



## Media Statement

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Attention: News Editor / Chief of Staff

### **Southern suburbs set to shine at the WA Training Awards 2009**

A talented young trainee from St James, a Cloverdale beauty lecturer, two State Government organisations and a training college have been named as finalists in the prestigious WA Training Awards 2009.

Trainee Adam Selby is a contender for the WA Trainee of the Year sponsored by GESB; lecturer Amanda Smith is a finalist in the WA Trainer of the Year category sponsored by the Training Accreditation Council; Victoria Park's Australian College of Training (WA Small Training Provider of the Year 2008) is a contender for the WA Small Training Provider of the Year; and East Victoria Park's Disability Services Commission and Rivervale's Forrest Products Commission are finalists in the WA Employer of the Year sponsored by the Australian Institute of Management.

St James trainee process plant operator Mr Selby said he loved the complexity and mental challenges his job offered.

"After a rigorous three month selection and recruitment process, I was awarded a trainee position at the prestigious Australian Centre for Energy and Process Training (ACEPT) at Challenger TAFE to retrain for a new industry because I wanted to work in a more challenging environment," he said.

"My training at ACEPT was really well structured and the lecturers have strong industry backgrounds and are extremely knowledgeable in their areas of expertise.

"I started my career as an apprentice refrigeration and airconditioning mechanic where I worked in the Middle East and West Africa on offshore oil and gas platforms – this experience gave me a desire to change careers."

He was also named Challenger TAFE's Trainee of the Year and Student of the Year 2009.

"The help, guidance and support that I received from ACEPT helped me achieve such success," Mr Selby said.

"After completing on the job training at one of Woodside's offsite process plants, I was offered a job as a process plant operator in November last year."

West Coast TAFE beauty lecturer Ms Smith from Cloverdale said she became a beauty lecturer because she had a continual yearning to make a difference and share her passion.

"Introducing new training methods and practices is important to me," Ms Smith said.

"Creating a fully operational salon was part of my strategy to give students extensive practical experience and confidence to seek immediate employment."

The Disability Services Commission, WA Employer of the Year finalist, prides itself on the quality of its staff which provides support to people with disabilities and their families including respite care, accommodation and professional and therapy services.

The Commission offers staff a range of accredited training programs for their professional development and to foster a continuous learning culture in the organisation.

Rivervale's Forrest Products Commission also a WA Employer of the Year finalist which works with a wide range of contractors and customers in the Western Australian timber industry, takes a long term approach to develop the skills of its staff.

In 2008 it piloted a school-based Indigenous traineeship program in its Albany work centre to provide forestry career opportunities in the region.

Australian College of Training, WA Small Training Provider of the Year finalist, delivers training in places as far away as Malaysia, Fiji and Singapore.

The College was last year's WA Small Training Provider of the Year and is leading the way in food and meat processing training.

Department of Education and Training Director General Sharyn O'Neill said the WA Training Awards recognised the very high quality and standards of the training system in Western Australia.

"A highly skilled workforce is essential for our economic and social prosperity," she said.

"The high calibre of the finalists across all the award categories shows how flexible and innovative training delivers results for industries, employers, communities and training providers."

Winners of the WA Training Awards 2009 will be announced on Friday 4 September.

The winner of the WA Trainee of the Year of the Year, WA Small Training Provider of the Year and WA Employer of the Year could go on to compete against the best in Australia at the Australian Training Awards in Canberra in November.

The WA Training Awards 2009 are a joint initiative of the Department of Education and Training and the State Training Board.

For more information visit: [trainingawards.det.wa.edu.au](http://trainingawards.det.wa.edu.au).

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