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

***NUMBER:*** *2017 / May / 16*

**TO:**

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| Learn Local organisations *– ALL or RTOs only* | ACFE Board | ACFE Regional Councils |
| Adult Education Institutions | Learn Local Stakeholders | Participation Branch Staff |

**FROM:** Ryan Collins, Director - Participation Branch

**DATE:** 16 / 05 / 2017

**SUBJECT:** *2017 Victorian Training Awards: Nominations are now open*

**ACTIONS / CRITICAL DATES:**

* *Nominations for the Victorian Training Awards are* ***now open*** *and will remain open until midnight 16 June.*
* *Information Sessions will be held on 22 May at Citadines, 131-135 Bourke Street Melbourne where students and organisations will gain the knowledge and tools to prepare award winning nominations*
* *Nominating is easy – visit* [*http://www.education.vic.gov.au/vta*](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/vta)

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**VICTORIAN TRAINING AWARD NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN!**

Now in their 63rd year, the prestigious awards recognise and honour the outstanding achievements of Vocational Education and Training students, training providers and employers. The Awards showcase innovation and collaboration between training providers and industry.

With the introduction of *Skills First* this year, the Victorian Government is delivering a trusted training and TAFE system that delivers real training for real jobs. Students are now better placed to receive quality training that is aligned to industry needs that leads to employability. The Awards generates pride and confidence in the training system and puts Victoria's top achievers in the spotlight.

Nominations for the awards **are now open** and will remain open for the next **four** weeks.

Winners will be announced at the awards ceremony to celebrate the very best in training on Wednesday 11 October at the Pallidum, Crown and receive $5,000 prize money. As 2017 VTA Ambassadors, recipients receive state-wide recognition from the training and TAFE system, industry experts and the Victorian community and may go on to represent our state at the Australian Training Awards on 23 November.

This year’s awards feature 15 categories including six individual categories, three training and four employer categories, an Industry Collaboration Award and a Lynne Kosky Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement.

**Award categories include:**

**Training Provider Award Categories**

* Community Training Provider of the Year Award
* Small Training Provider of the Year Award
* Large Training Provider of the Year Award

**Individual Award Categories**

* Vocational Student of the Year Award
* Apprentice of the Year Award
* Trainee of the Year Award
* Koorie Student of the Year Award
* School-based Apprentice of the Year Award
* Teacher / Trainer of the Year Award

For the first time, the Department will host **information sessions** for students and organisations, on **Monday 22 May**. We encourage your organisation and students to attend these sessions, where you will gain the knowledge and tools to prepare award winning nominations.

To register for these events visit: [www.vtainfosessions.eventbrite.com.au](http://www.vtainfosessions.eventbrite.com.au)

**Nominations close on 16 June at Midnight.**

Thank you for your support, we wish you the best of luck.

For further information visit: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/vta>.

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Victorian Training Awards project team at victorian.training.awards@edumail.vic.gov.au or phone 03 9907 6635.