

RESOLUTION NUMBER 17-04
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

WHEREAS, the Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB) is an industry-driven public organization comprised of representatives from business and industry, education, organized labor, and government; and

WHEREAS, the AWIB is a public organization that is accountable through its members and staff to the residents, the Legislature, and the Governor of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the AWIB shall act as the lead state planning and coordinating entity for state programs involving employment training, workforce development, and career, technical, and vocational education; and

WHEREAS, the AWIB recognizes that Alaska must have a highly skilled, trained, and educated workforce for a strong economy, stable employment rates, and healthy communities; and

WHEREAS, secondary Career and Technical Education (CTE) plays a crucial role in developing Alaska's workforce, because it provides students with career information, technical abilities, industry certifications, and employability skills in preparation for a successful transition into a variety of post-high school options including Registered Apprenticeships, two-year or higher degree programs, occupational endorsement or industry certification programs, and direct employment; and

WHEREAS, secondary school systems continue to expand programs such as school-to-apprenticeship, tech prep, dual credit and concurrent enrollment, school-to-work, academies, intensives, and Career and Technical Student Organizations as successful delivery models for CTE; and

WHEREAS, offering CTE in secondary schools increases student retention and graduation rates, facilitates the advancement of students to postsecondary and higher education, and prepares students for careers in the Alaska work place; and

WHEREAS, CTE is an inclusive program for all individuals and it will help reach the state's "65 by 2025" goal of increasing the percentage of Alaskans who received a postsecondary credential, certificate, college degree, or another post-secondary certification; and

WHEREAS, many Alaskan high demand jobs require skilled workers with experience and post-secondary vocational training offered through CTE; and,

WHEREAS, postsecondary Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs are delivered by a variety of training entities in Alaska, including the university system, regional training centers, Joint Apprenticeship Training Centers, private training providers, Tribal colleges, and employers; and

WHEREAS, the AWIB understands that the public policy discussion around education should focus on a broad suite of post-secondary options for students that includes, but is not limited to, a four year college degree program; and

Whereas *Alaska's Education Challenge* is a comprehensive analysis and reevaluation of Alaska's system of public education; and

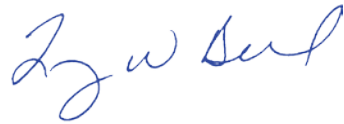
WHEREAS, the AWIB supports *Alaska's Education Challenge* and the goal of preparing every Alaska student and their family to know about and be prepared for all post-high school options and careers;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Workforce Investment Board urges participants in *Alaska's Education Challenge* and Alaska's policy makers to recognize education and training as core foundational components to Alaska's future, and acknowledge the critical role CTE plays in student success, and furthermore as a result support expansion of the number and availability of CTE opportunities for Alaska's students.

CERTIFICATION

The Alaska Workforce Investment Board held a meeting duly and regularly called, noticed, and convened this 23rd day of May 2017 and the foregoing Resolution was adopted unanimously at said meeting.

Signed this 23rd day of May 2017.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Larry Bell".

Larry Bell, Chair
Alaska Workforce Investment Board