Leah receives inaugural Bev Corless Scholarship

A new scholarship aimed at encouraging young women to pursue a career in engineering will be awarded to Lesmurdie resident Leah Van Der Meullen at a special ceremony at Curtin University of Technology this afternoon.

The Bev Corless Memorial Scholarship has been implemented to recognise the contribution she made to women in engineering through her work with Alcoa Australia and as a member of Engineers Australia and Engineering Technology Group.

According to Curtin’s Executive Dean of Engineering, Science and Computing, Professor Peter Lee, the Scholarship also aims to promote the integration of sustainability into engineering planning and design.

“As well as having a strong academic record throughout high school, the successful applicant must have a strong interest in, and alignment with sustainability in the mining and resources sector,” Professor Lee said.

The Scholarship will cover the cost of Leah’s Civil and Construction Engineering Degree, and includes an additional $2000 per annum to assist with costs associated with studying.

Both Curtin and Alcoa have committed $60,000 each to the Scholarship over seven years.

Leah was awarded the Scholarship based on her TER score, statement of nomination from her teacher and the supporting statement she wrote demonstrating the eligibility criteria.

Each applicant was assessed by a selection panel consisting of a representative from Alcoa, Women in Engineering program of Engineers Australia, Curtin and one independent senior woman executive in the resources industry.

As part of the benefits of the Scholarship, Leah will receive vacation employment at Alcoa between 3rd and 4th years and will be considered for their Graduate Program when she completes her degree.

Professor Lee said Leah would also receive other assistance throughout her degree.

“Engineers Australia’s Women in Engineering program will provide women mentors to Scholarship recipients and Alcoa has promised the recipient access to Alcoa facilities and personnel.”

The Scholarships namesake, Bev Corless passed away in May 2005. She graduated from Curtin in 1979 with First Class Honours and was a senior Alcoa engineer and member of the Department of Civil Engineering Advisory Committee for many years.

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