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## New training opportunity

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## Shannon Beattie

Students in Karratha will have a smoother transition into the resources sector from next year with the creation of a program which allows them to complete a pre-apprenticeship course while in school.

The initiative between the McGowan Government and the West Australian resources sector will allow Year 11 students from Karratha Senior High School to obtain a Certificate II Pre-Apprenticeship qualification at North Regional TAFE.

The Pilbara Collaboration Charter will give students the ability to get a certification in electrotechnology electrician or engineering mechanical trade and be guaranteed an interview with the Pilbara's major resource companies at the end of their course.

The initiative between the State Government and the Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia involves collaboration with BHP, Chevron Australia, CIT-IC Pacific Mining, Fortescue Metals Group, Rio Tinto, Roy Hill, Woodside and Yara.

Education and Training Minister Sue Ellery said the pre-apprenticeship program was about helping ensure there was a pipeline of skilled local workers. "The labour

market review for the Pilbara highlighted that mechanical engineers and electricians were occupations that were difficult to fill locally," she said.

"This program is designed to encourage young people in the Pilbara to consider trade-related employment opportunities."

CME chief executive Paul Everingham said it was fantastic to see government departments, Pilbara high schools,

North Regional TAFE and industry taking a strategic approach and testing new and innovative approaches.

"What will make this program unique is that students will be released from high school to North Regional TAFE for either a term or a semester in Year 11, and then will spend one day per week in Year 12 in a simulated work environment," he said.

"Ensuring local students have training opportunities that not only allow them to remain part of the community in which they live, while filling job roles in the Pilbara that require specific skills, is a win-win situation for all."

The two-year program will require KSHS students to attend TAFE on a full-time basis during Term 4 of Year 11 and Term 1 of Year 12.

The program will meet the requirements of the Western Australian Certificate of Education.



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**Education Minister Sue Ellery with representatives from Karratha Senior High School, North Regional TAFE and the Chamber of Minerals and Energy WA at the launch of the Pilbara Collaboration Charter.**  
Picture: Shannon Beattie