



**Labor Exchange Program Participants (1/1/2009 to 12/31/2009)**

Registered Participants .....	148,406
Total Veterans and Transitional Service Member (TSM) Participants .....	15,495
Total Youth Participants.....	3,862
Number of Participants that Entered Employment .....	34,565
Retained Employment at Six Months .....	47,056
Total Job Openings Received from Employers .....	47,868
Daily Customers Served in Job Center Resource Rooms .....	291,249

**Career Support & Training Services Participants (1/1/2009 to 12/31/2009)**

**Workforce Investment Act (WIA)**

**Adult**

Total Adults .....	4,926
Entered Employment Rate (Adults) .....	81%
Credential and Employment Rate (Adults).....	63.9%
Six-Month Retention Rate (Adults) .....	78.6%
Six-Month Average Earning (Adults) .....	\$16,594

**Dislocated Worker**

Total Dislocated Workers.....	782
Entered Employment Rate (Dislocated Worker) .....	76%
Credential and Employment Rate (Dislocated Worker) .....	68%
Six-Month Retention Rate (Dislocated Worker) .....	80.6%
Six-Month Average Earning (Dislocated Worker) .....	\$22,505

**State Training and Employment Program (STEP)**

Total Participants .....	805
Total Exiters .....	293

**Pipeline Training (PLT)**

Total Participants .....	160
Total Exiters .....	75

Source Alaska Job Center Performance Data, DOLWD

## Current Projects

### Youth First Activities

The Employment Security Division (ESD) Career Guides and other Youth First Grantees from across the state came together for the 2010 Youth Training Conference that was held in Anchorage from February 2 to February 19, 2010. The Career Guides were able to share best practices, discuss reporting procedures, and learn about more effective ways to deliver services to youth and young adults statewide.

In February, an Anchorage employer, the US Department of Labor Office for Apprenticeships, and the Anchorage Youth Hiring Center (AYHC) Career Guides signed off on an 8,000-hour commercial carpenter apprenticeship program with a school-to-apprenticeship linkage. This is the first carpenter apprenticeship program of its kind in the Anchorage School District. The AYHC Health Care Career Guide facilitated the meeting of the Health Career Academy Team in February. She will be involved with the Health Care Career Fair set for April 21 in Anchorage.

The Ketchikan Career Guide was a guest on First City Forum, a public service spot on the Ketchikan local AM radio station. First City Forum reaches a large percentage of the listening population – about 40 percent according to the station manager, which would be approximately 6,000 people. This is a great way to get information out to the community about services provided by the Career Guides.

The Kodiak Career Guide established a Facebook group called “Kodiak Job Center – Youth Hiring”. The group already has 30 Kodiak youth registered on the site. In February, the Career Guide was interviewed on the local public radio station advertising the Kodiak Regional Construction Academy training. The academy began on March 22 and will run through April 16, 2010.

During the period July 2009 through February 2010, ESD Career Guides statewide have provided 15,290 services to 4,652 youth and 875 adults, which include teachers, administrators, community leaders, and parents. They placed 190 youth in full-time or part-time employment, apprenticeships, or internships. They also established 86 partnerships in their respective areas successfully collaborating with school districts, non-profit organizations, and the private sector.

### Veteran Program Activities

Transition Assistance Program (TAP) seminars are specifically designed to prepare service members for military-to-civilian transition and prepare them to obtain employment, as well as to provide them information, referrals and increased access to resources that can help them during their transition. We conduct a series of TAP seminars on Eielson AFB, Elmendorf AFB, Fort Wainwright, Fort Richardson, and US Coast Guard Stations in Kodiak, Ketchikan, Valdez and Juneau.

There is an increased demand for the TAP seminars this year due to the number of returning and transitioning service members. During the quarter ending March 2010, we conducted 19 seminars for 790 attendees. This is an increase from the 14 seminars held during the fall of 2009 for 371 attendees.

During the next quarter, ending in June 2010, there are twenty-one TAP seminars scheduled and more will be conducted if requested. To successfully accomplish this, our staff work collaboratively with the transition assistance offices on the various military bases.

ESD hosted a veterans' program training session in Anchorage during the first week of March titled "Leadership for the Implementation of Veterans' Services (LIVS)". Two trainers from the National Veterans Training Institute (NVTI) of the National Learning Center in Denver, Colorado presented the program.

The LIVS training focused on the legislation surrounding programs of employment and training services designed for veterans. Topics included Priority of Service for veterans in all Department of Labor funded programs, integration and measurement tools.

There were 25 individuals from across the state that attended and were presented certificates of completion by the NVTI instructors. Attendees included an Assistant Director, managers, program administrators and veterans' representatives. The training was very insightful and gave a good overview of the DVOP and LVER duties in the Job Centers and how to better implement the programs.

