

South32 partners with AIEF for Indigenous education

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SEPTEMBER 21 2020 - 6:30PM

Matt Chard is a prime example of the type of student who stands to benefit greatly from the multi-year partnership between South32 and the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation (AIEF).



Matthew Chard and his father Herbert Trindall at the AIEF 10th anniversary celebrations in September, 2018. Picture: Supplied.

The partnership will support indigenous students access schooling and complete Year 12, while developing skills to make a successful transition to employment.

AIEF helped Chard get a scholarship to Cranbrook School and provided support as he graduated Year 12 in 2015.

"Through AIEF I was able to become the first indigenous school prefect at Cranbrook," the 23-year-old from Nowra said.

"They have helped a lot of indigenous students in Nowra really succeed both at school and post-school. I've really valued their continued support for me as I study at the University of Melbourne."

South32 chief executive officer, Graham Kerr said the partnership would support the development of emerging and future community leaders.

"We want South32 to be an employer of choice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and this partnership will help many young people on their future career path," he said.

AIEF founder and executive director, Andrew Penfold AM said the partnership would enable AIEF to support more young Indigenous students.

"AIEF is proud to partner with a company like South32, which recognises the transformative power education can have in communities around Australia," Mr Penfold said.

"Together, we are committed to increasing Year 12 attainment and expanding employment opportunities for Indigenous Australians."

Scholarships will include indigenous children in communities where South32 operates in Australia.

"Through the partnership, AIEF will continue to deliver real and tangible results in Indigenous education, supporting well-educated, job-ready young Indigenous students in their transition from school to employment," Mr Penfold said.