



Forest Industry Contractors Association

John Stulen
Chief Executive
john.stulen@fica.org.nz
Tel: 07 9211382
Mob: 027 275 8011
PO Box 6160
Rotorua 3043

Media Release

7 December 2011

For Immediate Release

FICA Applaud Trade Academy for Connecting School Students and Contractors

The New Zealand Trade Academy (NZTA) launched in 2011 will build connections between high school students and forest contractors. The NZTA allows students in partner schools to earn credits and gain experience in primary industries while also completing their NCEA studies.

John Stulen of FICA says, "It's great news for forest contractors that the new Trade Academy will open doors for contractors to get school-leavers learning directly about forestry while they are still finishing their high school qualifications."

Jost Siegfried of FITEC says, "FITEC is looking for industry support for this project, in particular in terms of forestry and wood processing work place visits, and work placements with industry businesses and contractors."

Mr Stulen continues, "In the past contractors have had challenges getting polytechnics to listen to their needs - now with the Trade Academy linking up high school leavers directly with contractors - there will be a lot better relationship-building that can happen."

In Year 11 high school students will be exposed to work place visits in all primary industries (including some moderate activities). From Year 12 onwards (when they turn 16) students will need to spend minimum one day per week (full day) in a work placement for three consecutive terms. In Year 13 this may be extended to 2-3 days in the work place.

Mr Stulen says, ""The strength of this new Trade Academy will be the combination of a national, standardised education approach with the ability, on a regional level, for contractors to build direct linkages with young people in their region who get an early insight into forestry's options."

Mr Siegfried says, "While other trade academies typically are a joint venture between schools and tertiary provider, the NZTA model aims to connect schools directly with industry (through ITO facilitation). The model is absolutely reliant on industry participation through forming local/regional partnership with partner schools. Benefits of this approach for this industry include bringing more people into industry, keeping young people in regional employment and having some training done before entering the work force."

FITEC jointly with Agriculture and Horticulture ITOs commenced running the New Zealand Trade Academy (NZTA) in 2011 with eight partner high schools. NZTA will be extended to at least 12 schools in 2012. Current partner schools are located in Maungaturoto (Northland), Ngatea, Rotorua, Gisborne, Taupo, Feilding, Rangiora and Mosgiel.

--ENDS--