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ADG Invests in Future Leaders Through Scholarship Program

Airport Development Group (ADG) is proud to welcome the first two recipients of its ADG Scholarship Program, a partnership with Charles Darwin University (CDU) that supports Territory students through financial assistance and real-world work experience.

Lucy McDonnell, an engineering student, and Djamarlia Darr-Lade, studying a Bachelor of Laws, have been selected for their academic achievement, passion for the Northern Territory, and commitment to shaping a stronger future for their communities.

Through the scholarship, Lucy and Djamarlia will each receive \$5000 per annum in financial support, for up to three years, and both are offered a 4–6 week paid placement with ADG during semester breaks, working alongside teams in engineering, project management, and legal services.

“This program is about more than financial assistance, it’s about creating genuine pathways into professional careers right here in the Territory,” said Sandra de Kock, Executive General Manager People, Culture and Community at ADG.

“Lucy and Djamarlia are both outstanding students who bring enthusiasm, purpose, and drive. We are excited to have them join us and contribute to real-world projects that align with their passions and studies.”

Originally from Adelaide, Lucy McDonald has strong family ties to the construction industry and is passionate about applying her skills in physics, maths, and design to benefit the Territory.

“I love the Northern Territory and want to help make it a better place,” Lucy said. “This scholarship means I can gain practical experience in engineering and learn how theory connects with real-world projects. I’m looking forward to working with the ADG team and contributing in a meaningful way.”

Djamarlia Darr-Lade, born in Nhulunbuy and raised in both Nhulunbuy and Darwin, is entering her second year of law. With interests in Native Title, Aboriginal commercial law, and property law, she is driven to use her studies to create positive outcomes for Territory communities.

“Work experience is incredibly valuable and this opportunity to learn from a corporate legal team is a dream,” said Djamarlia.

“It’s inspiring to be part of an organisation that’s invested in young people and committed to building opportunities in the NT. I hope to use this experience to grow professionally and give back to the Territory.”

ADG’s CDU Scholarship Program offers up to two scholarships each year for students studying Certificate IV level and above in key fields such as business, engineering, ICT, environmental management, law, and more.

By investing in Territory talent, ADG is building a local pipeline of future leaders, ready to shape the infrastructure, communities, and industries of tomorrow.

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