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SWAN TAFE STUDENTS TAKING THEIR SKILLS TO THE WORLD

17 Swan TAFE students are about to experience the competition of a lifetime, and continue the College's outstanding success, at the national WorldSkills competition, to be held in Sydney, this weekend.

Joining 32 others from across the state, Swan TAFE's students form one-third of "Team WA", Western Australia's biggest ever team at Australia's largest trades' competition.

Education and Training Minister Mark McGowan was on hand to farewell the students at Perth Airport yesterday.

"I wish the competitors every success as they take their skills to the national level.

"Team WA comprise gold-medal winners from the WA Worldskills competition who will compete in 31 categories from bricklaying and vehicle painting to hospitality and hairdressing.

"I would also like to acknowledge the support of team sponsors including industry and training providers who are getting behind our young people."

Held every two years, the WorldSkills competition is designed to challenge young people to achieve outstanding results in their chosen trade and to reach world-class standards.

The competition stimulates the academic motivation of many students by focusing on the 'fun' of learning through interesting and diverse skill challenges. National winners have the opportunity of representing Australia at the International WorldSkills Competition in Calgary, Canada in 2009.

There are currently 37,421 apprentices and trainees in this State, which represents an increase of 100 per cent since February 2001. Over 10,000 of these students master their trade at Swan TAFE.

The Colleges Managing Director Wayne Collyer, who is off to Sydney to cheer on Swan TAFE's representatives, said the competition provides an opportunity for young people to showcase their skills to their peers and industry.

"Students participating in such a prestigious competition have the opportunity to showcase their trade and are excellent ambassadors for Swan TAFE, their employer and the state.

For more information about the Worldskills International Competition visit the website at worldskills.org.au.

Attachments: Swan TAFE category winners and contact details.

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