

MEDIA RELEASE

26 April 2007

Mining Industry Invests in the Region's Future

\$10,000 in mining scholarships has been awarded to thirteen Year 11 and 12 students from Red Bend Catholic College, Forbes High and Parkes High. The presentation ceremony was held at Parkes Council on April 26.

The scholarships, part of the Minerals Education Bursary Scheme (MEBS), are funded by Northparkes Mines and the NSW Minerals Council on an annual basis.

Seven Year 12 students were each presented with \$1,000 MEBS scholarships and six Year 11 students received \$500 each. The scholarship holders are:

Year 12:

Michael Legg (Forbes High), David Sherritt (Forbes High), Bryce Jay (Red Bend Catholic College), Sam Pritchard (Red Bend Catholic College), Rob Lindon (Red Bend Catholic College), Juliet Hawthord (Red Bend Catholic College) and Sarah Lord (Red Bend Catholic College).

Year 11:

Jack Williams (Forbes High), Lindsay Hodge (Parkes High), Sherilyn Freeman (Parkes High), Natalie Barnes (Parkes High), Amelia Briton (Parkes High) and Rosemary Atkins (Red Bend Catholic College).

NSW Minerals Council CEO, Dr Nikki Williams, congratulated the students and said she was confident that their bursaries would assist them to a successful career in mining.

"The minerals industry is committed to assisting young people find and achieve their career and educational goals in minerals related fields," Dr Williams said.

Northparkes Mines spokesperson Michelle Sharpe said the scheme was another example of its ongoing commitment to initiatives that benefited the local community.

"Northparkes Mines is an integral part of the local community. We are delighted to be part of this scheme that gives local students the chance to pursue careers in the important local industry of mining," she said.

MEBS winners who complete the first year of a mining-related undergraduate course within 12 months of completing high school will receive an extra \$2,000, plus a mining industry mentor, to provide careers and educational advice during their studies.

ENDS

Media Contact: Jai McDermott, Manager Communications

Tel Direct: (02) 8202 7222 - Fax: (02) 8202 7255 - Mobile: 0400 435 646

Email: jmcdermott@nswmin.com.au