### **Reemployment Services**

Reemployment Services (RES) are the comprehensive on-line and in-person employment and training resources specifically designed for Unemployment Insurance (UI) claimants offered through the Alaska Job Center Network (AJCN).

The RES Voluntary Orientation and Career Tracks went live on March 10, 2010 via Alaska Labor Exchange System (ALEXsys) to all UI claimants. Since that date, 933 UI claimants completed the online Mandatory RES orientation, and 3,837 have voluntarily completed the RES Orientation or Career Tracks.

A RES press release is in the final stages of composition and should go to press within the week. Also, 100,000 RES postcards are being printed and will be mailed by mid-April to UI claimants residing in Alaska. The first run will reach back to recipients who filed for UI benefits as of March 1 of this year, and will reach around 27,000 UI recipients; subsequent runs will be sent weekly and are expected to reach about 2,000 UI recipients each run.

### **Alaska Career Ready**

A National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) is a credential awarded to an individual based on the results of the three WorkKeys® assessments: Applied Math, Reading for Information, & Locating Information. During the last quarter, there were 55 individuals who earned their NCRC. Of the certificates earned, there were 28 Gold level certificates and 27 Silver level certificates.

Career Ready 101 located in 23 of our job centers, is a courseware that provides self-paced and instructor-led lessons, automated course calendaring methodology, and combines all WorkKeys® skills, comprehensive soft skills and life-literacy skills in one self-contained system. During this quarter there were 1,243 new individuals enrolled in the courseware for a total of 5,340 active individuals using Career Ready 101.

## **Profiling**

To help employers understand the value of the NCRC and use WorkKeys assessments as a recruiting and hiring tool, the Department designated a staff member of the Employment and Training Technical Unit to be an ACT certified job profiler. Currently the job profiler is working with a private employer to profile a Field Service Technician I job and she profiling the Employment Security Specialist I, which is a State job classification specific to ESD.

Outreach and education material has been developed for the Job Center Business Connection staff to use when working with employers. Generally, the approach begins with profiling a job, or even an apprenticeship program. The profile sets the level of foundational skills required to be ready for the job or apprenticeship program. Many employers and apprenticeship programs reported that by having the job or program profiled, there were lower attrition rates, more apprentices completing training programs, increased loyalty to employers, and a common language for schools, businesses and unions.

## **Apprenticeship**

The Office of Apprenticeship worked with an apprenticeship specialist on a new eLearning course that is available through NAPA for the occupation of automotive technician. This program is available to any employer, it is affordable and comprehensive. The first program has already been registered. The employer will purchase a one-year license that allows them to enroll up to 15 employees in the program. The employer will be able to assign and track the progress of these individuals. This program has training materials for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certifications and a needs assessment to evaluate the knowledge of the employees to know at what level to enroll them.

As earlier mentioned under the Youth First Program, a new School-to-Apprenticeship program was launched in the largest school district in the state with an employer that has just recently registered a program with USDOL. The first high school student has already begun as an apprentice while completing his last semester in high school. The construction classes that he is taking will count towards his related technical instruction and the hours he is accumulating on-the-job will count towards his program.

A new program supported this quarter is Project Jump Start, which is a partnership with the University of Alaska system and Alaska Vocational Training Center that is supporting nine journey level workers with tuition assistance. The purpose of Project Jump Start is to prepare skilled journey workers for positions as supervisors and instructors. They are enrolled into pre-selected courses for the Apprenticeship Technologies program that will guide them to an Associates of Applied Science degree.

### **Apprenticeship – Employer Outcomes**

ESD supported pre-apprenticeship training this quarter for an employer that operates an underground mine. A recent assessment identified that incumbent maintenance and utility technicians were deficient in welding skills; emphasis was on welding safety, recognizing welding hazards, and the value of safety planning and implementation. The pre-apprenticeship training may lead to several apprenticeable occupations within this industry. The training was a comprehensive 5-day program with emphasis on hands-on training. ESD has focused resources with attention to the mining industry because of the diverse occupations within the industry that are apprenticeable. Through the use of pre-apprenticeship training

ESD has established a positive working relationship with the mining industry that should be evidenced by the addition of new registered apprenticeship programs. This past year 2 programs have already been registered. ESD will continue to educate the mining community on the value of using registered apprenticeship as a proven method of building their workforce.

ESD has had a long-standing relationship with Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (JATC) program coordinators. When funds are available and there is a need, we have provided support to union apprentices. This quarter the support was unique in that seven new Plumber & Pipefitter apprentices received support for purchase of Arctic gear, which is a necessity for working on the North Slope. They could not accept dispatch orders unless they had the proper winter clothing. All successfully completed their first year classroom instruction and went directly to work in high paying positions on the North Slope as a result of this support. The Division also continues to provide wage-incentives to new employers that are sponsored by unions as this has been a very successful collaboration. Through this incentive, the union business managers have been able to work towards the development of a new workforce that has the structured training of JATC.

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