



Future Leaders of the industry

SINCE 2013, WE HAVE RECOGNISED 31 FUTURE LEADERS OF THE INDUSTRY. IN THIS ISSUE, WE RETURN TO ONE OF OUR EARLY INDUCTEES, JORDAN ATKINS OF MEDICAR AUTOMOTIVE IN CAMPBELLTOWN, SOUTH WEST SYDNEY, AS WE FOLLOW HER JOURNEY IN THE INDUSTRY.

Jordan Atkins first came to our attention in 2013 when she was attending the South Western Sydney Institute (SWSI-TAFE) in Campbelltown. Although she was unemployed, IAG Insurance arranged for a work experience program with Medicar Automotive and they were so impressed with her motivation and desire to succeed that they offered her an apprenticeship. As the owner of Medicar Automotive, Ray Lauricella, said: "From the day she started with us, she has been great, and she really loves what she does."

In 2013 Jordan was awarded the Gold Medal at the Regional WorldSkills



Jordan with Ray Lauricella.

competition in the Vehicle Painting category and the following year represented Sydney West in the WorldSkills Nationals in Perth. Jordan completed her apprenticeship in 2014 and continues to be a key member of the team at Medicar Automotive. "I love this place - it's one big family. They are a great team and it's a great environment here," said Jordan.

Fast-forward to 2017 and the Sydney West Regional WorldSkills competition was hosted by Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Carl Tinsley of Campbelltown TAFE, where one of the judges was Jordan Atkins. "It was a great honour to be asked by Carl Tinsley to judge such a highly-regarded competition, particularly as a past winner in the Sydney West region," said Jordan. "It was really great to see the strength of the young talent coming through and it brought back so many memories. It is much less stressful being a judge than a competitor," she added.

Jordan continues to be active in the local industry and has a strong connection with Campbelltown TAFE. She is often asked to attend functions and events to promote the industry to both young people and



Jordan Atkins.

their parents. "It such a great opportunity to stay involved."

About to take some time out to have her first child, Jordan is currently in the process of passing on her knowledge to the second-year apprentices at Medicar. "It's really important that we teach the next generation of apprentices as without them we will have no industry," she said. "This is one of the great things about working at Medicar and I just can't imagine working anywhere else," she concluded.

Editor: Jordan is a prime example of someone who was at the crossroads: unemployed and very uncertain about what the future would hold. She is an inspiration to so many young women who will follow in her footsteps. In 2013 she was identified as a Future Leader of the Industry and there is no doubt that she is well on her way to becoming a leader of our industry.

