



Leader - Barossa Valley
12/08/2009
Page: 19
General News
Region: Angaston SA
Circulation: 7500
Type: Regional
Size: 143.22 sq.cms
Frequency: --W----

Former Barossa man wins Venture Capital SA Scholarship

Mr Kent Aughey, former Barossa businessman and now Managing Director, Ashington Private Equity has won a Venture Capital SA through its Venture Capital SA Scholarship programme and is one of two South Australian investment professionals to be sent to the United States for intensive global venture capital training.

Ashington provides development and expansion capital in sound, growth oriented businesses in a broad range of industry sectors, specialising in the Small Medium Enterprise sector with investments \$500k up to \$2M.

The scholarships are valued at around A\$9,000 each, with the winners receiving accommodation and return economy airfares.

As winner of the 2009 scholarships, Mr Aughey will attend the 35 Venture Capital Institute programme in Atlanta, Georgia, between September 21 and 24.

Venture Capital SA is a specialist unit within the SA Centre for Innovation. The CEO of the SA Centre for Innovation, Greg Boundy says the US programme has been successfully conducted for the past 34 years, providing a great opportunity for industry professionals from

around the world to advance their careers in private equity.

“The scholarship holders will meet and learn from the best in the business and build international venture capital bridges to South Australia. This is particularly relevant now that the investment world has been shaken in recent times with the Global Financial Crisis. Great companies can be born in these times and the well trained professional investors can recognise these opportunities,” Mr Boundy says.

“A vibrant venture capital community is important to ensure emerging businesses have access to the support they require to grow,” Chairman of the Board for the SA Centre for Innovation, Mr David Simmons says.

“These scholarships are just part of Venture Capital SA’s broader objective of facilitating the development of an active, growing and sustainable South Australian private equity industry.

“SA businesses having access to capital is crucial to the SA Centre for Innovation’s mandate to accelerate the growth and development of sustainable South Australian enterprises.”