While continuing to pursue her studies, 2012 winner Jane Alia has emerged as a strong community leader and role model for young women, speaking last year at the Women of the World conference

“One of last year’s winners, Calista Hudson, has also gone into business for herself and is in demand as a personal trainer and fitness instructor in Darwin.”

For more information and details of the finalists, visit www.trainingawards.nt.gov.au
The winners of the 2014 Northern Territory Training Awards are:

- **Austin Asche Apprentice of the Year** – sponsored by the Gil Court Memorial Fund
  
  Winner: Shawn Du Venage - Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician
  
  Employer: Power Water Corporation
  
  Registered Training Organisation: Charles Darwin University

  Runner-Up: Tim Schmidt - Certificate III in Engineering - Mechanical Trade
  
  Employer: Hastings Deering (Aust) Ltd
  
  Registered Hastings Deering Institute of Technology

- **Trainee of the Year** – sponsored by Group Training Association QLD & NT
  
  Winner: Bradley Malby – Certificate III in Business Administration
  
  Employer: GTNT
  
  Host Employer: Department of Corporate and Information Services
  
  Registered Training Organisation: Charles Darwin University

  Runner-up: Gerald Pasigna – Certificate IV in Computer Systems Technology
  
  Employer: NEC
  
  Registered Training Organisation: Charles Darwin University

- **Vocational Student of the Year** – sponsored by Master Builders Association NT
  
  Winner: Aimee Williams – Certificate III and IV in Fitness
  
  Employer: ESS Larrakia
  
  Registered Training Organisation: Charles Darwin University

  Runner-Up: Patrick Rivers – Certificate IV in Community Services Work
  
  Employer: Department of Children and Families
  
  Registered Training Organisation: Charles Darwin University

- **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year** – sponsored by East Arnhem Regional Council
Winner: Yupunu Fiona Marika – Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management
Employer: Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation
Registered Training Organisation: Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education

Runner-up: Dawn Ivinson - Diploma of Child, Youth and Family Intervention Employer: Department of Children and Families
Registered Training Organisation: BCA National Training Group

- VET in Schools Student of the Year – sponsored by ConocoPhillips
Winner: Lachlan Synnott – Certificate II in Transport & Distribution (Coastal Maritime Operations - Coxswain)
School: Good Shepherd Lutheran College
Registered Training Organisation: Charles Darwin University

Runner-up: Tayla Benn – Certificate I in Hospitality, Certificate II in Hospitality
School: Nhulunbuy High School
Registered Training Organisation: Nhulunbuy High School

- School-Based Apprentice or Trainee of the Year – sponsored by GTNT
Winner: Liam May - Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician
School: Darwin High School
Registered Training Organisation: Advanced Training International
Employer: Electric NT Pty Ltd

Runner-up: Kane Andrews - Certificate III in Carpentry
School: Good Shepherd Lutheran College
Registered Training Organisation: Charles Darwin University
Employer: System Homes

- VET Teacher/Trainer of the Year – sponsored by Halikos Hospitality
Winner: Nikki Higgins – Charles Darwin University
Runner-up: Matt Deveraux – Taminmin College
Training Provider of the Year – sponsored by NEC
Winner: Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education
Runner-up: BCA National Training Group

Training Initiative Award – sponsored by The Ichthys Project
Winner: GTNT in collaboration with Charles Darwin University
Runner-Up: Karen Sheldon Training and Development in collaboration with The Darwin Turf Club

Employer of the Year – sponsored by Southern Cross Television
Winner: Hastings Deering (Aust) Ltd
Runner-up: Traditional Credit Union

Small Employer of the Year – sponsored by the NT News
Winner: Arafura Tree Services
Runner-up: Micks Ally Fab

Media Contact: Jarrad Schwark 0437 914 736 or 8928 6617