Media Statement

Attention: News Editor / Chief of Staff

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Kimberley trainers named as finalists in prestigious State training awards

Kimberley TAFE and Kimberley Group Training have been named as finalists in the State’s most prestigious training awards, the WA Training Awards 2006.

Kimberley TAFE has been selected as a finalist in the WA Large Training Provider of the Year Award sponsored by The Sunday Times.

Established in 1994, Kimberley TAFE is the main provider of vocational education and training to a culturally diverse and rapidly developing remote region of Western Australia.

It offers a broad range of qualifications to students through campuses located in Kununurra, Wyndham, Halls Creek, Derby, Broome and an access centre in Fitzroy Crossing.

Managing Director Adrian Mitchell said Kimberley TAFE also played an important role in regional and community development.

"The Kimberley region offers a unique set of challenges and opportunities so we have to be innovative in our training delivery to meet our clients' needs," Mr Mitchell said.

"From tailoring programs for Indigenous communities to setting up industry-endorsed learning facilities like the Broome Aquaculture Centre, Kimberley TAFE has evolved into a flexible and relevant training provider which has become part of the fabric of this region."

Kimberley Group Training has been selected as a finalist in the WA Access and Equity Awards, sponsored by Pretzel Logic, for its new apprenticeship access program.

Kimberley Group Training offers a diverse range of opportunities through traineeships and apprenticeships, and currently employs more than 280 people in a broad range of industry placements.

The new apprenticeship access program, a joint initiative with Kimberley Diamonds, provides local Indigenous people who may experience difficulties finding employment with training, support and assistance.

The unique two part program provides a pre-employment phase where participants visit mine sites to gain a better understanding of what is required to work in the industry followed by an apprenticeship in the mining industry.

Kimberley Group Training Senior Field Officer Simone Wardle said the program provided local people with formal qualifications and employment in local industry.

“So far the program has been an amazing success," Ms Wardle said.

“It has turned around the lives of many local people who now have full-time jobs, a good income and a new found confidence in themselves.”
Department of Education and Training Director General Paul Albert said the Awards recognised the State’s most talented trainees, apprentices, vocational students, trainers and training providers as well as businesses committed to the training and development of their staff.

“Finalists in the Awards this year range from hairdressers to heavy vehicle mechanics,” Mr Albert said.

“I congratulate all the finalists across the Awards categories.”

The WA Training Awards 2006 are coordinated by the Department of Education and Training and the State Training Board, and supported by a range sponsors.

The Awards will be announced in a gala presentation ceremony in Perth in early September. State winners may proceed to the Australian Training Awards which will be announced in Adelaide in November.

For more information about the WA Training Awards 2006 visit www.trainingawards.det.wa.edu.au.

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**Media contact:** Emma Jones, Media Unit on 9264 4857 or emma.jones2@det.wa.edu.au.
Kate McArthur, Support Services Manager Kimberley TAFE on 9168 0878.
Simone Wardle, Senior Field Officer Kimberley Group Training on 9192 8877.