NEW PARTNERSHIP HELPS MORE STUDENTS ACCESS HIGHER EDUCATION

The NSW Minister for Education, Adrian Piccoli, today launched an innovative program to help students studying accounting at TAFE NSW to gain higher education qualifications.

At today’s launch at the Port Macquarie College of the TAFE NSW – North Coast Institute, Minister Piccoli said the tertiary pathway initiative is the first of its kind in Australia.

“Today we are recognising a strategic alliance between industry, TAFE NSW and universities, working together to develop and deliver a tertiary pathway to accounting which will help to address skill shortages and meet the projected growth in demand for accountants,” Minister Piccoli said.

“The NSW Government is committed to providing students, particularly those in rural and regional NSW, with more opportunities to gain higher education qualifications that can lead to employment and strengthen local economies.

“The Tertiary Pathway initiative delivers on this commitment by offering an additional, accessible pathway to higher education, which is especially important for people who have not had the opportunity to take part in higher education, including people from low socio-economic communities, rural and regional communities and Indigenous Australians.

“Under the three-year program, it is planned that students will study at TAFE NSW for the first two years completing an Associate Degree of Accounting, after which they can progress to the third year of a university Bachelor degree program.

“This program offers real choice for people who may not have previously considered going to university or getting a post school qualification. Students who choose not to progress to the degree can apply to be registered as a BAS (Business Activity Statement) Agent,” he added.

“The NSW Liberal & Nationals Government is committed to a very strong and responsive TAFE in NSW,” Minister Piccoli said.

TAFE NSW is working in partnership with the Australian Catholic University, Charles Sturt University, CPA Australia, Innovation Business Skills Australia, Macquarie University and the University of New England.

It is proposed that students will be able to commence the new tertiary pathway program in 2012 at six TAFE NSW locations across the State, including four metropolitan (Northern Sydney, Sydney, South Western Sydney and Western Sydney) and two regional (North Coast and Riverina) locations.

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