ABORIGINAL ACADEMY OF SPORT, HEALTH AND EDUCATION
West Coast Institute of Training
Innovative and inspiring training for the Aboriginal community
MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

West Coast Institute of Training has a reputation for excellence, high quality training and producing award winning graduates. Recognising that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people face challenges to their economic and social well being on a day to day basis, the Institute’s Aboriginal Education, Employment and Training Committee (AEETC) recommended the establishment of a dedicated Aboriginal Academy of Sport, Health and Education (AASHE) to create new opportunities for the Aboriginal community.

With guidance from the AEETC and community representatives, the Institute created the Academy’s pilot program in 2009. The Academy now delivers quality, innovative and culturally sensitive training and education to the Western Australian community, enables greater Aboriginal community engagement and is opening up new employment opportunities in health, education, sport and fitness.

Our passionate and skilled team of lecturers and mentors are committed to delivering high quality education and training programs to the Aboriginal community ensuring that graduates obtain world class skills that will assist them in all areas of their life.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Academy and helping you to make your dreams possible.

Kim Hawkins
Executive Director
ABOUT THE ACADEMY

Through a process of dialogue and investigation by the West Coast Institute of Training’s Aboriginal Education, Employment and Training Committee it was identified that the development and creation of a specialist Academy that would engage Aboriginal students in vocational education and training was a key priority.

The Aboriginal Academy of Sport, Health and Education (AASHE) is a significant initiative dedicated to delivering customised training and education to the Aboriginal community.

All people have ambitions yet depending upon circumstance they may not be in a position to achieve the goals and dreams they visualised. Through the development and operation of the Academy, it is our aim to enable our students to reach their potential.

The Academy connects with Aboriginal students in a manner that recognises their needs and works towards making their dreams possible. By providing students with hands-on practical training and engaging them through personal success stories, the Academy supports students to take opportunities and pursue a positive future.

The specialised curriculum at the Academy will service demands for greater Aboriginal community engagement. It will fulfil the following objectives:

- Deliver quality, innovative and culturally-sensitive training and education;
- Develop learning pathways;
- Improve employment opportunities and outcomes in the field of education, health, sport and fitness; and,
- Directly engage the Aboriginal community.
ABOUT OUR STAFF

Academy staff are a dedicated and passionate team who know how to engage students and really help them achieve excellence. The Academy has recruited a Support Officer who understands the challenges students face.

PARTNERS

The Academy is supported by a number of partners to ensure that the courses offered are relevant to Aboriginal students and will help them gain employment in areas that will benefit the community.
HIGHLIGHTS

LOCAL SUCCESS

In 2009, the Academy’s pilot program enjoyed a 100% completion rate with 25 students graduating with a Certificate II in Sports Coaching and skills in nutrition, leadership, personal development and senior first aid. Over 50% of these graduates continued onto further training, including Certificate III in Fitness and Certificate III in Education.

This group also produced West Coast Institute of Training’s Student of the Year and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year, Kaila Riley.

In 2011, AASHE has over 100 students enrolled in various programs that are delivered both on and off-campus in a project-based learning model in which the students foster a sense of ownership, identity and belonging.

The program has had an excellent retention rate, particularly with students who were at risk of not attending. The feedback from the students and staff has been outstanding and is indicative of the dedication both groups have contributed to the program.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT

The Academy has also trained some students from remote areas in the Kimberley region of WA in association with the Nyaarla Projects Indigenous Youth Mobility Program. Some of these students were very reserved at the beginning of the program, but after a short period engaged and developed confidence, with some students returning to undertake further studies.

One student gained accreditation with the Australian Sports Commission to run programs in remote communities through the Active After Schools Program.

EXPANDING OFFERINGS

Recently, AASHE has engaged in partnerships with Catalyst Schools and Balga Senior High School through the Swan Nyoongar Sports Education Program (SNSEP).

AASHE has also collaborated with the Aboriginal Student Accommodation Service (ASAS) which has allowed the Academy to develop programs that meet the specific needs of 35 gifted and talented Aboriginal students from all over WA.
ACADEMY PROGRAMS

The Academy delivers project based learning and focuses on developing identity and belonging, so students can identify with being part of the West Coast community.

The staff at the Academy work with students to tailor individual pathway plans to help them meet their long term future goals. They can gain experience and qualifications in fields that will help them secure employment in an area of interest to them.

Students begin Certificate I or II courses to obtain the foundation knowledge and skills to spring board into further studies at Certificate IV and Diploma level.

Providing a sustainable model of teaching and support, graduate students can return to the Academy to provide a mentor role for new students participating in the Academy’s programs.

In brief, courses:

- Are tailored to meet the needs of groups and individuals
- Offer a range of topics including fitness, health and nutrition and youth work
- Are offered to Aboriginal students from community groups and secondary schools
- Offer project based learning to help students reinforce the skills they learn.
COURSE INFORMATION

CURRENT PROGRAMS

Certificate II in Sport (Coaching)
This qualification provides students with the knowledge and skills to coach athletes and children. Areas of study include observing performances to determine the level of instruction required, instructing techniques, conducting practice sessions, implementing sports first aid procedures and applying sports first aid, implementing game strategy, monitoring the progress of games or competitions, carrying out after competition review of strategy and performance and undertaking related administrative tasks.

Career Opportunities – Sports Coach, Support Staff

Certificate II in Community Services
This qualification provides students with the practical skills and knowledge to participate in local government and community organisations that develop appropriate services and facilities to meet community needs. You will learn about the community services sector and ethical behaviour. You will also develop skills in communication, information provision and processing, administration support, networking and group support.

