

The Advertiser: Career One
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An electrifying effort has college cheering

APPRENTICE electrician Sam Fuller is one of a new breed of school-leavers.

He was among the first students to join the Australian Technical College, which opened last year.

At the Adelaide South campus at Christies Beach, Sam, 17, was able to complete his SACE while getting a headstart on a trade.

"I didn't really know what I wanted to do, but I knew I didn't want to go to uni," the former Hallett Cove High School student says. "I thought I could finish Year 12 at the tech college and try out some trades.

"They treat you more like adults. You get treated like you would at work and you get along with the teachers."

Once students decide which trade they want to take up, vocational education is tailored to the trade-specific needs to prepare them for entry into the workforce.

By providing training and education to students, the college is focusing on the growing demand for skilled workers in trades such as building and construction, electrical and metals and engineering that are in high demand and look set to continue with the mining and defence booms.

During his time at the college,

Class Act



NEW BREED: Apprentice electrician Sam Fuller.

Sam combined a heavy workload to complete his SACE with his Australian school-based apprenticeship and decided to pursue a career in the electro-technology industry after gaining experience in other trades through the college's try-a-trade program.

The Port Noarlunga teenager also was a part of the college's winning SA state champion school surfing team last year.

On graduation day he received the principal's award for outstanding electrical apprentice in the 2nd year, recognising significant maturity, dedication, enthusiasm and aptitude in his trade choice.

Sam is now employed by ATEC Group Training.