

# NewsCentre

ApprentiCentre's newsletter for employers

AUGUST  
2014

## Training Awards open doors

For Emma Stevenson, being named WA Apprentice of the Year 2013 has changed her life.

"The Training Awards have added a whole new spectrum of what I thought was possible from an apprenticeship," Emma said.

"It has given me greater recognition in my field, improved my communication skills and given me confidence in presenting myself. Not to mention the bunch of new mates I now have!

"I am so happy to be able to promote that to other apprentices or people looking to get into trades."

Emma, who works for BHP Billiton Nickel West, started her career as a process technician with Kimberley Diamonds, then joined BHP Billiton Nickel West Leinster as a process technician in 2008.

She has since completed her apprenticeship, gaining a Certificate IV in Engineering (Electrical/Electronic Trades) and a Certificate IV in Engineering (Instrumentation). This helped to secure her an electrical instrumentation technician position. As part of the role, Emma also undertook a high voltage switching operations course, which she recently finished.

"It's a whole other world within the electrical field and gave me a new appreciation for the trades," Emma said. "I am also close to finishing my Certificate III in Process Operations, which has been great for keeping me in the study mode post trade."

Earlier this year, Emma won the 2014 Outstanding Operator/Technician/Trade Woman in Resources Award at the Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia Women in Resources Awards.

Emma said the excitement of winning the Award had continued and she was now in the running for the inaugural National Women in Resources Awards to be held in Brisbane in September.

"It is great to be recognised alongside other female tradespeople and operators within my industry," she said. "I am looking forward to representing WA and to see what other initiatives are happening in other states."

*Emma Stevenson, WA Apprentice of the Year 2013 and 2014 Outstanding Operator/Trade Woman in Resources.*

"Witnessing the passion and dedication of others in their fields has encouraged me to work harder to make my ideas a reality. In this way I have been able to take on extra responsibilities as a mentor to other apprentices and females looking to get into trades. My employer has been very supportive because they have been able to witness how much success can come from it."

Those extra responsibilities include working with TradeUp Australia to run programs to encourage women to consider a trade qualification. Emma is also an ambassador for Apprenticeships Australia.

"I would like to help make TradeUp an even greater success as it has already proved to be popular," Emma said. "It has really taken off despite only being formed at the beginning of the year."

To find out more, visit [tradeupaustralia.com.au](http://tradeupaustralia.com.au)



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Training  
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