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## **George Dragovic from Illawarra TAFE named Building and Construction Trade Teacher of the Year**

**The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence Recognises Excellence in trade skills teaching.**

George Dragovic from Illawarra TAFE, New South Wales has been named the Building and Construction Trade Teacher of the Year at a ceremony in Sydney.

The Trade Teacher of the Year Awards are in their inaugural year and recognise excellence in training and teaching across the eight industry groups of focus for The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence, covering the: Automotive; Building and Construction; Electrical; Manufacturing; Metals and Engineering; Hospitality and Personal Services; Rural and Farming; and Mineral Resources.

The awards have been developed by The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence, which is funded by the Federal Government and led by three industry groups: The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry; the National Farmers' Federation; and the Australian Industry Group.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Institute for Trade Skills Excellence, Brian Wexham said that the Trade Teacher of the Year Awards were an important initiative.

“The Institute has been established to promote and advance learning, teaching and training in Australian trades education. One of our three key purposes is to foster and recognise excellent standards and teaching in trade’s education and training.”

Mr Wexham also said that the Awards enabled teachers to further develop their teaching.

“The Trade Teacher of the Year Awards are an excellent way to recognise teachers who excel in their chosen fields, amongst their peers and also provide the teacher with some funding to

further develop the teaching practices in their industry, which in turn will also reward the students. This is an important initiative as this specifically recognises and awards teachers within the vocational trade training arena” said Mr. Wexham.

A total of 18 awards were presented across 18 categories in the inaugural Trade Teacher of the Year Awards, each with prizes of \$10,000 to individual teachers or teams of teachers who work in a trade area. The prize money was awarded as a \$5,000 cash prize and a \$5,000 developmental activity or program that will contribute to industry and teaching.

George Dragovic was named The Trade Teacher of the Year in the Building & Construction Industry for his proven track record of working with the industry and employers to develop timely, flexible and cost effective training programs.

George, through his unique leadership is currently managing more than 30 teaching and support staff and over 400 students from diverse backgrounds.

Under George’s direction the Bricklaying department has grown from 69 students and 5 teachers to more than 400 students and 20 teachers.

George said he will use the prize money to develop an online program.

“ I plan to develop an electronic system to enable clients to easily self evaluate their own skills and experiences in relation to a Training Plan qualifications before seeking recognition of prior learning. This will be done by converting and collecting existing paper based documentation into a single database”.

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