Career Opportunities – Child Care Assistant, Aboriginal Support Worker, Assistant Community Services Worker, Customer Service Staff

Certificate I in Gaining Access to Training & Employment (GATE)
This qualification provides 16-19 year old students with confidence and skills for further training or the workforce in a safe, youth-friendly environment. The GATE program is named as such because it literally opens doors to a wealth of opportunities. Students are connected to the rest of the world, both socially and at work. The focus of the program is to get students job-ready through a ’Learning through Practise’ model.

Career Opportunities – The skills learnt in this course can be applied in any industry or in further training

Certificate III in Health Services Assistance
Upon completion of this qualification, students will be able to work as Assistants in Nursing. The customised curriculum specifically addresses the health needs of the Aboriginal community through practical, hands-on training.

Career Opportunities – Assistants in Nursing;

Certificate III/IV in Education Support
This qualification provides students with the practical skills and knowledge to assist the teaching staff in schools and provide care and supervision for children from kindergarten to Year 10. You will learn how to implement planned education programs, assist students in their learning and development, contribute to the safety and health of students and support students with additional needs. As part of this qualification you will undertake a supervised work placement. Graduates qualify for entry to the Certificate IV in Education Support.

Career Opportunities – Education Support Worker (Kindergarten through to Year 10), Home Economics Assistant, Science Assistant

The Academy provides students with employment and life skills through a range of programs.
PATHWAYS

Whether you want to be a bricklayer, nurse or beautician, the Academy will work with you to give you the skills you need to find your dream job.

Academy programs provide students with the minimum entry requirements needed to gain entry to many Certificate III, IV or Diploma courses at West Coast Institute of Training.

Some of the pathway options available include:

Community Services and Education
- Certificate III in Children’s Services
- Diploma of Children’s Services
- Advanced Diploma of Children’s Services
- Certificate III in Community Services Work (Youth)
- Certificate III in Community Services Work (Mainstream)
- Certificate IV in Community Services Work
- Diploma of Community Services Work
- Advanced Diploma of Community Services Work
- Certificate III in Education Support
- Certificate IV in Education Support
- Diploma of Education Support

Health
- Certificate III in Health Services Assistance
- Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance
- Certificate IV Health Science Foundations
- Certificate IV in Preparation for Entry into Diploma of Enrolled Nursing
- Diploma of Enrolled Nursing

More information on these courses and other opportunities is available at www.wcit.wa.edu.au
SUCCESS STORY – KAILA RILEY

“Before taking this course I didn’t know what I wanted to do,” said Kaila. “Now, not only have I gained a qualification but I’ve learnt skills such as Sports Nutrition and First Aid. I used to be very shy but now I have the confidence to take a leadership role.”

Kaila Riley, a 23-year old mother has been named West Coast Institute of Training’s Student of the Year for her commitment to a Certificate II in Sports Coaching that she says has changed her life.

Since receiving her qualification, Kaila has worked as an Aboriginal & Islander Education Officer at Greenwood Primary School. She also runs the Active After School program for the Australian Sports Commission.

“I work with children from Years 1 to 7 and we play a range of inclusive games to help them get more active and develop a love of sport,” said Kaila.

“It has been my dream to work with Aboriginal kids and studying at the Academy has given me this opportunity. I want to teach Indigenous youth how to live a healthy lifestyle and the importance of good nutrition and exercise.”

Kaila has recently taken up boxing, training 3-4 times per week, inspired by Aboriginal 2008 Olympic boxer Anthony Little who has worked alongside Academy lecturers in teaching sports coaching skills. “I really enjoy my boxing,” said Kaila. “My trainer has even encouraged me to enter competitions.”

Kaila is continuing her education by studying a Certificate III Education Support at West Coast Institute of Training. “The more knowledge I have, the more opportunities I’ll get,” she said.

Kaila’s message to others who are considering the Sport Coaching course is to take the opportunity. “Don’t let it pass you by,” she said. “Be committed, know you have the ability and don’t give up.”
SUPPORT SERVICES

A part of West Coast Institute of Training, the Academy has access to various support services that will assist students throughout every stage of their training journey.

ABORIGINAL STUDENT SUPPORT

At West Coast Institute of Training, we endeavour to provide a learning environment that is culturally sensitive and supportive to the whole Aboriginal community.

Who do we assist?

All members of the Aboriginal community seeking education and employment opportunities.

How can we assist?

- Guidance with course selection, training pathways, employment opportunities, enrolment and career planning.
- Assistance with study (e.g. time tabling and assignment writing)
- Tutorial assistance
- Referral to other agencies
- Assistance with ABSTUDY and other study assistance payments such as scholarships

YELLAGONGA MEETING PLACE

The Yellagonga Meeting Place is a support and networking centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students on campus, allowing them to gather, learn and seek advice from experienced staff in an area which they feel safe and comfortable. Additionally it services the demand of the Institute’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community who are seeking a meeting place that is central and easily accessible. These groups can now use the facility for meetings and other activities free of charge at a time that is suitable to them.

The meeting place is equipped with tables, chairs and couches, reverse-cycle air-conditioning, tea and coffee making facilities making it an ideal place to meet up with friends, make new friends or it can be somewhere to study or a retreat between classes.

THE ABORIGINAL EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING COMMITTEE (AEETC)

The Institute’s Aboriginal Education, Employment and Training Committee was established in 1997 to work in partnership with local agencies to engage the Aboriginal community and develop culturally appropriate training for students.

The AEETC supports and encourages Aboriginal students and has shown great results over recent years with a significant increase of Aboriginal students studying at the Institute.

By working closely with the AEETC, the Institute has provided an inclusive and collaborative learning environment for all students. The ongoing input from the AEETC will ensure that the Institute will continue to develop and promote culturally specific programs that meet the needs of Aboriginal students and the wider community.