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Sarah Conlon from Pivot Point International Academy named Trade Teacher of the Year

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

Sarah Conlon from Pivot Point International Academy Melbourne has been named the Hairdressing 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.

Sarah Conlon was named the Hairdressing Trade Teacher of the Year in recognition of her enthusiasm and passion for hairdressing and education.

Sarah has been working tirelessly to build stronger relationships with industry and career practitioners in order to help support and advertise hairdressing to younger people as an equal first choice when selecting their career paths.

Sarah plans on using the prize money to develop an electronic resource to help support apprentices learning in the workplace and said she was thrilled to have won the award”.

“When I won the award I felt very privileged to be recognised for doing a job that I love at a time in my life when I feel I am really growing and learning as well” said Sarah Conlon.

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For information, please contact:

Pip McConachie

Colvin Communications

Tel: +61 2 8314 7178 or 0402 448 745