



MEDIA RELEASE

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Rural partnerships allow students to explore vocational options

If Australian Agricultural College Corporation (AACC) Training Support Officer Mr Henry Willersdorf needed any proof the Rural Vocational Pathways Program (RVPP) run through Longreach Campus was a success, he only had to pick up a feedback form from a recent participant survey.

"We had 62 students reply, with so many positive comments indicating that the program was not only enjoyable, but that it also gave them exposure to a real work environment which showed so many different vocational possibilities," Mr Willersdorf said.

Involved since its inception back in 2005, Mr Willersdorf said the RVPP started as a partnership between the AACC Longreach Campus and Western Queensland Schools and is an Education and Training Reforms for the Future initiative supported by Education Queensland.

Over the past three years, the RVPP has been developed with a view to providing secondary school students the opportunity to pursue a vocational pathway while still completing their secondary studies – ultimately exiting with either a Certificate I or II, which may contribute towards the students' Qld Certificate of Education (QCE).

Mr Willersdorf said the program was gaining widespread credibility with enquiries for similar training options coming out of schools from Brisbane to Charleville.

"The word is out there," he said. "Genuine interest is building and at the end of the day we're giving students a taste for rural training which is resulting in many of them coming back to the AACC Longreach Campus as Cert II and Cert III enrolments."

Due to the success of this program, the Longreach Campus is exploring opportunities to continue expanding the range of training options available for school students.

The campus is currently delivering Certificate II in Engineering at Longreach State High School and is pursuing vocational training opportunities at Aramac and Charleville high schools.

"This isn't just learning for learning's sake," Mr Willersdorf said.

"Funding is dependent on providing training that aligns with what is needed in the district, so the whole community benefits."

For more information about the Rural Vocational Pathways Program and training offered through the AACC Longreach Campus phone 4658 4699, email longreach@aacc.edu.au or visit www.aacc.edu.au

Photo Caption:

[Vocational training program gives students across western Queensland a taste of rural training: the Rural Vocational Pathways Program (RVPP) provides secondary school students with the opportunity to pursue a rural vocational pathway while still completing their secondary studies.]

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