



Gold star award for Tafe training

AN industry-based training partnership between CSR Sugar and the Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE has seen TAFE recognised as one of Australia's premier providers for Trade Skills Excellence in Engineering.

High quality delivery of engineering training, both mechanical and fabrication at the CSR sugar mill in the Burdekin and Herbert region, has seen the TAFE institute receive a Two Gold Star level of recognition 'Advancing Towards Excellence'.

The Star Rating Scheme is administered by The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence and recognises excellence in trade skills training among TAFE and Registered Training Organisations.

The Star Rating Scheme focuses on eight areas of skill shortage and the level of gold stars indicates an excellent level of trade skills training and teaching delivery.

CSR Mills group training coordinator Jim Andersen said the partnership created job pathways to over 320 engineering apprentices and adult learning positions.

"Working with the Barrier Reef TAFE has helped CSR to overcome the skills shortage in our regions," he said.

"We have been able to negotiate and develop training plans that are relevant, flexible and practical for our workers.

"Block delivery and self-paced

learning has been made available, along with support services for workers who need learning support.

"Workplace visits from TAFE assessors are more regular, allowing our workers more productivity and less down time for training," Mr Andersen said.

To recognise the existing skills and knowledge the workers already have, the Barrier Reef TAFE conducts Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) as-

sessments, ensuring no workers undertake any unnecessary training.

Mr Andersen said TAFE had also extended the partnership to offer CSR Sugar specialised laboratory skills training.

"With training conducted on-site, we are able to give all of our workers practical, hands-on experiences," he said.

"To date, all of our graduates who have completed the training are employed on-site as specialised laboratory analysts, auditors and control chemists."

As the largest provider of vocational education and training in North Queensland, the Barrier Reef TAFE has forged valued industry partnerships, providing workplace and institute-based customised training.

The institute currently provides training to over 2000 trade apprentices and enrolls 14,600 students annually across eight campuses.



PARTNERSHIP ... Tim McIntyre at work for CSR