

February 6, 2009

Top apprentices, employers and instructors recognized

Alberta shows off its best from hairstyling to welding

Edmonton... The province's top apprentices, employers and instructors will be honoured at the 12th annual Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board Awards ceremony in Edmonton on February 6. The awards celebrate Albertans who demonstrate excellence and commitment to their trade.

"Alberta's tradespeople are becoming known for their outstanding skills," said Advanced Education and Technology Minister Doug Horner. "One of the reasons Alberta is so successful in training top calibre tradespeople is that we work with industry to ensure our apprentices are fully prepared to make an impact in the work-world. Albertans are going to showcase more of this talent when the 2009 WorldSkills Competition comes to our province in September."

Recipients will be honoured in four categories.

- **Top Apprentice** awards recognize 56 apprentices who have achieved the highest overall marks in their final period of training, and received strong recommendations from their employers.
- **Top Employer** awards acknowledge the commitment of Daishowa-Marubeni International Ltd. (northern Alberta) and Goldec Hamms Manufacturing Ltd. (southern Alberta) for training apprentices and investing in Alberta's apprenticeship and industry training system.
- **Top Employer of Aboriginal Apprentices** award recognizes Harris Rebar, Division of Harris Steel Ltd. of Calgary for recruiting and training Aboriginal apprentices.
- **Top Instructor** awards recognize Terry Knutson, Machinist Instructor at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT), and Shane Olson, Welding Instructor at Lethbridge College for their excellence in classroom instruction and commitment to apprentices.

Special Recognition - The Watson family will be honoured for their support of Alberta's apprenticeship and industry training system over four generations. The family's involvement with the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board, the Board's scholarship program, Provincial Apprenticeship and Local Apprenticeship Committees, Skills Canada competitions, and post secondary fundraising activities has been exceptional.

"The strength of Alberta's apprenticeship and industry training system is reflected in the commitment, achievement and success of each award recipient," said Brian Bickley, Chair of the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board. "Today's recipients will become tomorrow's leaders and contribute their knowledge and skills to better our system and province overall."

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Editor's Note: A list of apprenticeship and industry training board award winners can be found at www.tradesecrets.gov.ab.ca. Click on Scholarships and Awards and scroll down to the Awards section.

Media Opportunity:

Media are invited to attend the 12th Annual Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board Awards

ceremony.

Friday, February 6

Reception at 6 p.m.

Ceremony at 7 p.m.

Edmonton Marriot, River Cree Resort

300 East Lapotac Blvd

Enoch, Alberta

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