



TOP OF THE CLASS

THE inaugural Trade Teacher of the Year Awards will be celebrated this month.

They have been designed to recognise excellence in training and teaching across the eight industry groups of focus of the Institute for Trade Skills Excellence.

The chief executive officer of the Institute, Brian Wexham, said the Trade Teacher of the Year Awards were a vital 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 excellence standards and teaching in trades education and training," Mr Wexham said.

"This initiative is important because it specifically recognises and awards teachers within the vocational trade training arena."

Mr Wexham also said 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, among 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.

"The teachers recognised with awards will be those who go beyond the curriculum ensuring that their students' skills are up to date with industry demands and equipped to find success and rewards within their chosen profession."

A total of 15 awards were presented across 15 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 was awarded as \$5000

cash and a \$5000 developmental activity or program that will contribute to industry and teaching.

The industries recognised by the awards include: automotive, building and construction, electrical, manufacturing, metals and engineering, hospitality and personal services, rural and farming, and mineral resources.

The finalists in each category have been named at an awards ceremony this week and the National Trade Teacher of the Year will be announced at the Australian Training Awards in Hobart on November 8.

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