



Alaska Workforce Investment Board Newsletter

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Dear Reader,

In this issue we have an Alaska Workforce Investment Board update, Speak Now: Draft Alaska Career and Technical Education Plan, Alaskan Grown, Alaska Job Center Employment and Training Services, AGIA and Apprenticeship Update, and the Region V ACTE Conference "On the Trail to Success."

The AWIB has developed this newsletter to connect schools, industry and stakeholders with AWIB and the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. We are publishing every other month and featuring opportunities, programs and information about State of Alaska initiatives aimed at helping youth and adults find meaningful employment and postsecondary training. Also, this newsletter will have articles from the Department of Education and Early Development related to Career and Technical Education.

Let me know if you have ideas for future articles.

Sincerely,



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AWIB CTE Coordinator
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AWIB Update Greg Cashen, Executive Director



The next AWIB meeting is scheduled for February 22 and 23 in Juneau at Centennial Hall. The agenda includes an update on the draft Healthcare Workforce Development Plan, briefings from the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, a Gasline Training Plan update, a statewide CTE Plan update, an RTC/RAC update, time allocated for review of proposed STEP regulations, and presentation of the vocational administrator/instructor of the year awards.

A STEP Task Force meeting was held on February 5 by teleconference to review

the proposed changes to the STEP regulations. An hour is allocated for public comment for an oral hearing on February 22 at the AWIB meeting regarding the proposed changes to the STEP regulations. The AWIB will review the proposed STEP regulations on February 23.

The next Gasline Training Plan Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for February 24 in Juneau. The committee will be reviewing the Gasline Training Plan Implementation Schedule, including action to date on the four strategies contained in the plan and a budget and expenditure update. The committee will also be reviewing project and manpower updates from TransCanada and Denali, and updates from training providers including the University of Alaska, AVTEC, Regional Training Centers, Alaska Works Partnership and the Fairbank Pipeline Training Center.

A Career and Technical Education Work Group meeting is scheduled for February 25 in Juneau. Labor Commissioner Click Bishop, Education Commissioner Larry LeDoux, representatives from secondary and postsecondary education, AWIB Chair Jim Lynch, and State Board of Education Chair Esther Cox are working with Jeff Selvey and Helen Mehrkens to develop a statewide CTE plan. The purpose of the meetings are to develop a unified CTE plan for youth and adults, deliver a high quality CTE system that provides state of the art preparation for all Alaskans to attain a sustainable career, and enhance and expand CTE programs in Alaska. The draft plan identifies strategies, identifies key action steps and a timeline for monitoring progress of the CTE Plan, identifies the mission of CTE within Alaska's Education and Workforce Development systems, and reviews the status of new and ongoing CTE initiatives and partnerships. A considerable amount of work has been completed on the CTE Plan, and an update will be provided at the February AWIB meeting.

The AWIB Executive Committee selected Melissa Reese from Valdez High School as the recipient of the Secondary Vocational Training Instructor of the Year and Tom Minder from the Alaska Joint Electrical Apprenticeship Training Trust as the recipient of the Postsecondary Vocational Training Administrator of the Year. Both awards will be presented at the AWIB meeting in Juneau on February 23.

Speak Now: Draft Alaska Career and Technical Education Plan

Jeff Selvey, AWIB CTE Coordinator

Helen Mehrkens, EED CTE Administrator

With stakeholders, the Department of Labor and Workforce Development and the Department of Education and Early Development are developing an Alaska Career and Technical Education Plan.

The leadership of both departments recognizes that any comprehensive plan needs to incorporate both the educational needs of students and the workforce needs of the state. By joining forces and working together, the state will make better uses of its resources and be more assured of the qualified workforce it needs to stay competitive in the global economy.

The Alaska Career and Technical Education plan incorporates and values the strategies found in both the Alaska Education Plan and the AGIA Training Strategic Plan. There are three documents in the plan: (1) Executive Summary; (2) Overview; and (3) Timeline for Action Steps by Strategy.

The Executive Summary explains the need, the promise, the strategies, action steps that are presently occurring, and the call for action, to engage all stakeholders.



