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Local high school students take on challenges aboard the Leeuwin II

Four local high school students from the Kwinana Industries Council (KIC) iDIVERSITY Project recently returned from a five-day sailing voyage, after being awarded full scholarships to be part of the Leeuwin's Ultimate Challenge.

Jarod Carson (Kolbe Catholic College), Allison Watson (Hamilton Senior High School) Jesse Barnard-Piper (Gilmore College) and Adam Kimpton (Malibu School) were selected to attend the voyage from a group of 14 other students in the local area, who also took part in the 2015 KIC IDIVERSITY Project.

The voyages aim to inspire young people to reach their full potential and to help make a positive contribution to the wider community.

The Leeuwin Ocean Adventure Voyage is specifically designed for young people with intellectual, sensory and/or physical limitations and provides them with the opportunity to meet new friends, learn new skills and increase their self-confidence.

Jarod said the Ocean Adventure Voyage was the most exciting thing he had participated in all year.

"Thank you KIC for sponsoring me for this adventure, being on the Leeuwin II has been a blast and my favourite part was climbing the main sail mast," Jarod said.

KIC Director Chris Oughton said the Ultimate Challenge is just one of the many ways in which KIC is working with the wider community.

"Through these programs we can provide students with a learning disability the same opportunities available to their peers, and in a supportive environment", he said

The opportunity to be awarded the scholarship was included in the 2015 IDIVERSITY Project, which aims to build a diverse workforce by introducing students to different local companies to learn about their business and organisations.

Leeuwin Communications Manager Ashleigh Tapper said each year the iDIVERSITY students who had sailed on the Ultimate Challenge had embraced each challenge and been fantastic ambassadors of the program.

"This year the KIC students were also not only experiencing their own challenges and conquering their own fears, they also actively helped their peers with other disabilities throughout the trip," she said.

All of the students who took part in the 2015 IDIVERSITY Project were in the running to be selected for the voyage.

For more information, please contact Debbie Hoey, Education Development Officer, Kwinana Industries Council- 9419 1855 or Debbie.hoey@kic.org.au

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Photo- L-R – Jesse Barnard-Piper (Gilmore College), Jarod Carson (Kolbe Catholic College), Adam Kimpton (Malibu School) and Allison Watson (Hamilton Senior High School)