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| Higher Education and Skills Group**Participation Branch Memo****Department of Education and Training** |

***NUMBER: 2016 / 03 / 22***

**TO:**

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| Learn Local organisations *– ALL*  | Learn Local stakeholders  | ACFE Regional Councils |
| Adult Education Institutions | Participation Branch staff |  |

**FROM:** Ryan Collins, A/Director, Participation Branch

**DATE:** 22 March 2016

**SUBJECT:** *2016 Victorian Learn Local Awards – Nominations opening soon*

**ACTIONS / CRITICAL DATES:**

* Nominations for the 2016 Awards will open week commencing 11 April and will close on Friday 3 June.
* Nomination packs will be available week commencing 11 April on the Department’s website.

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Nominations for the 2016 Victorian Learn Local Awards will open week commencing 11 April and will close on Friday 3 June.

The Awards are proudly brought to you by the Adult, Community and Further Education Board and are one of the ways the Board recognises and rewards the outstanding achievements of organisations, programs and individuals within the Learn Local education and training sector.

A prize fund of $50,000 will be shared across five award categories. We are pleased to once again offer prizes to the winner and all of the finalists in each of the following award categories:

* The Rowena Allen Award - Recognising Pre-accredited Learner Excellence: $5,000 (winner), $1,000 (finalists)
* Outstanding Practitioner: $5,000 (winner), $1,000 (finalists)
* Outstanding Pathways Program: $10,000 (winner), $1,000 (finalists)
* Excellence in Creating Local Solutions: $10,000 (winner), $1,000 (finalists)
* AMES Diversity Innovation Award: $10,000 (winner), $1,000 (finalists)

There is also an acknowledgement category: Learn Local Legend – an acknowledgement given to a Learn Local organisation in each ACFE Regional Council area identified as an outstanding contributor to learners and the sector within their region. One Legend is nominated by each ACFE Regional Council.

An information pack, including the nomination form for each category will be available on the Department’s website week commencing 11 April: [www.education.vic.gov.au/learnlocalawards](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/learnlocalawards)

The winners will be announced at an awards ceremony to be held in Melbourne on Thursday, 8 September 2016.

I encourage you all to start thinking about which of your learners, practitioners and / or programs you are going to nominate this year! If you would like some inspiration please view the videos of past Learn Local Award winners on the Learn Local YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/learnlocal](http://www.youtube.com/learnlocal)