

WINNIE RAWIRI-KING

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY TECHNICIAN

Winnie joined the Electricity Supply Apprentice Programme (ESAP) in January 2014, employed by Singer Group. She is based with the Air New Zealand maintenance team at Auckland Airport, and has worked on the domestic and international terminals, cargo buildings and other Air New Zealand commercial sites.

Being a young female apprentice in this industry is relatively uncommon, but Winnie has shown great leadership potential throughout and is recognised as being someone to watch for the future. She has a real flair for building talent and teams and is able to manage and influence her much older, fully-licensed colleagues.

Winnie has excelled academically, being awarded a Grade 5 (top) mark for her off-job courses at Wintec, which is rarely achieved. She has also achieved National Certificate qualifications including Level 2 Mechanical Engineering and Level 3 Occupational Health and Safety, and has completed Regulations and Theory exams. Winnie is now working towards Level 4 qualifications in Electricity Supply and Electrical Engineering.

A passionate advocate for Health and Safety, Winnie was awarded the ESAP Health and Safety Award for two years running (2015 and 2016) and has been praised by her mentors for her commitment to safe working practices. She is extremely knowledgeable about current legislation, and recently volunteered to assist with the Health and Safety representation onsite.

Winnie is an ambassador for careers in the Electricity Supply Industry, regularly attending careers expos for ESAP and student career days. These events were run to encourage female students to think about non-traditional career choices, and Winnie enjoyed sharing her experiences with others. Winnie has also been promoting the industry through her Tainui Waikato iwi, keeping them up to date on her progress with her apprenticeship. The combination of academic and practical learning in an apprenticeship really suits Winnie's learning style. She explains, "I think this type of apprenticeship provides great opportunities for young people that want to



progress in a career without the requirement to take a strong academic (via university) route, as this doesn't suit everyone."

"It's the practical application, the culture, the rewards, the pressures and the people which make it a great way of learning," Winnie adds.

Winnie finds the opportunities for growth and learning in the industry very rewarding. She hopes to gain experience from the bottom up, then head in a managerial direction as she has always enjoyed the rewards that come with leadership along with the sense of team accomplishment.

In the long term, Winnie's career goal is to become a key leader in the industry, providing practical solutions for succession planning. She is also determined to break the traditional view of the Electricity Supply Industry as male-dominated, and actively encourage more women to become involved and achieve great results, as she has.