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College's first students graduate

By Janine Martin

It was a 21-drill salute at the Australian Technical College - Adelaide South as its first batch of students received their graduation certificates among cheers.

Inaugurated last April, the college enables Year 11 and 12 students to complete their South Australian Certificate of Education tailored to meet the needs of their chosen trade.

Principal Jim Fenoughty says he is proud of the 2007 students and their achievements, and praises the culture they have established at the college.

"It has been a tough journey for some of our students to combine training with their studies but they are genuine pioneers in their field and have every reason to be proud of the successful beginning of their trade careers at the Australian Technical College - Adelaide South," Mr Fenoughty says.



Tobias Scheid with Lance Vater, CEO of Vater Corp, sponsor of the Apprentice of the Year Award.

Among the 12 graduating students was 17-year-old Tobias Scheid, who won the Australian Technical College's Apprentice of the Year Award.

Tobias completed SACE while gaining valuable work experience at the college and on-site.

He is already going hammer and tongs at a fulltime apprenticeship with IJ & SL Woods Building Contractors.

Although Tobias was armed with significant work experience in the construction industry, he joined the college as he lacked the appropriate vocational training in carpentry construction.

The college and his mentor, Deb Maddock, helped him to balance theory with practical work on-site and study requirements for his SACE.

"The mentor system was especially good as it's so much more personal and allows one-on-one training," Tobias says.

"My mentor spent a lot of time helping me to complete my objectives.

"The college has also helped me to establish a network.

"When I'd come on site, I'd meet workers from other trades and people from the commercial side like suppliers."

Fellow graduate Scott Akers, who joined the college to complete his Year 12 SACE and began as a school-based apprentice with Alfon Industries last year, collected the Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork Award for his efforts.

Scott was initially geared to a career in fabrication but the college's "try-a-trade" period helped him realise he was more inclined to mechanical engineering.

He also has good things to look forward to this year as his school-based apprenticeship will be rolled into a fulltime gig with Alfon Industries. ■