

TRAINING AWARDS SHOWCASE SKILLED QUEENSLANDERS

Queensland's top employers, apprentices, trainees, vocational students and training providers are in the running for the Queensland Government's most prestigious industry accolade, with over 640 nominations received for the 2009 Queensland Training Awards.

Education and Training Minister Geoff Wilson said the awards feature 11 categories that celebrate outstanding vocational education and training achievements.

"In this challenging economic climate having a skilled workforce is essential to Queensland's ongoing prosperity," Mr Wilson said.

"We have world-class training opportunities which many workplaces embrace, along with dedicated employees and students who are reaping the professional and personal rewards of building their own knowledge.

"Queensland boasts the nation's highest take-up of apprenticeships and traineeships and we want to reward the efforts of those who are working hard to keep our state skilled.

"Entrants to the awards benefit from networking opportunities, a higher profile in their communities as well as the chance to gain well-deserved recognition for their efforts."

Mr Wilson said regional finals would be held in Central Queensland, South-West Queensland, the Wide Bay-Sunshine Coast area, North Queensland, the Gold Coast and in Brisbane during July, ahead of the State Final on September 11, 2009.

State winners will then compete against the nation's best at the Australian Training Awards to be held in November, in Canberra.

The Queensland Training Awards—the State Government's longest-running awards program—are now into their 48th year and are hosted by the Department of Education and Training.

For more information on the awards, visit www.qta.qld.gov.au.

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