



Tuesday June 27, 2006

TWO MORE SOUTH AUSTRALIANS WIN VENTURE CAPITAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The State Government's Venture Capital Board is sending two South Australian investment professionals to the United States for intensive global venture capital training.

Following the very successful and highly sought after scholarship program offered by the VCB last year, the South Australian venture capitalists will be undertaking training at the 32nd Venture Capital Institute program in Atlanta, Georgia as winners of the 2006 scholarships.

The VCB had originally intended to offer only one scholarship to the US this year but, consistent with the applications in 2005, was again impressed with the quality of the applications, and decided to award two scholarships.

VCB Chairman Dr Roger Sexton said the Venture Capital Institute program was widely recognised as the industry's premier educational program and had been conducted for the past 31 years.

"This program has provided a sound foundation for more than 4000 industry professionals around the world to advance their careers in private equity."

The winners of the scholarships, which are valued around \$9000 each, will attend the 32nd Venture Capital Institute between September 25-28, and will receive accommodation and return economy airfares. The successful applicants are:

- **Amanda Heyworth**, Chief Executive Officer of Playford Capital, South Australia's only local professional investor providing seed capital for start-up and early stage technology companies
- **Damian Papps**, Managing Director of Strategon Capital, and owner of Australian Business Angels

"Nothing can replace actually meeting and learning from the best in the business, and this is also an outstanding opportunity to build international venture capital bridges to South Australia," Dr Sexton said.

"A growing and well-connected venture capital industry is important to ensure emerging businesses have access to the support they require to grow, and forms an integral part of the Venture Capital Board's objective of facilitating the development of an active, growing and sustainable South Australian private equity sector"
