



MEDIA RELEASE
Wednesday, 5 March

North Coast TAFE presented Star Rating Plaque for construction courses

North Coast TAFE's Construction section at Kingscliff will receive a plaque in recognition of receiving a Three Gold Star Rating for its carpentry courses.

Brian Wexham, CEO of The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence will present the plaque to North Coast TAFE Institute director Elizabeth McGregor at a ceremony to be held at the Institute's Kingscliff Campus at **3.30pm** on **Monday, May 5 2008**.

North Coast TAFE Institute Director, Elizabeth McGregor said the Three Gold Star Rating was recognition of the high quality of industry-focussed teaching delivered at the Kingscliff Campus.

"This award confirms North Coast TAFE as a leading choice in training for the construction industry both in NSW and nationally," Ms McGregor said.

Brian Wexham, Chief Executive Officer of The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence said North Coast TAFE had been recognised as being among the very best construction industry training bodies in the country.

"A Three Gold Star Rating is the highest rating a registered trade organisation can receive.

"I am delighted to present this plaque to North Coast TAFE as recognition of them being a leading choice in construction industry training on the New South Wales North Coast," Mr Wexham said.

He said that the Star Rating Scheme was an important initiative for students and employers alike.

"One of the biggest concerns when choosing a course is whether or not it will get people the job they want when they complete the course. Thanks to the Star Ratings Scheme, prospective students and employers now have a credible source to validate a course.

"The Scheme aims to recognise high performing registered training providers such as North Coast TAFE, and help individual schools and faculties understand exactly what their clients want from their training.

North Coast TAFE's Elizabeth McGregor said the organisation viewed the Star Rating Scheme as one effective way of addressing Australia's skills shortage.

“We found the process to be a valuable addition to the inspections that occur as part of our quality certification processes, to our regular internal self-assessment work, and to our other student and employer satisfaction mechanisms that tell us how well we are providing excellence for our customers.”

“During this critical skills shortage period, we welcome initiatives that seek to identify and meet specific industry needs - such as the Star Rating Scheme. They help us ensure that our apprentices and trainees have the right skills to contribute to industry and the region’s economy,” said Ms McGregor.

ENDS

About the Star Rating Scheme

The Star Rating Scheme identifies the very best training providers, industry by industry and enables employers, career counsellors, potential students, and parents to distinguish excellence in trade training by evaluating training providers.

Industry areas within Registered Training Organisations which apply receive either a: One Gold Star; Two Gold Star; or Three Gold Star Rating to indicate that they have achieved excellent results for their students.

The Star Rating Scheme focuses on the following eight areas of skill shortage: Automotive, Building and Construction, Electrical, Hospitality and Personal Services, Manufacturing, Metals and Engineering, Mineral Resources, Rural and Farming.

Evaluations are carried out against three broad criteria that were developed in partnership with the industry.

The evaluation process includes an initial self evaluation by the relevant faculty or school, followed by a site visit to schools or faculties who demonstrate potential to achieve a One Gold Star, Two Gold Star or Three Gold Star rating.

Further Information:

Monica Porte
Acting Manager Media and Public Relations
TAFE NSW - North Coast Institute
6586 2224

Pip McConachie
Colvin Communications
(02) 8314 7178/ 0402 448 745