The Overview defines and breaks down the elements for each strategy.

The Timeline for Action Steps By-Strategy identifies when each strategy and element will occur, with the overall goal of implementing some of these strategies immediately and some over the next three years.

The plan identifies specific strategies to address career and technical education and workforce needs. The following action steps are necessary to integrate those strategies into an overall vision.

1. Make transitions planned and accountable for both seamless student progress and systemic cooperation,
2. Align training institutions' curricula to meet current industry standards - including academic, professional, and technical skills - from elementary through apprenticeship, postsecondary and professional development levels,
3. Identify and promote career and technical education delivery models in Alaska that assist youth and adults to attain skills to prepare for postsecondary training and careers,
4. Find, support, and retain high quality CTE teachers,
5. Maximize the use of public facilities for training, and
6. Establish and maintain sustainable funding mechanisms for a successful CTE system for youth and adults.

We are seeking your recommendations, comments and offers of partnership. Please identify the specific section you are addressing, and e-mail to Helen Mehrkens (helen.mehrkens@alaska.gov) or Jeff Selvey (jeff.selvey@alaska.gov).

Alaskan Grown

Diane Maples, University of Alaska Anchorage Statewide Tech Prep Coordinator

The need for a highly qualified, competitive Alaskan workforce with world-class expertise, critical thinking skills and a wide array of employability skills is an imminent concern. The Alaska Education Plan identifies the need to prepare Alaskan youth for careers upon graduation.

How do we provide students relevant opportunities and multiple avenues for successful entry into a personal career choice and the Alaska's workforce? The framework is in place. Through the efforts of the Alaska Tech Prep Consortium, a collaboration of secondary, post secondary training institutions and business and industry partners, students get a head start on their career plans and are provided opportunities to successfully connect and transition into Alaska's workforce.

The statewide Alaska Tech Prep program provides the structure and strategies for students, while still in high school, to engage in a sequence of rigorous and relevant career and technical coursework.

A program of study is used to visually map out a student's high school education and illustrates the connections to apprenticeship, post secondary education and further training necessary to fill a high skill and high demand job market. A high school student can earn college credit, attain advanced standing in an apprenticeship, and acquire early preparedness for Alaska's jobs without duplication of effort and cost.



With an increased awareness to fill Alaska's work gaps, in areas such as health sciences, Alaska Tech Prep provides a sustainable vehicle for growing our own workforce. It's personal. It's engaging. It's Alaskan.

Alaska Tech Prep web site: <http://www.alaska.edu/techprep/>

Alaska Job Center Employment and Training Services

James Harvey, Employment Security Division Assistant Director

The Alaska Job Center Network provides employment and training services through the 23 Alaska Job Centers - or One-Stops - located across the state, including outreach locations and web-based delivery.

Employment and training services include the Wagner-Peyser Employment Services and the Career Support and Training Services, which provide job search, assessment, skills training, recruitment and placement services to Alaska's employers and job seekers.

Online services through ALEXsys provide job matching based on identified industry skills and individual interests. Staff can assist with ALEXsys registration for both employers and jobseekers.

Priority assistance is given to Veterans and targeted assistance provided to unemployed workers, public assistance recipients, laid-off workers, seasonal workers and Alaskans with limited or no work experience.

Staff members also provide case management, employer and jobseeker workshops to help people overcome employment barriers and to promote economic stability.

Job Center staff made more than 500,000 job referrals using ALEXsys during the state fiscal year 2009 (July 2008-June 2009). This is an increase of about 50,000 referrals from the prior year.

Almost 260,000 job seekers visited an Alaska Job Center for services. More than 130,000 Alaskans received employment and training services via the Alaska Job Center Network. This is an increase of almost 16,000 from the prior year.

Training and support services were provided to 942 WIA Adult participants, 749 WIA Dislocated Worker participants and 692 STEP participants.

