Twenty-nine young Territorians have helped to strengthen the Territory’s skills base, receiving qualifications in a range of fields at the NT Group Training Awards held in Darwin tonight.

Ten of the graduates were presented with major awards for excellence, including Apprentice of the Year and Trainee of the Year.

Minister for Employment, Education and Training Syd Stirling, who attended the ceremony, said each of the students were now able to take advantage of the many opportunities opening up in the Territory.

"We are on the brink of some very exciting developments, with the railway nearing completion, oil and gas projects underway and work to start soon on a $600 million waterfront development," he said.

"Each of these projects means jobs for Territorians – particularly those with skills and expertise.

"Tonight’s graduates have gained qualifications in a wide range of fields including information technology, business, automotive, electrotechnology, retail, laboratory skills, electrical and retail.

"I would like to congratulate each of them for their achievements and wish them the best of luck as they embark on the next stage of their careers. I would particularly like to commend tonight’s award winners for their hard work and their commitment to excellence."

Mr Stirling also acknowledged the work of Group Training NT in enabling each student to receive quality training through accredited programs.

"The Territory Government places great importance on the role of group training companies and Registered Training Organisations in creating employment and training opportunities for Territorians.

"We are proud to support their efforts, providing around $32 million a year to RTOs to deliver qualifications to Territorians, from Certificate 1 level, through to and including Advanced Diploma level. Government has also provided around $9 million to RTOs to deliver apprenticeship training."

**GROUP TRAINING NT AWARD WINNERS**

**APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR**

Recipient: Ramivan Christensen – Cert III in Engineering (Mechanical) - Ornasteel

**TRAINEE OF THE YEAR**

Recipient: Amy Fuller – Cert III in Business – Darwin Turf Club

**OUSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

Recipient: Mr. Michael Watkins – Cert III in Hospitality (Commercial Cookery) – MGM Grand

**INDIGENOUS NEW APPRENTICE AWARD**
Recipient: Camille Lew Fatt – Cert III in Business - NTU

SCHOOL BASED NEW APPRENTICE ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD

Recipient: Jonathon Saunders – Cert II in Information Technology - eNtity1

STAGE 1

Recipient: Neville Bara – Cert III in Automotive (Plant/Earth Moving/Agricultural) - GEMCO

STAGE 2

Recipient: Setefano Ahovelö – Cert III In Electrotechnology (Systems Electrician) - GEMCO

STAGE 3

Recipient: Brett Mann – Cert III in Automotive (Plant/Earth Moving/Agricultural) – Cummins Diesel Sales & Service

HOST EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR

GEMCO

NEW HOST EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR

ANZ Banking Group