

## THE NEXT-GEN OF FEMALE TECH PROFESSIONALS



### APPRENTICE MEGAN COX

#### AWARD

2021 NSW Trainee of the Year

#### REGION

Central & Northern Sydney Region

#### TRAINED BY

TAFE NSW

#### EMPLOYED BY

PwC Services

**Megan is living proof that success and career trajectory doesn't have to follow the standard route of school-university-job, even in the professional services. She became interested in IT while hearing successful female innovators speak at a future of female leadership forum.**

Megan was accepted into PwC's Higher Apprenticeship Program, which, combined with TAFE NSW training, coaches school leavers in business and IT.

"I wanted an alternative pathway to university," says Megan. "The PwC program takes students straight out of high school and develops their skills across the business. I'm currently an assurance associate with PwC, and I'm completing a Certificate IV in Information Technology through TAFE NSW."

She has already explored various functions at PwC, including IT auditing, business continuity management and data governance.

Initially, she found it difficult to adjust and experienced anxiety.

"It was difficult to adjust and build new networks after leaving school. I accessed training support services where I learnt strategies to manage my mental health. I'm now also able to recognise when others are struggling and offer support."

With the support of her training provider's mental health services, she was soon excelling in PwC's high-pressure, fast-paced work environment.

She further displayed unwavering dedication to her studies and notched up impressive work achievements.

At only 18, she presented to the board about employee mental health, completed a client secondment working across time zones and cultures and contributed to committees on gender equality, women in IT and the future of training.



On top of all her professionalism and achievements, Megan is also a proud advocate for women in IT.

“Being surrounded by successful women in IT changed my life. I love working for an organisation that values diversity and supports gender equality. I’m incredibly passionate about promoting female representation within cyber security and digital trust”, she explains further.

Megan’s trainer at TAFE NSW says Megan is an exceptional student who has consistently taken the initiative to participate in extra-curricular activities to build her skills.

“Megan’s PwC traineeship is her first job out of high school,” says her trainer.

“It’s been a steep learning curve as Megan had not previously undertaken tech subjects. Megan has shown unwavering dedication to her studies and excelled in a high-pressure and fast-paced environment. She goes out of her way to support other trainees. I’ve no doubt she will become an influencer in IT.”

“My training has set me up for success. I’ve met people from around NSW and the world. I’ve worked with experienced professionals who have become amazing mentors. I love how my work and learning intertwine. Straight out of school, I’ve launched my career through VET without incurring a university debt.”

Megan looks forward to continuing her studies through a Diploma in IT.