

SKILLS

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It's a foot in the door

SPARK UP: Marcellin Technical College Year 12 student Bailey Krawczuk hopes to get an apprenticeship in electrotechnology.

Picture: KERYN STEVENS

How one school is giving students an extra edge to get a trade.

Cara Jenkin reports

MORE than 1000 new tradies enter the occupation on average each year but not all of them land an apprenticeship first try.

Australian Bureau of Statistics Census figures show 13,085 more technicians and tradespeople were employed in South Australia in 2011 than at the start of the century, equating to an average of 1308 new workers entering the field every year.

All tradespeople need to do an apprenticeship to become

qualified but gaining one can be hard without some kind of experience to show basic workplace skills have been learned or there is proven interest in pursuing the occupation.

Pre-apprenticeship programs and trade training centres are two ways in which school students or leavers can gain initial skills.

Marcellin Technical College, however, it is giving its students an extra edge through its Senior Trade Program.

The college, already providing senior secondary students with a trade-focused curriculum, has a large proportion of students who complete a school-based apprenticeship.

But for those in Year 12 who have not yet gained one, its pilot program is giving them a taste of the engineering field, which can open their eyes to the sector as an alternative employment avenue, or give them extra skills to help them in their preferred construction, electrical or automotive careers.

Likewise, engineering students who study the program can gain skills relevant to construction, electrical or automotive pathways.

Training manager Justin

They get a really good understanding of different industries that will help them in their chosen trade

Mamo says students learn problem solving and fabrication skills that relate to their trade to give them an edge against other apprenticeship applicants.

"They are still looking to get an apprenticeship in their chosen trade but it keeps momentum going; helps them to diversify," he says.

"It will increase their job opportunities and skill sets." Each field will have a special project students will work

on, for example, automotive students will design and fabricate a muffler, and engineering students learn how to 'test and tag' electrical equipment and do vehicle maintenance.

"They get a really good understanding of different industries that will help them in their chosen trade," Mamo says. Students do their Senior Trade Program training on the same day as the school-based apprentices are at the school for their classroom training.

Bailey Krawczuk, 16, is still hoping to get an apprenticeship in the electrotechnology field.

"This program is helping me to get there and teaching me the skills I need to have a career as an electrician," he says.

STUDY CENTRE

Like-minded on theology

A NEW study centre was launched at Tabor College this week to provide theological education.

Tabor College of Higher Education and Churches of Christ in SA and NT have partnered on the Tabor Churches of Christ Study Centre, which will teach denominational and ministry-focused subjects as part of Tabor's undergraduate and postgraduate courses and enable research to be conducted.

It will also identify and provide advice to students from Churches of Christ who may be considering ordination or a ministry vocation.

Inaugural centre co-ordinator Reverend Mark Riessen says both organisations are passionate about the next generation of Christian leaders.



DIRECT HIRE

A worker hired as an employee in an ongoing position by a company is called a direct hire. It differs from those who are employed on a contract to hire basis, when workers start on with a short-term contract and the role becomes permanent, or those who are employed by one company and perform their duties with another.

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CARDIAC SONOGRAPHER

Applicants are invited to join our growing cardiovascular practice. Flinders Cardiac / Heart and Vascular requires a full or part time experienced Cardiac Sonographer to join our team.

Our echocardiography laboratory is fully digitalized, has state of art equipment and reporting software and conducts over 14,000 echocardiograms annually across several sites.

Our practice provides, high level care and imaging in:
• Transthoracic echocardiography • 3D echocardiography
• Transesophageal echocardiography • Strain rate examination
• Stress echocardiography

The successful applicant would be involved in clinical echocardiography, preparation of preliminary reports and participation in echocardiography presentations.

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Enquiries Lynn Brown: 0411 124 499
Closing Date Friday 11/03/2016

Applications to:
Lynn Brown Suite 606 Flinders Private Hospital
Flinders Drive, Bedford Park, SA, 5042
or Email: lynnbrown@flinderscardiac.com.au