



NDCO Western Metropolitan Region Excellence Awards 2011

Education Runner up – Benjamin Ballos

Nominated by: Susan McFerran Victoria University Secondary College – Brimbank Campus



Benjamin is a quiet, polite student, happy to receive assistance who has Autism. In 2008, Benjamin received an Award from our Learning Support Centre, for the effort that he put into his work. In 2010, Benjamin completed 2 weeks Work Experience at a Deer Park Newsagency, and received an excellent reference. He also received a Western Chances Award.

In 2011 Benjamin commenced VCAL, where he successfully completed his Safe @ Work modules and Basic Resuscitation Course. He also completed the “Kokoda Memorial Walk”. Benjamin organised for his class to attend a Food Handling Course, making the bookings. He successfully obtained his certificate.

Benjamin’s passion for movies and music led him to choose Certificate 3 in Creative Industries Media as his VET subject this year. For his Work Placement he gained work with “Alpha



Employment”, where he worked on creating a Facebook page, YouTube video and several PowerPoint presentations for the Employment Agency. Benjamin enjoyed his time there and once again received an excellent reference.

Benjamin’s next Work Placement was at “Aegis”, at training and contact centre in the Melbourne CBD where he was assisting staff with filing and data entry and various other office duties.

Benjamin completed Units 1 and 2 of his Cert 3, learning many new skills, some of which he displayed at his Web Site presentation to his VET class. Benjamin’s VET teacher felt that the work content and load of Units 3 and 4 would be too much for Benjamin. Benjamin was very disappointed but fortunately for Benjamin, “Aegis” was so impressed with him, that they have offered him a Traineeship with them for next year in the Cert 3 in Business Administration, whilst continuing on with VCAL.

Benjamin’s continuing passion for movies and music led him to be part of Young Media Makers Project. From February to August this year, he has attended workshops in scriptwriting, camera operations, sound recording and editing. He made a “short film” titled “New Life in Australia” which premiered at ACMI Theatre in Federation Square and will possibly be shown on Channel 31.

Benjamin has also attained his Learner Driver Permit and is currently undertaking driving lessons with an Instructor.

Benjamin never complains, always strives to do his best and complete everything he starts, never giving up, no matter how hard the challenges have been.