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TAFE receives gold star

THE Muswellbrook Mining and Engineering Skills Development Centre (MESDC) has been awarded two Gold Stars under a new rating scheme for training providers.

Located on Muswellbrook TAFE campus, the centre has been recognised as one of Australia's top training providers by the Institute for Trade Skills Excellence.

The star ratings acknowledge the nationally-recognised and endorsed training the centre offers apprentices.

The star rating scheme can award a three, two or one gold star rating – or a nil star rating if the provider fails to meet stringent criteria.

Hunter Institute of TAFE director Phil Cox said the rating was well deserved by the mining and engineering skills centre and reflected the quality of vocational education and training provided through Hunter TAFE.

"The two Gold Star rating is a

great result for the Upper Hunter and cements our position as a nationally preferred provider in apprenticeship areas, particularly those associated with mining and engineering," Mr Cox said.

"This is the third star rating the Institute has received to date. Our commercial cookery and electrotechnology sections have also been recognised through the scheme.

"These ratings reflect Hunter TAFE's ability to provide students with the knowledge and practical skills they need to pursue a successful career. It also demonstrates that we have the strong and continual support of industry firmly behind us," Mr Cox said.

Mr Cox said the Mining and Engineering Skills Development Centre listens to and meets the needs of the local mining industry and this success can be measured by the growth in student numbers and commitment of the local mines.