



MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 21 April 2016,

Yet another milestone graduation ceremony for Geraldton Universities Centre.

Geraldton Universities Centre celebrated the graduation of 20 students on April 21, including its first graduate in the Associate Degree in Engineering program. In a field that is heavily male dominated, Beth Brady earns the feat of being the first locally supported student to graduate in the University of Southern Queensland program.

"The dedicated, committed and caring staff at GUC provided me with additional academic and administrative support, as well as encouragement and assistance, so that now I have been successful in an amazing achievement, my first University degree," Beth Brady, Associate degree in Engineering graduand.

2016 graduates also included those who have completed Bachelors degrees in Education (Early Childhood and Primary), Communications, Business and Accounting.

Whilst providing the administration, student and pastoral support that traditional city-based University campus's offer, the unique GUC University model allows regional students the flexibility of studying online with GUC university partners whilst being supported with face-to-face tutorials from dedicated local professionals.

GUC students are exposed to local industry networks within their professional fields from their first year of study through to their graduation and beyond. GUC graduates are not only highly skilled but highly valued as potential employees in local industries, building local community capacity and keeping some of our finest and brightest graduates in the Mid West.

"With the growth in student numbers and reflected in the 20 graduates this year - most of whom have already secured work in the region – the GUC model is proving over and over again to be an immensely valued asset in the community. The GUC caters to the needs and aspirations for university education in our community and the further development and growth of our community," Steve Douglas, Chair, GUC Board.

In 2016 GUC now has 270 students enrolled across 10 programs of study with University partners including Central Queensland University, University of Southern Queensland and Charles Sturt University.

"This is the first teaching cohort to graduate since we changed into our independent structure and joined with CQUniversity to support the teaching programs in Geraldton. It's also fantastic to have our first University of Southern Queensland Graduate from the Associate degree in Engineering. Both university partners have sent senior executives to Geraldton for the Graduation ceremony which signals their continued strong commitment to GUC and our students." Natalie Nelmes (Director, GUC)

Ends *For further information please contact the GUC on 9920 4400*