



Training works well for students

A UNIQUE Challenger Institute of Technology training program is giving inexperienced young people the chance to enter the workforce as a trainee or apprentice.

The Peel iTrade initiative was launched in November, with the first intake of graduates completing the program last month.

The focus is on exposing students with limited or no previous experience in a trade to a hands-on construction environment where they train in bricklaying and carpentry.

Students are also provided with career development and employability skills training.

Challenger Institute Aboriginal training and workforce development officer Phil Sillifant said the pilot program was a great success, with students enjoying the diversity of the units offered.

"Students are exposed to a range of different trades so they get a taste of what they



Peel iTrade graduates Lorrina Brown, Ethan Cooyou, Nikiesha Ryan and Akuira Capper.

enjoy and work on developing their skills in that area," he said.

"On completion of the course, students are able to pursue employment options in their trade of choice with assistance from the career development team.

"The results have been outstanding; half of the course participants have been offered apprenticeships or other positions with local businesses, with some students opting to commence further education or training.

"It's particularly pleasing that the majority of the program participants were female."

iTrade program graduate and mother of three Akuira Capper said the program had given her the stepping stones to embark on a new career pathway.

"This program has opened up a world of opportunity for me and my children. I have job offers, people putting faith in me and offering me fantastic opportunities," she said.

There are plans to continue the program in the second semester at the institute's Peel campus, as well as extending it next year to the Rockingham and Beaconsfield campuses.