TAFE Illawarra’s Transitions - Pathways to Further Education Program a Great Success

TAFE Illawarra recently hosted a successful Transitions Alternate Schools Program over nine weeks for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) high school students. The program is a partnership between TAFE Illawarra, Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra (MCCI) and the Department of Education and Communities (DEC).

According to Angela Ljubic, Institute Multicultural Education Coordinator, the Transitions – Pathways to Further Education Program at TAFE Illawarra was held from 4 May to 22 June 2012. The program introduced the CALD high school students to three vocational areas including, Sign Writing, Bricklaying and Digital Media.

“We are very pleased with the success of the Program. In particular, the careers workshop was very useful for the students. The MCCI Youth Workers and Adult Migrant Education Program teachers provided excellent mentoring throughout the Program and were integral to its success,” said Ms Ljubic.

“The main purpose of the Program was to provide students with an introduction to TAFE and suitable apprenticeships. Some students from disadvantaged backgrounds may not know about career pathways at TAFE so the Program allowed them to look at their career strengths and interests as well as pathways to further education,” added Ms Ljubic.

“The Program has ensured that Language, Literacy and Numeracy are also integrated. We have a teacher who is skilled in both Adult Basic Education (ABE) and the English language area as well as having a history of supporting students with complex needs,” added Ms Ljubic.

During the program students successfully completed a White card course and learned how to build a small brick wall which provided them with a White Card qualification that can be included in their resume and used to gain employment in the construction industry.

In the Sign Writing component, students learned how to prepare backgrounds and apply simple signage techniques and how to prepare surfaces for signage. During the Bricklaying component the students learned how to use bricklaying tools and equipment to build a small wall. In Digital Media they learned how to capture imagery to represent and communicate a concept.

According to Linda Faiers, Teacher in Digital Media, the students were enthusiastic and willing to learn.

“The photographs they took as a result of the course were professional and you could tell from the expressions on their faces how much they really enjoyed the course,” said Ms Faiers.

“The young people participating in this Program have experienced difficulty in their lives. Their participation in the Program gives them hands on experience in vocational areas in their new environment which is essential for career planning,” said Ms Ljubic.

“The workshops conducted by MCCI, included an introduction to TAFE as a future option for further studies after completion of high school,” added Ms Ljubic.

Media are invited to attend and interview students and staff on:
Date: Friday 20 July 2012
Time: 10.30am – 12.30pm
Venue: Wollongong Campus
Building A, Level 2, Room 09
Foleys Lane, Wollongong.

For media enquiries contact:
Maria Sevastis
R/PR & Events Officer
TAFE Illawarra
Phone: 4222 2928

Release approved by:
Elizabeth Fowler
R/Manager Media & PR
TAFE Illawarra
Phone: 4222 2907