GTA is the national peak body representing the network of over 150 Group Training Organisations (GTOs) employing apprentices and trainees throughout Australia.

24 October 2011

Nation’s top group training apprentices awarded

Group training’s outstanding apprentices and trainees were recognised at the Group Training National Awards presentation dinner in Melbourne on Friday night.

The awards followed the two-day Group Training National Conference at which government leaders and industry experts joined with the employers of more than 30,000 apprentices and trainees to discuss Australia’s future skills and training needs.

GTA Chief Executive, Jim Barron said the awards showcase the exceptional young people who are employed and mentored through group training.

“The awards celebrate the dedication, skills and talents of apprentices and trainees across the network. They also provide a chance to recognise the friends, family and group training staff who help these talented young people to achieve their success.

“The development of highly skilled people is critical for our economy and our community, and we look forward to seeing future contributions from these talented and dedicated young people,” he said.

The winners of the four categories are:

Group Training Apprentice of the Year

**Emerson Lievense, WA**
GTO: Apprenticeships Australia, Host Employer: Woodside Energy Ltd
Apprenticeship/Traineeship: Certificate III in Engineering (Electrical)

Emerson set a new industry standard as a 17 year old school leaver, being the youngest person to gain employment as offshore instrument/electrical/process plant operations apprentice with Energy Apprenticeship Group (a division of Apprenticeships Australia) and hosted by Woodside Energy Ltd.

"I recognise that success is the result of personal endeavour but that without the commitment and support of the GTOs who work with host employers to provide employment and training opportunities, such successes would not have been possible in my career."

Patron - Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia
Group Training Trainee of the Year

Rebecca Connell, NSW
GTO: Hunter Valley Training Company, Host Employer: Eraring Energy
Apprenticeship/Traineeship: Certificate IV in Laboratory Techniques

Rebecca has a strong ambition and passion for chemistry and science. She has always displayed professionalism in both her work performance and her personal conduct and has a strong attention to detail in all her tasks. She is well on her way to her ultimate goal of becoming a Chemical Engineer.

“This traineeship has been an incredible learning experience. I am very grateful for all of the opportunities I have received and have been inspired to continue my studies in areas that I am passionate about.”

Group Training Apprentice/Trainee of the Year – Indigenous

Thomas Libbesson, NSW
GTO: MG My Gateway, Host Employer: Lend Lease
Apprenticeship/Traineeship: Certificate III in Construction (Carpentry)

Thomas is a Newcastle-based mature-aged Construction Carpentry Apprentice. He commenced his apprenticeship in February 2008 and is now undertaking a Certificate IV in Building & Construction with plans to eventually complete an Advanced Diploma. Thomas is highly regarded amongst his Lend Lease co-workers and peers, and communicates effectively with staff at all levels of the organisation.

“My apprenticeship has given me the opportunity to gain the confidence and belief to acknowledge that anything is achievable if you really want it.”

Group Training Apprentice/Trainee of the Year – School-Based

Rhylee Deas, VIC
GTO: Australian Industry Group Training Services, Host Employer: J C Butko Engineering
Apprenticeship/Traineeship: Certificate III in Engineering Fabrication

Rhylee completed Year 12 in 2010 and is now a full-time apprentice. He is 12 months ahead in his TAFE training and looking to complete another qualification for 2012 while continuing to gain on-the-job experience. Rhylee has proudly promoted engineering as a career to other young people through his participation in the MESAB Young Industry Ambassador Program.

“I just love to work, real work, not just school work. Making things that other people need and want to use gives me great satisfaction.”

Group Training Australia is the national peak body representing the network of over 150 Group Training Organisations (GTOs) employing apprentices and trainees throughout Australia. GTA was recently awarded the Council of Small Business Organisations of Australia (COSBOA) Small Business Champion Award 2010.

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