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

***NUMBER:*** *2015 / February / 20*

**TO:**

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

**FROM:** Bronwen Heathfield, Director, Participation Branch

**DATE:** 20 February 2015

**SUBJECT: Call for nominations – 2015 Victorian Learn Local Awards**

**ACTIONS / CRITICAL DATES:**

* ***Applications close Friday 12 June, 2015.***
* ***Learn Local Award nomination forms are available at*** [***www.education.vic.gov.au/learnlocalawards***](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/learnlocalawards)

Nominations are now open for the 2015 Victorian Learn Local Awards – proudly brought to you by the Adult, Community and Further Education Board.

The Awards are the ACFE Board’s major opportunity to recognise and reward 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.

Cash prizes:

*Existing award categories:*

* Outstanding pre-accredited Learner $5000 (winner) $1000 (finalists)
* Outstanding Practitioner $5000 (winner) $1000 (finalists)
* Outstanding Pathways Program $10,000 (winner) $1000 (finalists)
* Excellence in Creating Local Solutions $10,000 (winner) $1000 (finalists)

*New award category:*

* AMES Diversity Innovation Award $10,000 (winner) $1000 (finalists)

There are also two acknowledgement categories:

***Learn Local for Business***- an award that acknowledges a business with a strong commitment to training and developing its employees in partnership with a Learn Local organisation. This is a valuable opportunity for Learn Local organisations to recognise the organisations they work with for that commitment.

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

An information pack, including the nomination form for each category is available at: [www.education.vic.gov.au/learnlocalawards](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/learnlocalawards)

The Hon. Steve Herbert, MP, Minister for Training and Skills will announce the winners at an awards ceremony to be held in Melbourne on Thursday, 10 September 2015. Details on how you can be part of the celebrations will be available shortly.

**Nominations close on Friday 12 June 2015**. If you have any queries regarding the Awards, please visit the Awards website at [www.education.vic.gov.au/learnlocalawards](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/learnlocalawards) or contact the project team on 03 9637 2864 or learnlocal@edumail.vic.gov.au

I encourage you to either nominate your own organisation, another organisation or a learner for these prestigious awards.

**BRONWEN HEATHFIELD**

Director

Participation Branch