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SWAN TAFE STUDENTS WIN BIG AT NATIONAL WORLDSKILLS COMPETITION

Three students from Swan TAFE have taken out medals in this year's National WorldSkills Competition, held in Sydney, from July 11–13.

Family and friends were on hand to support their young heroes who came home with one gold, one silver and one bronze medal in the competition.

Education and Training Minister Mark McGowan congratulated state winners as he farewelled them from Perth Airport on Thursday.

"These talented people make up 'Team WA', the biggest team WA has ever fielded for the national competition," Mr McGowan said. "I wish the competitors every success as they take their skills to the national level.

The WorldSkills competition aims to challenge young people to achieve excellence in their chosen trade and to reach world-class standards. It stimulates the academic motivation of many students by focusing on the 'fun' of learning through interesting and diverse skill challenges.

Southern River pastry chef Carlee Bamford entered the competition as a "challenge" and now, as a gold medal winner in the retail baking category, she is eligible to compete against more than 40 countries at the 40th International WorldSkills Competition in Calgary, Canada, next year.

"It's been a lot of hard work and it was extremely nerve-racking but I'm very excited and relieved to have won a gold medal at the nationals" Carlee said.

"The competition gave me the opportunity to learn so many new techniques from people with years of industry experience from all around the world.

"I'd really like to thank my lecturer, Michael Herde, who spent countless hours after work mentoring me and showing me the finer intricacies of baking. Also, to Rani Sutter and the team at Globe in South Perth, where I work, for their support and for giving me the time off to compete - everyone has been so wonderful".

Wall and Floor Tiling apprentice Brendan Jaeschke, from Ballajura, headed to Sydney with his brother Jayson by his side, having just beaten him for the gold medal in the state competition last September.

"It was really great to be able to experience this with Jayson" Brendan said.

“We did our apprenticeships a year apart but we’ve both been able to learn and support each other throughout the event.

“I’m really happy with my silver medal and hope that I get the chance to represent Australia in Calgary next year.”

21 year-old Richard Rowe was absolutely “stoked” to place third in the Autobody Repair category.

“I was so surprised when they called my name” Richard said.

“I thought I had no chance because the judges required us to use a specialist measuring machine that I don’t have access to at work. Thankfully though, I was able to practice on the same machine at Swan TAFE in the lead up to the event and looks like my training there paid off!

“Competing in WorldSkills was a fantastic experience. The competition is very professionally run and everyone looked after us really well. Special thanks to my mentors Bob and Frank – they were very supportive across the entire competition”.

Managing Director of Swan TAFE, Wayne Collyer, was in Sydney to support the College’s students.

“I was very proud of all the efforts put in by Western Australian participants” Wayne said.

“WorldSkills provides an opportunity for these young people to showcase their skills to their peers and industry.

“On behalf of Swan TAFE I congratulate all of our students for their efforts and, in particular, Carlee, Brendan and Richard on their respective medal wins”.

For more information on WorldSkills visit www.worldskills.org.au

Swan TAFE winners:

GOLD MEDALLIST – Retail Baking, Pastry

Carlee Bamford from Southern River. Carlee is employed by Globe Coffee House.

SILVER MEDALLIST – Wall and Floor Tiling

Brendan Jaeschke from Ballajura. Brendan is self-employed through Westwide Tiling.

BRONZE MEDALLIST – Autobody Repair

Richard Rowe from Forrestfield. Richard is employed by Rowe & Sons.

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