

HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY MENTORING – EVERTON PARK SHS & RYDGES

Purpose:

To enhance the learning outcomes for hospitality students by working collaboratively with local industry.

Partnership Members:

- Rydges – South Bank
- Everton Park State High School (SHS)

Context and Goals

The Junior Secondary School Culinary Challenge (JSSCC), is a cooking competition that provides a series of hospitality-focussed events and experiences for Year 10 Home Economics or Hospitality students. The JSSCC aims to address local skills shortages in the hospitality industry by engaging teachers and students in fun and informative sessions on cooking and careers.

As part of their registration for the JSSCC, Everton Park SHS have partnered with Rydges South Bank to provide mentoring in preparation for the competition. The partnership has also looked at opportunities outside of the competition to enrich school curriculum and explore careers in the industry.

The Partnership's Approach

Everton Park SHS students and Rydges chefs have worked in both the school and Rydges South Bank Hotel kitchens to refine their competition dish and learn new cooking skills and techniques. The relationship between the school and business has also included a tour of the industry kitchen for students not participating in the JSSCC and a special lunch for students that have limited opportunities to dine at a restaurant.

“The help we received from our mentor was beneficial and helped improve my confidence.”

Student

Everton Park SHS and Rydges South Bank communicate regularly about their work, and are continually looking at ways to extend their partnership to enhance the outcomes for young people and that benefit each organisation.

Benefits

- Four Everton Park SHS students won silver medals at the 2013 JSSCC.
- All students surveyed strongly agreed that they had learned new cooking techniques and skills.
- 30 students visited Rydges South Bank kitchens to build their awareness of hospitality careers
- Rydges South Bank chefs are encouraged by the improvement in skills exhibited by their mentees and teacher.

“Working with Rydges has assisted our school in providing quality learning experiences and career information on the hospitality industry for our students.”

Hospitality teacher, Everton Park SHS

Next Steps

Rydges will continue to mentor senior students in 2013, and provide opportunities to enhance the skills and industry knowledge of students and their teacher.



Support from the Partnership Broker

The Partnership Broker assisted the school to identify an industry mentor for the JSSCC, and encouraged partners to explore opportunities outside of the competition.

The Broker has also supported partners to review their mentoring relationship by developing evaluation tools and providing advice on analysis and future actions.

TOP TIP

Partnership Brokers may be ideally placed to ask partners challenging follow-up questions as a way of getting them to focus on new priorities and to agree to any changes that are deemed necessary.