

# BUILDING BRIDGES with Pindan



*Pindan Managing Director George Allingame presents Central TAFE student Debra Thorpe with the 2008 Pindan Scholarship.*

CENTRAL TAFE builds strong ties with industry groups to ensure students have targeted skills and training for the labour market. One such partnership is with Pindan, one of the largest Western Australian owned and operated construction companies.

Central TAFE Building Design and Construction Technology Manager Peter Ebell says he cannot overstate the benefits of solid and productive networks with employers like Pindan.

"We call it 'partnerships with passion'. It's about actively engaging students, educators and employers and getting everyone in-sync," he says.

"As a training institution, it's vital we have these relationships and an awareness of trends and requirements, especially in times of skills shortages in building and construction, traditional trades, mining and health and community services sectors. We play a key role here for WA employers and beyond."

Central TAFE has a tradition of supplying Pindan with employees such

as supervisors, contract administrators and construction managers through its Diploma in Building and Construction (Builders Registration), as well senior draftspersons and drafting managers via its Diploma in Building Design and Construction Technology.

"The majority of Pindan's senior technical managers come out of the programs we run at our Leederville campus," Peter said.

Pindan's Managing Director George Allingame comments that a strong relationship with key community players is a big part of Pindan's culture.

"Teaming up with major training partners such as Central TAFE is important to us. We're a competitive company that runs with opportunities in 'the here and the now' but we also look ahead to keep an edge. We want to tempt the best people on board with the skills we need and offer them sustainable employment opportunities," he said.

Central TAFE is currently talking with Pindan about new business development options, including establishing workplace based training programs and

integrating skills sets from business and management to customise training paths for a document controller, estimator and scheduler job role.

The partnership also led to the establishment, two years ago, of a scholarship program in response to the labour gap in skilled trades and professionals.

"Investing in training and scholarship programs is another way we connect," George said.

"It ensures talented students get a mix of training and practical experience. We're keen to offer students, who are undertaking formal qualifications, some on-site paid work experience too."

Central TAFE student Debra Thorpe this year won the Pindan scholarship for students in Building Design and Construction Technology.

"Winning the scholarship is an exciting break for me," she said. "It's not only a financial boost but also a personal and professional boost, with a widely accomplished firm recognising and rewarding what I'm doing."