Pakistan's national SQA recognised qualification based Apprentice/Trainee of the Year Competition, was held in Western Adelaide. The competition, open to Year 12 students from all state schools, aims to identify the most outstanding student in work, vocational learning and management. The competition is part of the SQA's Future Pathways Program to encourage students to consider a career in the vocational sector.

For the first time, some students were able to complete the competition in the telecommunications and automotive trades. A total of 12 students participated in the 3-day competition. The students were assessed on technical knowledge in their respective fields as well as on their work ethic, people and communication skills, reliability and positive attitude and teamwork.

On Monday students completed a competency assessment to test their knowledge and understanding of the trade they had completed as an apprentice. Students were assessed on their ability to operate safely and independently in a traditional carpentry and joinery environment.

On Tuesday 25 May, students met industry leaders in their trade and were able to work with these people and observe the presentations and interaction with industry.

The competition included a personal interview assessing the student's attitude, interpersonal and work skills, knowledge of the industry, and how they would fit in the workplace. Students were also required to produce a portfolio of their work, which was presented to employers at the Regional VET Programs' (RVP) Information Expo.

The final day of the competition, Wednesday 26 May, included a practical test of the student's skills. The tests included a machine tool test using a horizontal milling machine, a panel beater test with a styrofoam model and a test of the student's ability to produce an electronic circuit to power their car.

The competition was designed and constructed by Doorways 2 Construction Plus at Woodville High School. The next stop was the Design Suite, where students were able to watch the drafts people draw and produce the components.

The MTA has kindly donated a comprehensive Panel Beater's Engineering program. On Tuesday 25 May, Alex Dawes, Amy Holland, Blake Robertson and Riley Nicolle, trained by Tom Griffith and Rob Edwards, had the honor of presenting our Biofuels project in 2015 (www.facebook.com/DECD.SA/videos/621286691380529/).

As I write this, we are in the process of finalising our Promotions Weeks program, capturing data on student achievement to support students in successfully completing their year of schooling.

The two winning teams were invited to present at the University of Adelaide's "On a Mission" event. These competencies earn credits towards the student's South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE). Successful in their approach to employers, and have commenced their contract of training.

Each day, students met industry leaders in each of these fields and were able to work with these people and observe the presentations and interaction with industry.

Amy Holland, Blake Robertson and Riley Nicolle through a rigorous development program, competed in the Apprentice/Trainee of the Year Competition, held in Western Adelaide. The competition, open to Year 12 students from all state schools, aims to identify the most outstanding student in work, vocational learning and management. The competition is part of the SQA's Future Pathways Program to encourage students to consider a career in the vocational sector.

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