A program designed to give Aboriginal people management skills now has its first graduates. Nineteen participants completed the inaugural Challenger Institute of Technology's Certificate IV in Frontline Management – Aboriginal Leadership program.

The Perth-based course gives participants the opportunity to learn management strategies that can be used across all industries. It is delivered over six months, including three one-week face-to-face blocks and online study.

Karratha graduate David Atkinson says the skills he gained through the program have proved integral to his role of human resources Indigenous training and employment advisor at mining giant Woodside.

Based at the Karratha Gas Plant, the 58-year-old's role involves mentoring Woodside Indigenous apprentices and trainees. He says he wished he had completed such a course when he was younger.

"I only studied to Year 9 level at school, and up until this course hadn't completed any formal education in my adult life," Mr Atkinson said.

"I'm now approaching the end of my career, however this hasn't taken away from my drive and ambition to become a more proficient leader in my organisation, and in the community. "The course has made me think differently as a leader, understand what I am doing and why I'm doing it, which has proven particularly relevant in decision making and influencing others in the workplace."

Challenger Institute says that based on the success of the pilot program, plans are under way to run the course again in 2015.

Course graduate David Atkinson.