

2012 Indigenous scholarships on offer at Gold Coast TAFE

Gold Coast Institute of TAFE (GCIT) today announced five Indigenous scholarships will be on offer for two mature aged learners and three school leaver applicants in 2012.

GCIT Chief Executive Officer, Aaron Devine said the scholarship program had been very successful for past students and was devised after consultation with the Institute's Indigenous Advisory Board and feedback from the broader Indigenous community.

"Participation by the Indigenous community in courses at Gold Coast TAFE has increased by 43% over the previous year, and we feel this was another way to encourage this positive trend.

"GCIT is very proud that students of Indigenous descent make up 1.6% of GCIT's student population which is above the 1.2% of people of Indigenous descent that make up the Gold Coast community as a whole.

"In fact, the number of Indigenous students graduating with a Certificate III or above qualification has also risen by 50% over the same period," he said.

Mr Devine said offering scholarships to outstanding individuals within the Indigenous community is the Institute's way to help overcome known barriers such as cost, and to reward those who show great potential and passion for their chosen vocation.

"We have also streamlined the application process for prospective students.

"Eligible applicants are required to complete an application form highlighting their goals and aspirations and demonstrate how they have made a difference in their community.

"We also ask them to let us know what it would mean to them and their family if they were successful in winning a GCIT Indigenous scholarship.

"In addition, if they are successful in winning a scholarship, how they would act as a role model for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students wanting to study at GCIT.

"The applicants are able to choose from a range of Diploma programs and for mature age learners the Adult Tertiary Preparation course which provides a pathway to university," he said.

Eligibility for the three School Leaver Indigenous Scholarships is open to Gold Coast and Northern NSW Year 10 and Year 12 students who are Queensland residents. The students must obtain their school's endorsement and demonstrate a commitment to the industry area of their choice.

The two Mature Learner Indigenous Scholarships are available to eligible applicants over the age of 18, who are Queensland residents.

The five Indigenous scholarships offered in 2012 will cover course fees plus \$500 to be spent towards learning materials at the GCIT Bookshop.

Interested Indigenous applicants can call Gold Coast TAFE on 5581 8220 to obtain a scholarship application form. Scholarship applications close 30 November 2011.

15 November 2011