



Cape York Partnership mentoring and transition coordinator Bernard Sabadi with students Acacia Bowen, Bobby Bowie and Jari Walpo who completed work experience at Rio Tinto Weipa last month.

Work experience opens doors to future careers

AS demand grows for mining workers, a group of students from the Cape York Leaders Program have participated in work experience at Rio Tinto Weipa to explore the pathways on offer for their journey to work life.

With a focus on mechanical engineering, asset management, diesel fitting and light vehicles, the three secondary students from Queensland boarding schools attended four days of work experience at Rio Tinto Weipa.

It is a burgeoning time to consider a career in resources, with a

recent forecast from the Australian Resources and Energy Group concluding an additional 20,000 mining sector workers will be needed nationwide over the next five years – more than one-quarter of these positions will be in Queensland.

Our nation is also a global leader in mining education with five Australian universities listed among the top 10 higher education providers for mineral and mining engineering courses in the 2020 QS World University Rankings.

The participating students told *Cape York Weekly* the program

was an opportunity to gain practical experience in what a career in the mining sector might entail.

“As I became more comfortable in the workplace it felt like the days went by so quickly,” one student said.

“It didn’t take me long to adjust to the work hours and routine. I am keen to apply for an apprenticeship when I finish school.”

Studies have found 73 per cent of employers who take on work experience students have, at some stage, recruited them as permanent staff.