Top Automotive Apprentices honoured

27 November 2015

The Territory’s top trainees have been recognised at the TIO Automotive Apprentice of the Year Awards at Parliament House tonight.

The Overall Apprentice of the Year honours went to Arafura Crash Repairs employee David Eves after he won his 3rd/4th Year Light Vehicle Mechanic category.

Already a qualified panel beater, David is about to complete his second apprenticeship and has been described by the Motor Trades Association as an outstanding individual.

Minister for Employment and Training Peter Styles opened the event and said it was an excellent opportunity to recognise the training efforts and excellence of apprentices within the sector.

“I congratulate all of the winners and nominees recognised as part of tonight’s event as well as the Motor Trades Association for the work it does within the training arena,” Minister Styles said.

“The NT needs a skilled workforce to meet the growing needs of local businesses, industries and major projects and the Automotive Industry is a crucial component.

“Training Territorians to fill the NT’s employment needs is a major priority for the Giles Government.

“Apprentices are the future leaders of the Automotive industry and enabling them, through training, to become valued, skilled employees for local businesses is vital.”

The Automotive industry transcends many sectors including; manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade, rental services, personal services and transport.

There are 374 current Automotive Apprentices in training in the Northern Territory, 55 (15%) are Indigenous, 13 (4%) are female.

The top occupations apprentices are employed in are: Light Vehicle Mechanical 133 (35.6%), Heavy Vehicle Mechanical 88 (23.5%) and Mobile Plant Technician 57 (15.2%).

The awards are open to apprentices from across the NT and from all major sectors of the industry.

Award winners included:

- Light Vehicle Mechanic Apprentice: 1st Year - Becki Kernich, 2nd Year - Hugh Dwyer
• Heavy Diesel Mechanic Apprentice: 1st Year – Edge Bolton, 2nd Year – Tanner Frank, 3rd /4th Year – Alexander Couzens

• Panel Beating Apprentice: 1st Year – Matthew Kemp

• Spray Painting Apprentice: 2nd Year – Hardeep Singh, 3rd / 4th Year David Eves

• Indigenous Trainee: Spencer Martin

• Auto Electrical Apprentice: 2nd Year – Mitchell Bauer, 3rd / 4th Year Mitchell Vanetie

• School-based Apprentice: Kaidin Montgomery

• Automotive VETiS Student: Bailey Doedee

• Automotive Apprentice: Spencer Martin

• Overall Apprentice: David Eves

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