



Young mechanic takes out gold

CHALLENGER Institute of Technology apprentice Andrew Leece, 19, of Safety Bay, won the gold medal in the Light Automotive division at the WA WorldSkills competition.

The regional competition, held every two years, is the first stage of the WorldSkills competition cycle.

Mr Leece has now qualified to compete interstate at the national titles next year.

If he's successful in the national contest, he will represent Australia in the international competition to be held in Germany in 2013.

Mr Leece said he had always wanted to be a mechanic and dreamed of one day owning his own business.

"I had to complete five challenges that covered activities I would do in my day-to-day work, such as engine diagnosis and repair, vehicle inspection and report, brake inspection and timing belt replacement," he said.

"The competition really pushed the boundaries in terms of the complexity of the tasks.

"It feels like all the previous hard work I have put into my career has finally paid off."

WorldSkills Australia promotes and celebrates the skills of Vocational Education and Training through skills competitions.



Gold medal winner Andrew Leece at Challenger Institute of Technology's Automotive Technology Skills Centre. PICTURE: GARY PETERS