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AGIA and Apprenticeship Update

Gerry Andrews, Pipeline Training Administrator and Apprenticeship Coordinator

The AWIB Apprenticeship report now includes the Alaska Gas Pipeline Training Plan report. As of January first, I have been tasked with the implementation of the AGIA Training Strategic

Plan. With this, a milestone has been achieved. The Alaska Pipeline Project (TC-Alaska) filed its plan with the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to obtain approval to conduct the first natural gas pipeline open season. It is anticipated that Denali Gas Pipeline will soon follow. Moving forward, we are developing a "pipeline" of skilled Alaskans for a gas pipeline.

The Gasline Training Plan Steering Committee will meet February 24 in Juneau to continue working on the implementation schedule of training for the proposed project. You are encouraged to participate through the AWIB and its committee members. Additional information is available online at http://labor.state.ak.us/AGIA_teams/docs-combined/agiaweb.pdf.

The Apprenticeship Conference and Awards Ceremony will be on April 28 in Anchorage. Registration for the conference and nominations for awards is available online at <http://www.jobs.alaska.gov/apprentice/10apps.html>.

This year's conference was planned to coincide with the Association of Career and Technical Education Region V conference, which is April 27. This was done to highlight a connected Career and Technical Education and workforce development system for Alaska. Please plan to attend both.

The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Office of Apprenticeship has partnered with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities' Office of Civil Rights to develop an outreach campaign presenting the opportunity of apprenticeship to all Alaskans. Information is delivered in over 40 languages. A NANA shareholder highlights the recently developed Core Driller apprenticeship program in Inupiaq, and a recent graduate from Bethel tells of his experience in Yup'ik of completing a Building Maintenance and Repairer apprenticeship. Apprenticeship is available for more than construction - you will see a chef in Anchorage and a young woman who completed the first-of-its-kind surgical technician apprenticeship. I encourage you to check it out online at www.EarnandLearnAk.org

Region V ACTE Conference "On the Trail to Success"

Kathy Andrews, Career and Technical Education Consultant

The Alaska Association for Career and Technical Education is hosting a Region V ACTE Conference April 28-May 1 at the Anchorage Hilton. Registration is now open for the Region V Conference, which includes 18 Western states and territories. This is a great opportunity for CTE professional development and for conversation providing a clearer perspective on CTE in Alaska, the Western region and nationally.

The conference, themed "On the Trail to Success," features Sharon Bowman as the keynote speaker on Thursday. Bowman, a national communications trainer, is an exciting addition to the conference. University of Alaska Anchorage Chancellor Fran Ulmer will speak on Friday. ACTE President Ed Melott and ACTE Executive Director Jan Bray are slated to attend.

Pre-conference opportunities for Wednesday include a session on distance delivery and the free Alaska Apprenticeship Conference, sponsored by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. Space is limited for both activities so pre-registration is required. Reserve a seat now for the Alaska Apprenticeship Conference by registering online <http://www.jobs.state.ak.us/apprentice/10apps.html>.

The ACTE conference starts on Thursday morning and continues until noon on Saturday. The distance delivery training session is also planned for Saturday. CTSO advisor training will be taking place in conjunction with the conference through a grant with the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. Educational tours to the UMed district and career high schools in Anchorage and Mat-Su are also offered. More information is available on the web site.

Alaska ACTE presentations on Thursday and Friday include:

- National Trends and Issues in CTE

- Legal and Ethical Issues in CTE
- Successful Academic Integration and Rigorous Expectations
- Integrated Career Planning
- Partnering for Success
- National Board Certification for CTE Teachers
- On the Trail to Becoming Career Ready
- Technical Assessments in the Western States
- Work Force Ready Systems: Industry-driven Assessments
- CTSOs -- The Trail for Development of Employability and Career Pathways
- Tech Prep: Sharing What Works
- Town Hall Meeting for Distance Delivery
- Apprenticeship and Workforce Development

The registration fee is \$325 for members and \$350 for non-members. After March 1, the registration fee is \$375. The hotel cost is \$99 per night plus tax. Register online at www.actealaska.org. We are welcoming anyone who might want to help with the conference through time or resources.

For more information:

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