



Media release - young apprentice awarded states prestigious award

Year 12 student Mitchell Silk has an exciting career ahead of him as he prepares to compete for the title of Australian School- based Apprentice of the Year at the National Training Awards ceremony, to be held in Canberra in November.

The 17-year-old electrical apprentice has already scooped the South Australian Training Awards Australian School- based Apprentice of the year award at the convention centre in September.

Mitchell, who is attending Marcellin Technical College (formerly the Australian Technical College-Adelaide South), says “The College is set up to help me to get into what is my dream job, which is an electrical apprenticeship with my employer Matt Whitford from Ned Kelly Electrical”.

Mitchell says, “Starting a school based apprenticeship is one of the smartest things I have done”. I have always enjoyed practical work and been interested in a career in the electrical field. I was very pleased to get the award. For the awards, I had to write an essay, attend interviews and make a presentation about my experiences as an apprentice I definitely would encourage others to consider this kind of apprenticeship. Not only by the end of year 12 will I have got my SACE but I’ll also have the majority of the first year of my apprenticeship completed, this gives me a head start on traditional apprentices; it’s like a fast track process.”

Mitchell’s employer, 26 year old Matt Whitford of Ned Kelly Electrical, started up his own electrical business late last year and, after having placed Mitchell on work experience, Matt quickly recognized Mitch’s outstanding personal attributes and training skills. He then offered him an Australian School based Apprenticeship in February this year. Matt said “As the owner of a fast growing business, I really want to balance my workforce with my business growth, which is why Mitchell being a school based apprentice suited me. This year Mitchell is finishing a Year 12 SACE course, which is tailored to his apprenticeship. This has allowed me the flexibility of having Mitch work with me for up to four days a week, while completed the first year of his apprenticeship”

Jim Fenoughty, Principal of Marcellin Technical College said “I am delighted that the College program has been recognized with two of our students reaching the final. We acknowledge the achievements of both students and the College wishes Mitchell well when he competes in the National Training Awards to be held in Canberra in November”.

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