



**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

**Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Alaska Workforce Investment Board**

**Executive Director's Report
July 9, 2008**

AWIB staff have been busy following up on work resulting from the May AWIB Board Retreat and Business Meeting and moving forward with committee work. We are having difficulty with attendance and establishing a quorum at some committee meetings. So, I would like to encourage your participation and commitment at the committee level as your input is valuable to the AWIB.

On June 17th an Executive Committee meeting was held and several issues that came out of the May AWIB Retreat and Business Meeting were reviewed. A board retreat Action Tracker was sent to all AWIB members identifying issues covered at the Board Retreat and the corresponding committee referrals and timeline for completion. The structure and responsibilities of committees were reviewed and it was decided that the four standing committees would remain merged into two to include the Workforce Readiness/Employment Placement and Policy Planning/ Assessment and Evaluation Committees. However, there would be four co-chairs who will serve on the Executive Committee. In addition, there was discussion of revisions to the AWIB Statute and by-laws regarding the eligibility requirements for the nominations of chair and vice-chair for the AWIB. The consensus was that staff would begin revisions to the AWIB by-laws and pursue a Statute revision next legislative session, but that nominations for officers would be limited to representatives of business and industry for the October election.

On July 8th an Executive Committee meeting was held and changes to the AWIB by-laws including revisions to Article VI Officers and Election of Officers, Article VIII Attendance, and Article IX Delegates and Designees were approved and will be placed on the October AWIB agenda for review by the full board. Three federal waivers were approved by the AWIB including Employer Contributions for Customized Training and On the Job Training, Implementation of Subsequent Eligibility of Training Providers, and Incumbent Worker Training. The Executive Committee acknowledged the process for AWIB resolutions going forward will involve a cover letter to the Governor and Commissioner from the Chair, including a copy of the resolution and recommended action.

The FY 09 AWIB budget was reviewed which includes funding for a new Education Specialist II position. The AWIB is currently recruiting for the Education Specialist II position on Workplace Alaska which closes on July 17th. The position will be working on implementation of the vocational education strategies contained in the AGIA Training Strategic Plan, developing and implementing a state initiative for career

pathways, working with the Department of Education and Early Development in developing a template for career plans and supporting the use of the Career Ready Certificate by students, workers, and employers, and organizing business and education consortia to development industry standards for training programs.

I attended a portion of the DACUM (Developing a Curriculum) for the Core Driller occupation in the mining industry facilitated by John Hakala from the U.S. Office of Apprenticeship, Gerry Andrews, State Apprenticeship Coordinator, and Dennis Steffy, from the University of Alaska Mining and Petroleum Training Service (MAPTS) held at the University of Alaska in Anchorage. The DACUM utilized the expertise of six highly experienced veterans in mineral exploration drilling in developing the curriculum. The development of this curriculum will allow the University to design a course of study for the Core Driller occupation leading to a workforce certificate. The training program will assist in addressing the workforce development needs of the mining industry and promote local hire in Alaska.

A Task Force was appointed by the Commissioner to review the State Training and Employment Program (STEP) and will make its report with recommendations to the AWIB by the end of August. Three AWIB members are serving on the STEP Task Force including Doug Ward, Fred Villa, and Linda Hulbert. The report will be reviewed by the AWIB at our next meeting scheduled for October 27th and 28th in Fairbanks.

Two new members were appointed to the AWIB within the last month. John MacKinnon was appointed by Governor Palin to the AWIB in June. John is the Executive Director of Associated General Contractors (AGC) of Alaska and brings several years of experience in both the public and private sector in Alaska. Bill Hogan, the Acting Commissioner of the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), has requested Kathryn Craft serve as the DHSS designee on the AWIB. Kathryn brings several years of experience in the public health care sector in Alaska. John and Kathryn will both be serving on the Workforce Readiness and Employment & Placement Committee. Please welcome our new members to the AWIB!

The next AWIB meeting will be held in Fairbanks at the University of Alaska in the Board of Regents Conference Room on Monday, October 27th and Tuesday, October 28th. A draft agenda will be developed over the next few months for review by the Executive Committee. Rooms have been reserved at the Westmark Hotel in Fairbanks and we will begin contacting board members to make reservations once the agenda has been approved by the Executive Committee.

Committees

- A meeting with all Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) has been tentatively scheduled for Thursday, July 17th at 10:00 a.m.

- The next Policy Planning/Assessment & Evaluation Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 24th at 10:00 a.m.
- The next Workforce Readiness/Employment & Placement Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 7th at 10:00 a.m.
- The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 12th at 10:00 a.m.

Status of Current Projects

- Draft by-laws were prepared by staff in response to recommendations from the board retreat and the Policy Planning/Assessment & Evaluation Committee to revise Article VI regarding officers and elections of officers, Article VIII regarding attendance, and Article IX regarding delegates and designees. The Executive Committee approved the revisions to the by-laws and they will be placed on the October AWIB agenda for review by the full board.
- The Executive Committee approved and adopted the AWIB Blueprint as a foundational piece for the AWIB training plan template. The Workforce Readiness/Employment & Placement Committee will begin working on the implementation phase to develop a training plan template that can be used for all the AWIB's priority industries in Alaska.

AGIA Training Strategic Plan

An electronic copy of the most recent draft of the AGIA Training Strategic Plan is available at http://www.labor.state.ak.us/AGIA_teams/docs-combined/agiaweb.pdf.

DOL AGIA Website

AGIA Resource Documents are located at labor.state.ak.us/agia%5Fteams/.

AWIB Website

A new Photo Gallery icon has been created on the AWIB website at <http://www.labor.state.ak.us/awib/photos.htm> that will be updated with pictures of each board meeting.