PRESENTING THE CREAM OF THE “VET” CROP

27 June 2013

The Territory’s top trainers and trainees have been announced as finalists in the 2013 Northern Territory Training Awards.

This year, 35 finalists have been recognised for their outstanding achievements in Vocational Education and Training (VET). Awards will be presented across 11 categories that take in trainees, VET students, trainers, employers and registered training organisations.

This year’s applicants include an ambitious fire fighter, a teaching assistant at Mapuru in northeast Arnhem Land, an elite sportsman, a female truck driver and an apprentice diesel fitter who grew up helping his stepfather fix things in the back shed.

Minister for Employment and Training David Tollner said this was the most prestigious event on the Northern Territory’s VET calendar, and attracted nearly 70 nominations this year.

“The NT Training Awards showcase the opportunities that are available through the training system and give recognition to the Territory’s high achievers,” Mr Tollner said. “VET plays an integral role in the economic growth of the Territory in training our current and future workforce.”

The NT has one of the highest VET participation rates in the country with about 3800 apprentices and trainees.

At the weekend, all finalists in the student categories came together for a professional development retreat ahead of their final interviews.

“This added an extra element to their overall award experience and better prepares apprentices, trainees and vocational students to act as ambassadors for the VET system,” Mr Tollner said.

“From here, they are able to step up as mentors for future students in the Territory who are interested in taking up the challenge of training.”

The winners will be announced at the annual presentation on 7 September and have the chance to travel to Perth to represent the NT at the 2013 Australian Training Awards in November.

The NT Training Awards, operating since 1955, are organised each year by the Department of Business and have large support from the private sector.

For more information on the category finalists visit www.trainingawards.nt.gov.au and join the facebook page www.facebook.com/NTTrainingAwards

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