



May 2013 e-Newsletter



Associated Equipment Distributors Awards Two \$1,000 Scholarships

Thomas Cliver and **Alex Posegate** are 2013 recipients of \$1,000 tool scholarships from the Associated Equipment Distributors Foundation sponsored by the MikeRoweWorks Foundation.

Both Cliver and Posegate graduated from the AVTEC November 2012 Diesel/Heavy Equipment Technology program.

Cliver works as a mechanic at **NC Caterpillar** in Anchorage (pictured above).

Posegate works as a mechanic at **Jim's Services** in Anchorage. Kent Berklund, AVTEC Department of Applied Technologies Department Head presenting scholarship check and certificate to Alex Posegate (right).



"We're turning out 'success stories' graduates prepared for rewarding, well-paying careers in Alaska," AVTEC Director Fred Esposito said. "Both Thomas and Alex epitomize the AVTEC graduate."

The scholarship honors Mike Rowe, the creator and host of the widely-watched and acclaimed show "Dirty Jobs" on the Discovery Channel.

The MikeRoweWorks Foundation awarded \$1,000 tool scholarships to top diesel/equipment technology students at each of AED's 24 Accredited and Alliance colleges. Scholarship winners are general or manufacturer diesel/equipment program college student graduates who earned the highest cumulative GPAs at the end of their school terms.

AVTEC is the only AED accredited institute in Alaska.



2013 Chenega, Tatitlek Students Explore Careers at AVTEC

AVTEC and the Chugach School District have wrapped up another successful academic training relationship for the 2013 school year.

This year, both the Chenega and Tatitlek high school students were involved in extensive cold water survival and basic fire fighting training presented by AVTEC Maritime staff. This emergency survival curriculum was delivered in three different mediums offering a variety of learning opportunities for the young students.

The grand finale was the annual AVTEC Career Camp at AVTEC in March when six students from Chenega Bay High School and Tatitlek High School visited AVTEC as part of the "**Chenega Voyage to Excellence.**"

Through a partnership between the **Chenega Corporation, AVTEC** and the **Chugach School District**, the Chenega Bay students experienced a week of post-secondary vocational technical training.

Training started in November with three interactive "distance delivered" webinars. The course curriculum delivered was an introduction to Basic Safety Training Techniques modeled after AVTEC's U.S. Coast Guard approved class.

"The students seem to really enjoy the webinars and it prepared them for the onsite visit from one of AVTEC's Maritime instructors," **AVTEC Maritime Instructor Terry Federer** said.

In January and February an AVTEC Maritime instructor flew to Tatitlek and Chenega and spent two days in each of the community schools. During those two days, the high school students received detail instruction on cold water survival and other related emergency topics. The course delivery was a combination of lecture and hands-on practice.

Some of the topics discussed were the seven steps of survival, types of emergencies, types of personal flotation devices, hypothermia, cold water near-drowning and many others. Most discussions were followed by hands-on practice such as donning an immersion suit and inflating a life raft. The combination of lecture and practical practice made for a fun learning experience for all.

The Chenega/Tatitlek AVTEC Career Camp was held in March. The students were immersed in the program of choice - one chosen from one of the 17 different career fields AVTEC offers - which provided hands-on classroom exposure. "These youth felt like AVTEC students by the end of the week," **AVTEC Director Fred Esposito** said.

Both groups of students were able to meet with career counselors about jobs and training programs at AVTEC. Students were also able to take the AVTEC entrance exam "TABE" test and driver's license test. Friday's fire fighting practical session seemed to be the highlight of the week for the youth and a great finale to the Chenega/Tatitlek Career Camp.



AVTEC Acquires New Simulation Databases for Southeast Alaska

AVTEC's Alaska Maritime Training Center recently acquired three new Southeast Alaska databases for its ship simulator.

The new database covers the ports and waterways of Skagway, Lynn Canal, Glacier Bay, Icy Straights, Sentinel Island, Juneau, Gastineau Channel, Tracey Arm, Endicott Arm, Stephens Passage, Hawk Inlet, Peril Straights, and Sitka.

Four Marine Pilots from Southeast Alaska Pilots' Association spent a week in Seward preparing for the summer season. They are the first users of this new capability, according to **Mike Angove**, AMTC's simulator technician.

"The ship simulator is a great tool for the pilots to hone their skills because several transits can be made under various environmental conditions in a single day," **Angove** said. "The new areas look real and are very accurate."

According to the pilots, the simulator is a world-class training asset available in Alaska.

SEAPA funded the \$39,000 large custom Southeast Alaska simulation from Kongsberg. The grant was also used to provide a production studio so AMTC can build and maintain these databases.

Funding from **Southwest Alaska Pilots Association** and **Alaska Marine Pilots** allowed Angove to attend a Kongsberg training course in Connecticut. Angove then completed simulations for Skagway and Glacier Bay.

Captain Larry Vose, a member of SEAPA and AMTC's Maritime Advisory Board, spent a week in Seward vetting the new areas and building realistic exercises.

AMTC plans to create simulations of Cordova, Dutch Harbor, Acutan, Port Angeles, and to reconstruct several existing simulations.



Alaska Culinary Association Awards Student Scholarship

AVTEC culinary student **Evan Dunaway** was awarded a scholarship from the **Alaska Culinary Association**. The ACA awards four \$1,000 scholarships per year. The award was presented Saturday, April 13 at the Alaska Culinary Association's annual gala at the University Alaska Anchorage Cuddy Hall.

"Congratulations to Evan Dunaway on this recognition," said **Elizabeth Johnston**, head of AVTEC's Alaska Culinary Academy in Seward.