

14 February 2012

Top school achievers celebrated at the 2012 SACE Merit Ceremony

The outstanding achievements of more than 700 students who achieved excellence in their South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) in 2011 will be recognised at the 2012 SACE Merit Ceremony at Government House today.

The first ever recipients of the Governor of South Australia SACE Award will be presented with the award by His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR, Governor of South Australia.

The award recognises the 25 students with the highest achievement in the SACE, across subjects and in the qualities young people need for community life, citizenship and work.

His Excellency will also present the first ever Governor of South Australia Aboriginal Student SACE Award to the highest overall Aboriginal achiever in the SACE.

A total of 1,006 subject merit certificates will be awarded to 732 students who achieved an A+ with merit in their SACE Stage 2 subjects, at the event this morning.

The Minister for Education and Child Development, the Hon Grace Portolesi, will present the Tennyson Medal for English Studies, an award that dates back to 1901.

The Tennyson Medal for English Studies this year will be awarded to Madeleine Jones, 18, of Medindie. Madeleine attended Wilderness School and achieved SACE subject merits in English Studies, Physics, Research Project B, and Society and Culture in 2011.

Madeleine, who intends to study mechatronic engineering at university, said: "Having good teachers is really important.

"My English teacher was amazing; a good teacher inspires you to learn and makes the subject you are being taught interesting and relevant."

Students who have gained four, three and two subject merits will be presented with their Merit Certificates by the Presiding Member of the SACE Board of South Australia, Allan Dooley.

Single subject merit recipients will be presented with their certificate by a prominent member of the community.

SACE Board Chief Executive Dr Paul Kilvert congratulated all the students receiving Merit Certificates and awards.

"The memories of today will last a lifetime for many students, and it is good that their families can share in the recognition of their achievements at the SACE Merit Ceremony," he said.