



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**Alaska Workforce Investment Board
Youth Council Committee Report
October 23, 2007**

The Youth Council has worked diligently on the challenges identified by board at the May, 2007 meeting in Juneau. The work of the Youth Council in the fall of 2006 was very helpful in setting a direction for the activity. Participants were divided up by industry membership. We introduced the idea of “driving forces” and gave an overview for the exercise. Todd Bergman, Youth Council Ex-Officio member and Karen Rogina of the Hospitality Alliance led the exercise.

Participants were asked to brainstorm the issues they felt must be addressed. They were directed to write their thoughts on the sticky notes and place them on the tables in front of the room. Sticky notes were then grouped in “like” categories and challenges were identified. AWIB asked the Youth Council to address the following challenge:

“Uninspired youth lack vision for their future”

The following priorities were identified as possible paths to meet this challenge:

- Develop European model of apprenticeship for careers in high school including:
 - Support in career planning
 - Develop a college of applied technology in Alaska
 - Teach youth about basic employability and life skills (finances, teamwork, problem solving, work ethic)
 - Link programs at the secondary level for “At -Risk” youth – example, link between SAT or after school program
 - Education of parents regarding vocational education training opportunities
 - Expand, improve, career counseling in school, not just college
 - Keep kids in Junior High and High school in after schooling training

On May 30th, 2007 the youth council chair, Tim Scott contacted all youth council members with the results of the AWIB “Challenge/Priority” activity. Mr. Scott established an “IMMEDIATE TASK” to establish priorities to meet this challenge. He set the mechanism to meet the “IMMEDIATE TASK”... participate in the online survey to prioritize the AWIB paths to meet the challenge. He set a “TIMELINE” ...a seven-day

turn around on an online survey. And, he established that the "FOLLOW-UP" activity to the survey would be notifying members of results that would drive a timetable with themes for our quarterly teleconferences by June 15th.

On May 31 Youth Council members were asked to prioritize the eight items generated by AWIB by choosing three statements. They were allowed to have one of their statements to be their own as recorded in an "other" box. After they chose three statements they were to rank them. 3, 2, 1. "#3" should correspond with the statement they wanted to give the most weight. In short they were to:

1. Discard away three of the eight statements;
2. Rank the other three - 3, 2, 1; and
3. Giving "3" getting the most weight when calculating the results.

By June, the survey results were submitted and the priorities were established as follows;

1. Teach youth about basic employability and life skills (finances, teamwork, problem solving, and work ethic).
2. Expand, improve, career counseling in school, not just college.
3. Educate parents regarding vocational education training opportunities.

In June the results were published and the Youth Council discussed via email teleconference dates. The Youth Council by-laws were reviewed and teleconference schedule was set at the July 9 meeting. The teleconference schedule is:

- August 15, 2007
- November 15, 2007
- February 15, 2008
- May 15, 2008

Prior to the meeting in August, Youth Council members reviewed their scope of duties via e-mail and tested WebX, an online method of sharing one computer's display with others via the internet.

Since the meeting in August the three adhoc committee chairs were chosen and all Youth Council members are assigned to committees. The three adhoc committees are:

1. Work Keys (review/recommendations/comments)
Dr. M.H. Longley, Chair
David Kvasager (DOL)
Melissa Hill, Alaska Teacher Placement
Helen Mehrkens, (EED)
Jim Seccombe, BP
Todd Bergman, Mt. Edgecumbe

2. Youth Participation Recommendations
Andre Layrel, Chair
Jennifer Jones, Alaska Works Initiative
Frank Blakeney, Alaska Hospitality Alliance
Alex P. Tatum, Parent Community Member
Heidi Frost, University of Alaska Anchorage

3. Youth Program Awards
Dave Robinson, Chair
Margie Germain-Antrim (DOL)
Job Doubllass, Job Corps
Diedre Bailey, (DOL)

All adhoc committees' work is to be directed to the Youth Council #1 Priority, "Teach youth about basic employability and life skills". The Ad hoc committees are to have their final reports to Youth Council Chair by October 15th.