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Star institute

TAFE NSW - Western Sydney Institute has been recognised for excellence in trade skills training.

It received four three-star ratings and one two-star rating from The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence. The Bakery at Nepean College picked up two gold stars.

Brian Wexham, chief executive officer of The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence, said that by evaluating training providers, students could be reassured that the course they were selecting was the most appropriate.



Training excellence recognised

The Hunter Institute of TAFE NSW at the Upper Hunter Mining Skills Centre has been recognised as a leading registered training organisation with a two-gold star rating for its mining courses.

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.

Rob Wolter, faculty manager of Hunter Institute TAFE NSW, says receiving the rating is recognition of the high quality of teaching delivered.

"The star rating scheme helps us ensure that our apprentices and trainees have the right skills to contribute to the mining industry and the region's economy," says Mr Wolter.

He views the scheme as an effective way of addressing Australia's skills shortage.

"We found the process to be a valuable addition to our own internal quality processes and regular self-assessment work, and a great mechanism to maintain our focus on 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."

Western Australia's Central TAFE, one of Australia's largest TAFE colleges, has received a one-gold star

rating for its drilling courses.

Central TAFE's science, resources and environment portfolio manager, Peter Douglas, says the star rating scheme helps the college ensure that it builds strong and effective links with industry.

Richard's Mining Services has been awarded two gold stars for its mining courses.

"The recognition we have received validates our position as a leading choice in training in the mining skills industry," says managing director Merryn Richards.

Brian Wexham, CEO of the Institute for Trade Skills Excellence, says the scheme reassures students that they are selecting the most appropriate course.

"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," Mr Wexham says.

"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 and help individual schools and faculties understand exactly what their clients want from their training."

Mr Wexham says the industry-driven initiative has been developed by the institute and industry to provide a platform that will deliver the vocational training outcomes required to meet industry needs. ■