Reducing the gap ...... pathways for Aboriginal students

The evidence is clear - when Aboriginal students see the relevance of their learning to them, their life and culture, they can succeed - often brilliantly. The challenge is to enable them to build the confidence that they too can be successful and foster success in a cultural context. AITEC and Western Futures had the privilege recently to witness the energy that was generated when Aboriginal parents and carers, teachers, support workers, community leaders and the wider business community all came together to support young Aboriginal people—and it was spectacular! Continuing the theme, the 2012 SACE ATSI Pathways Conference on 13 June 2012 will explore pathways through university to even more career options. Stay tuned for more info later!

Geoff Ewens, AITEC MD

ATSI Pathways - a family dinner

Over 250 educators, parents, business and community representatives, and students participated in this collaborative initiative organised by AITEC and Western futures.

ATSI Pathways strives to reduce the attainment gap for Aboriginal youth by:
1. engaging them with Aboriginal young people as successful learners and students
2. strengthening the capacity of their family and educators to provide support, and
3. enhancing awareness of options in further education, apprenticeships, traineeships and employment.

This experience proved very effective in building capacity within parents, teachers and business representatives, with 100% of them agreeing that the information presented was relevant for Aboriginal students and families and that the whole experience was a valuable way of encouraging them.

“I believe the ‘2011 ATSI Pathways - a family dinner’ to be essential in informing students on better opportunities to complete their studies which in turn would help them in further education possibilities”
Rostrevor student

“...it has encouraged me to make something of myself”
Ross Smith Secondary student

“It was really good, it helped me understand what choices I had and let me know that there are plenty of people who will help me”
Oakbank student

“Yes, I would recommend ATSI Pathways because parents and students are hearing the same message. Often they don’t talk about the opportunities. Parents need to take a stronger role”

Educators of Mount Carmel and St. Aloysius Colleges

Special thanks to Mia & Ivan Copley (Turkindi Network) for their collaboration in providing some of these photos.

(Continued on page 2)
"Working together for Aboriginal young people’s success"

Organised by AITEC and Western Futures, partnership brokers

2011 ATSI Pathways - a family dinner

Exhibitors: Edmund Rice Campus, Maxima, PEER, TafeSA, TSFTF, Turkindi, UniSA and LWB

Thanks to the support of: ABS, Aboriginal Centre for Inf. & Arts, Anglicare SA, Australia Post, Centacare, DECS, DFEEST, Qantas and SA Dental Service

Ellie Lovegrove’s live performance contributed to her Certificate III in Music. She was an inspiring role model for ATSI students.

Workskil, Adelaide Eastern and Western Youth Connections service provider, and a valuable exhibitor

Mini Expo

Aboriginal Performance by the Traditional family dance group “Kuma Karro” (one blood)

As a result of 2011 ATSI Pathways…

- 89% of parents, 91% of community members/ business representatives and 100% of teachers reported that they will improve their support to their children
- 83% of students were encouraged to remain at school or continue their learning
- 107 students,
- 46 parents,
- 40 educators
- 25 RTOs, community and business representatives.
- 9 speakers
- 3 DEEWR and DECS Reps. among other participants

Adolescent young people spoke about their learning and career journey.

Information about apprenticeships, VET, university programs and Indigenous student support was also presented.

2011 ATSI Career Resources Parent’s Handbook

Download it and see more about 2011 Pathways at www.aitec.edu.au/sbcpb under events

Adelaide Hills & Eastern schools participating:
Adelaide High School, Heathfield HS, Marryatville HS, Mt Barker HS & Vocational College, Oakbank AS, Rostrevor, Seymour and St. Aloysius Colleges.