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## **KIC wins Global Best Award for its Education Development Program (EDP)**

*Embedded quotes attributable to Chris Oughton, Director, Kwinana Industries Council (KIC)*

KIC is an industry association that advocates in the collegiate interests of its industry members, who are mainly located within the Kwinana Industrial Area (KIA).

The KIA is responsible for contributing \$1.6Bn into the State economy annually and for the employment of 30,000 direct and indirect workers.

The KIC has a partnership with 17 local high schools from the public, private and independent sectors, and its purpose is to directly connect our secondary and tertiary education sectors to industry.

Sitting within the EDP are several programs KIC runs for the students from the partnering high schools, putting around 200 students each year through programs designed to raise students' career aspirations and to give them a first-hand insight into the extensive careers that are available to them in Kwinana's heavy industry sector.

Every two years, an international organisation called the Global Partnerships Network (IPN) holds its conference and runs an associated awards ceremony, where it seeks out the best programs in the world to showcase. The IPN has five award categories for each of the seven regions of the world. Australia is located within the Oceania/Australasia region.

"We entered our EDP in three of the five categories – these being STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths), Youth Employability Skills, and Innovative and Creative Partnerships. We were honoured to be awarded best program in the region for each of these categories. In addition to that, our Innovative and Creative Partnerships application won best out of all seven of the regions – best in world."

The conference was held in Houston, Texas, at the Nasa Space centre, where conference delegates were able to interact with the astronauts who have been involved in building the international space station. This venue aligned closely with the conference theme of the importance of the sciences and mathematics being taught to our students.

"The recognition comes on top of other State based awards over recent years, and is a true endorsement of the commitment coming from the education and industrial sectors to our region's students."

The individual parts of the overall EDP are modular and are designed to be able to be taken up in other parts of the State, or indeed beyond.

"KIC stands ready, willing and able to assist others to implement the very same programs in their areas."

Details about the EDP can be found at the KIC's website under the Education tab on [www.kic.org.au](http://www.kic.org.au)

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Left to right: Bill McArthur, retired Nasa Astronaut; George Abbey, former Director of the NASA Space Centre; Chris Oughton (KIC); and Bruno van Dyk, IPN Chair.

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