



**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

**Alaska Workforce Investment Board
Youth Council Report
May 4, 2010**

The Youth Council has met twice since the February 2010 AWIB meeting. The dates are March 17th and April 21st but business could not be conducted, at either meeting, as there were not enough members present for a quorum. The Youth Council's yearly Face to Face meeting was scheduled for May 11, 2010 but has been postponed to September.

Anchorage School District

Andre Layral in conjunction with Helen Mehrkens (DEED) and Jeff Selvey (DOLWD) sent a questionnaire to 233 individual active members of the Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals (AASSP). These included K-12 principals, assistant principals, middle school principals, and high school principals. In addition, 240 invitations were sent to statewide schools (some of which are not members of AASSP). A letter was sent to 53 school district superintendents to encourage survey participation from their principals. This questionnaire solicited information on what services, resources, etc. are provided to their individual students. Questions were asked regarding career and technical education as well.

Vacant Seats

There are several vacant seats open on the Youth Council. A list is being compiled of possible replacements. A talking points document along with a questionnaire has been created for members to open dialog with interested parties.

Presentation

APICC (Alaska Process Industry Careers Consortium) has created a priority occupations list for oil, gas, and mining industries. This document, located on their website, is divided into three tiers. Tier one lists occupations in shortage, tier two lists those occupations that are increasingly difficult to fill and tier three list occupations that are essential but not difficult to fill.

One initiative (on the education side) they are working on is their Process and Energy Industries 'Mobile Briefcase'. This is a training unit which will be sent out to rural areas. Donations have been received from BP, ASRC, Shell, and Pebble Partnerships. This unit will give hands-on occupational/career lessons in oil, gas process operators, pump station managers, power plant operators, water treatment operators, mine mill operators, instrument

and control technicians, mechanics, millwrights, electricians, and roustabouts. They hope to have this unit done this summer.

A second initiative is Alaska Secondary Academy. An MOU was signed with DEED and DOLWD to put engineering academies into Alaska's high schools. They are working on obtaining the grants to get this project going.

An occupational initiative is Teacher Industry Externships (TIE). Grant monies come from Youth First. Teachers (25 for this year) are selected to be trained in areas within the process industries for which they have little to no knowledge of. Teachers are placed with industry hosts for two weeks during the summer and receive 3 continuing education credits. This is so they can be more prepared to engage students. An example was Exxon taking the teacher to a North Slope facility for training. The deadline for teachers to apply was March 8, 2010. They were searching for more rural applicants.

Presentation

Beth Nordlund, Executive Director, of the Anchorage Park Foundation gave a presentation on 'Youth Employment in Parks'. They hire teens ages 16-19 each summer along with older youth to act in leadership roles. They recruit youth from all over Anchorage (H.S. job fairs, Natural Resources job fairs, etc) for a 10 week program and pay \$9.00 per hour. These youth work on the municipalities 223 parks on water ways, trails, and forestry. Last season the youth hired spoke 12 different languages. This is the foundations 4th summer and they have 108 partner agencies. Funding sources include Rasmussen Foundation, US Forest Service, US Fish & Wildlife, Community Lands Trust, and Youth 1st. The final week of work for the youth is considered 'Mentor Week'. This could be a learning week or service week i.e. resume's, financial literacy, career paths, etc. Each youth hired receives Red Cross and safety training.

The Anchorage Park Foundation hired 80 youth last year but anticipate on 30 this year due to resources. They would love to partner again with DOLWD. Their website is located at <http://www.anchorageparkfoundation.org>