



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sydney, December 7, 2023 - Tourism Training Australia is thrilled to announce the resounding success of the 2023 President's Dinner and Training Awards held on December 5 at the exquisite Pearl Ballroom, Crown Sydney. This prestigious event brought together 180 esteemed guests from across the hospitality and tourism industry in a night of celebration and recognition.

The evening was hosted by the charismatic MC, Paul Nicolaou, who guided us through an extraordinary evening of achievements and dedication in the field of vocational education and training (VET). We are proud to acknowledge our event sponsors: Learning Vault, FoodLogic, and Crown, whose support made this awards night possible.

One of the highlights of the night was the delightful handmade rocky road, a special gift for our guests. Crafted by the talented students of Le Culinaire Hospitality Institute, this treat was a true testament to the skill and creativity nurtured within our industry.

In a significant development for this year's awards, Tourism Training Australia introduced the 'Teacher of Choice' category, a unique recognition nominated by both peers and students. This addition underscores educators' vital role in fostering community and collaboration within the industry.

The 2023 Awards of Excellence in Vocational Education and Training nominees represent diverse talents and commitments within the Australian tourism and hospitality training industry. Each nominee has demonstrated exceptional skill, innovation, and dedication, contributing significantly to the advancement of vocational education and training.

John Hart OAM, Chairman of Tourism Training Australia, expressed his enthusiasm for this year's nominations: "We are incredibly proud of the high calibre of nominees for the 2023 Awards of Excellence. This year's nominations reflect the resilience and innovation that are hallmarks of our industry. The introduction of the 'Teacher of Choice' category adds a special dimension to our awards, recognising those who have earned the admiration and respect of their peers and students alike. Congratulations to all nominees – you represent the best of what Australian vocational education and training has to offer."

Winners announced at the President's Dinner:

Best Commercial Cookery Trainer:

Highly Commended: Bernadette Ryan - TAFE NSW, Grafton

2023 winners: Kasper Christensen, TAFE NSW, Northern Beaches, and Richard Bissett - The Sydney Business and Travel Academy



Best Patisserie Trainer:

Highly Commended: Andrew Pike, TAFE NSW, Nepean, and Stephen Peel, TAFE NSW, Campbelltown

2023 Winner: Che Tam Ngyuyen, North Metro TAFE Western Australia

Best Hospitality Trainer:

Highly Commended: Susan McGregor - Quality College Australia

2023 Winner: Pavinder Singh, Global Institute

Best Food and Beverage Trainer:

Highly Commended: Miodrag Damjanac TAFE NSW, Ultimo, and Nicola Fonti, TAFE NSW, Western Sydney

2023 Winner: Brendan Dugan North Metropolitan TAFE Joondalup WA

Best Event Management Trainer:

Highly Commended: Monica Pasvolsky - Global Institute and Katherine Binks TAFE NSW, Glenmore Park

2023 Winner: Nicci Gow, TAFE NSW, Blacktown

Best Innovation in Training Initiative:

Highly Commended: Industry Placement Solutions, Md Mazaharul Islam

2023 Winner: TAFE NSW, Ultimo Sheridan Marz for Tasting Success Program

Best Travel and Tourism Trainer:

Highly Commended: Melissa Howarth, Sydney Business and Travel Academy (SBTA)

2023 Winners: Melanie Berenger, Flight Center, and Bettina Graham, TAFE NSW, Ultimo

Best Training Initiative in a Foodservice Venue:

Presented by Gerry Maher, Australian Turf Club

Jamie's Kitchen Global Institute



New Award announcement: Teacher of Choice. An award judged by industry peers and students:

2023 Winners: Amanda Roddenby - TAFE NSW, Hamilton,
Luke Stack, Le Culinaire Hospitality Institute,
Fiona Cox, TAFE NSW, Ultimo,
Brett Stewart, Trinity Grammar,
Belinda Clements, William Angliss, Melbourne

Prominent Recognitions

Dedication to Service: Monica Pasvolsky, Global Institute

Inaugural Perpetual Trophy for Outstanding Service to Vocational Education in Hospitality: Brad Bennett, Le Culinaire Hospitality Institute

Recognition of Emerging Business Talent: Industry Placement Solutions, Md Mazaharul Islam

The President's Dinner was indeed a memorable night, celebrating the finest and dedicated trainers and educators in the Australian VET system. Tourism Training Australia extends its heartfelt congratulations to all the finalists and winners who have showcased excellence in vocational education and training and thank those who supported the event on the night.

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About Tourism Training Australia:

Tourism Training Australia is a leading organisation dedicated to promoting excellence in vocational education and training within the Australian tourism and hospitality industry. Through project initiatives, recognition programs and events, we celebrate the achievements of individuals and institutions contributing to the growth and development of the sector. Visit www.tourismtraining.com.au for more information.

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