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Award winner all set to nurse a healthy career

Bendigo TAFE's nursing student Dean Swanson was awarded the 2016 Australian Nursing & Midwifery Federation (ANMF) – Vic Branch Student Nurse Award in a presentation ceremony held last month.

The award recognised final year Diploma of Nursing students who have demonstrated attributes intrinsic to nursing practice, such as excellent communication and interpersonal skills, understanding of ethical and professional nursing, and an appreciation of the concept of excellence in nursing practice.

"The honor of being awarded the ANMF Student Nurse Award was very humbling. To have been nominated by my lecturers at TAFE made it all the more meaningful as I hold them in such high regard as positive role models and mentors," said Dean.

No stranger to the health industry, the high achiever returned to education to fulfill skill requirements of his job as an anaesthetic assistant.

"I've been working as an anaesthetic assistant since 2010 at the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne and since 2015 with Bendigo Health. As Bendigo Health was replacing the role of anaesthetic assistants with anaesthetic nurses, I needed to enrol in nursing to retain my position," said Dean.

"The advantages of studying at Bendigo TAFE included being in the company of students of diverse ages and backgrounds, as well as the respectful nature of the lecturers who acknowledged my prior professional experience."

The 48-year-old says that coming back to education has inspired further studies at university level and new career aspirations.

"I wouldn't hesitate recommending Bendigo TAFE to future students who are looking to further their career or seeking a pathway to university," he said.

"After completing my diploma qualifications I will continue working as an anaesthetic assistant/nurse while completing the Bachelor of Nursing at La Trobe University. I will also have gained an extended scope of practice and will register with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency as an enrolled nurse."

- ENDS -

Bendigo TAFE is a division of Bendigo Kangan Institute. Through campuses in Bendigo, Echuca and Castlemaine, Bendigo TAFE provides services to students, industries and businesses throughout the region and beyond. This will include a new Health and Community Centre of Excellence at the Bendigo city campus projected to open in 2018.