TAFE Illawarra Students Take Top Honours at the 2012 Illawarra and South East NSW Regional Training Awards

TAFE Illawarra is thrilled to announce our recent success at the Illawarra and South East NSW Regional Training Awards held on Friday 29 June. TAFE Illawarra came away with four of the seven major awards.

According to Lucy Arundell, Relieving Institute Director, 16 students and one teacher from TAFE Illawarra were in the running, for the major awards.

“We are very proud of all the students who were nominated for these prestigious awards and the fact that we won four out of the seven major awards is a fantastic achievement,” said Ms Arundell.

“Dean Hunter is currently undertaking a Diploma in Electrical Engineering at Wollongong Campus and won the Apprentice of the Year at this year’s Awards which is an incredible achievement,” she added.

Growing up Dean’s inquisitive mind and the desire to understand how things work, lead him to pursue a career and gain an Electrical apprenticeship.

“At Bluescope Steel Dean gained experience in a wide range of industrial settings where his interest and skills developed, and a passion for the electrical industry grew. This opportunity and a positive attitude have helped him to excel,” said Ms Arundell.

Kirra Parsons is undertaking a Certificate III in Hospitality (Commercial Cookery) at Bega Campus and took out the 2012 School Based Apprentice/Trainee of the Year Award.

“What a fantastic achievement for someone so young. Kirra excels in cooking. She also has fantastic communication skills and leadership qualities. She is well on the way to achieve her goal of undertaking further study in her chosen field and ultimately running her own restaurant,” she added.

The winner of the 2012 Illawarra and South East NSW Regional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year Award was Harley Carlson who completed a Certificate III in Business Administration at Wollongong Campus.

“Harley is another example of a young person who has excelled. He is a role model for young people in the Illawarra’s Aboriginal community and was selected to represent the region as a project Murra student where he addressed over 200 fully uniformed Police Officers at Goulburn Police Academy,” said Ms Arundell.

Michael Doherty, a teacher in Painting and Decorating at Wollongong Campus won the 2012 Illawarra and South East NSW Regional VET Trainer/Teacher Award.

“Signwriting has changed from a brush to a highly computerised industry, however the old skills of design, colour and talent are not erased by the technology but enhanced,” said Mr Doherty.

“We are looking forward to the NSW Training Awards to be held in Sydney on Tuesday 28 August where our four regional winners will compete for the highest accolades in the State,” said Ms Arundell.