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## **Wayne Tierney from Skills Tech Australia named Metals and Engineering Trade Teacher of the Year**

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

Wayne Tierney from Skills Tech Queensland has been named the Metals and Engineering 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.

Wayne Tierney was named The Trade Teacher of the Year for Metals and Engineering in part due to his leadership in expansion and delivery of engineering education at Logan TAFE.

Wayne has redesigned the engineering workshop to enable students from various disciplines such as metal fabrication, fitting and machining and sheet metal to attend the same classes in a blended teaching environment.

Wayne has also designed and written interactive web based learning material for engineering students. Under his leadership the Logan/ Beaudesert area has grown from having no apprentices/trainees in 2002 to around 450 apprentices/trainees this year.

Wayne said he plans to use the prize money to develop an online learning resource.

“I would like to develop an internet web-based learning resource that can be accessed by engineering students at home or work. I also want to look at improving the current electronic roll and reporting system for tracking and reporting engineering apprentices for TAFE. ”

**ENDS**

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