



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

Tuesday August 9 2016

Alcoa Youth Internship Program to continue at Northern Futures

On the heels of a successful first phase, Northern Futures has been granted \$185,000 from New York Based Alcoa Foundation to continue the acclaimed Alcoa Foundation Global Internships for Unemployed Youth Program.

The Norlane-based training and employment provider is one of just five organisations around the world chosen to deliver Phase II, giving Northern Futures the opportunity to help more young people secure sustainable jobs with local employers once they have completed paid internships.

Among the success stories from the first phase of the program is Omaid Qayyumi who came to Northern Futures through a youth refugee and asylum seeker program at North Geelong Secondary College. Omaid completed the Northern Futures Construction Skill Set training and was chosen to complete a six-week Alcoa Foundation internship with Keystone Bricklaying. Upon graduating from his internship, he was offered a four-year apprenticeship at the company.

Northern Futures executive officer Lou Brazier says success stories like Omaid's are not unusual through the Alcoa Foundation Global Internships for Unemployed Youth Program.

"We had 24 young people complete phase 1 of the program and 22 now have jobs. That's a 92% placement rate of young people who are now sustainably employed and supporting our communities," Ms Brazier said.

Alcoa senior communications and engagement advisor Kate Betts says Alcoa is thrilled that Northern Futures can continue the impactful work of the Alcoa Foundation Global Internships for another two years.

"We look forward to partnering with Northern Futures to achieve continued success with this life changing program," Ms Betts said.

Northern Futures is among five non-profit organisations around the world participating in Phase II, building upon best practices gleaned globally on how to help unemployed and underemployed youth secure sustainable jobs in the manufacturing industry and other sectors.

The program provides young people with a six-week on-site paid internship that delivers valuable hands-on learning experience and teaches the skills necessary for sustainable

careers with local employers. Over the next two years, 25 participants will go through the program with Northern Futures.

###

About Alcoa Foundation

Alcoa Foundation is one of the largest corporate foundations in the U.S., with assets of approximately \$480 million. Founded 64 years ago, Alcoa Foundation has invested more than \$635 million in communities worldwide. In 2015, Alcoa Foundation contributed more than \$22 million to non-profit organisations throughout the world, building innovative partnerships to improve the environment and educate tomorrow's leaders for careers in manufacturing and engineering. The work of Alcoa Foundation is further enhanced by Alcoa's thousands of employee volunteers who share their talents and time to make a difference in the communities where Alcoa operates. Through the Company's signature Month of Service program, in 2015 47 per cent of Alcoa employees took part in 1,000 events across 24 countries, benefiting more than 300,000 people and 400 non-profit organisations. For more information, visit alcoafoundation.com and follow [@AlcoaFoundation](https://twitter.com/AlcoaFoundation) on Twitter.

About the Institute of International Education

The Institute of International Education is a world leader in the international exchange of people and ideas. IIE designs and implements programs of study and training for students, educators, young professionals and trainees from all sectors with funding from government agencies, foundations, and corporations. An independent, not-for-profit organization founded in 1919, IIE has a network of 19 offices and affiliates worldwide and over 1,400 member institutions. www.iie.org.