



**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

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

**Executive Director's Report
August 23, 2011**

The last year has been a busy one for the Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB), and staff to the AWIB have been working on several initiatives, including implementation of the strategies of the Gasline Training Strategic Plan, publishing of a statewide Career and Technical Education (CTE) Plan, meeting with Regional Training Centers, and implementation of a Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency (RE/EE) Workforce Development Plan. The AWIB, in partnership with the Employment Security Division and partner agencies submitted four grant applications over the last year, and was awarded two grants including \$150,000 for a planning grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and a \$2,727,000 training grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to improve education, training and employment opportunities of youth and adults who are unemployed and/or receiving Social Security disability benefits. This report includes a detailed timeline and summary of work completed by the AWIB, the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD), partner departments and agencies, and staff to the AWIB from August 1, 2010 to date.

In August of 2010, the Alaska CTE Plan was published and distributed to the AWIB, DOLWD, Department of Education & Early Development, University of Alaska, AVTEC, and school districts statewide. The AWIB, State Board of Education, and Board of Regents approved the Alaska CTE Plan and supported implementation of the strategies contained in the Plan. The plan identifies strategies, key action steps and a timeline for monitoring progress of the State CTE Plan, the mission of CTE within Alaska's education and workforce development systems, and the status of new and ongoing CTE initiatives and partnerships.

In August of 2010, the AWIB, in partnership with the Employment Security Division, submitted an application for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Health and Profession Opportunity Grants to Serve TANF Recipients and Other Low-Income Individuals in the amount of \$2,650,000. The application proposed to provide eligible individuals with the opportunity to obtain education and training for occupations in the health care field that pay well and are expected to either experience labor shortages or be in high demand. The training grant application proposed to prepare participants for employment and advancement in health care occupations and provide support services as needed utilizing career and technical education, on-the-job training, registered apprenticeship, technical and vocational training institutions, and four-year colleges and universities to meet the needs of Alaska's health care industry employers. On September 28, 2010 we were informed that we did not receive an award for this training grant. However, the Employment Security Division and AVTEC will be working with the Cook Inlet Tribal Council who received a training grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for TANF recipients.

On September 28, 2010 the AWIB, in partnership with the Employment Security Division, was awarded a planning grant in the amount of \$150,000 as part of the State Health Care Workforce Development grant program authorized by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS),

acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA). The AWIB application proposed to complete the comprehensive health care workforce development planning begun in 2009 by the Alaska Health Workforce Coalition, which led to the development of the Alaska Health Workforce Plan adopted by the AWIB as a model for health care training in Alaska at the board meeting held on May 3, 2010 under Resolution No. 10-02. The AWIB proposed to continue this planning effort through to final action planning. In order to satisfy membership requirements and to carry out grant-funded planning activities, the members from the AWIB required by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) statute engaged with the Alaska Health Workforce Coalition, Laborer's Local 341, and the Alaska AFL-CIO to further develop the Alaska Health Workforce Plan.

On September 29, 2010 the AWIB, in partnership with the Employment Security Division, was awarded a Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment Training Administration in the amount of \$2,727,000 to improve education, training and employment opportunities and outcomes of youth and adults who are unemployed and/or receiving Social Security disability benefits. Alaska was one of nine states to receive an award under the DEI, and partner agencies include the One Stop Job Centers, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Division of Public Assistance and Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education.

On October 6, 2010, an Alaska State Energy Sector Partnership (ASESP) meeting was held to receive an update from the DOLWD on the ASEP training grants through project operator agreements and review the proposed RFP process and timeline. The training grants will increase the supply of workers with energy-efficiency skills to support energy efficient end user technology and the hydroelectric, wind turbine, geothermal, and biomass industries in Alaska. The ASEP Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency Workforce Development Plan was also reviewed by the AWIB Executive Committee on October 12, 2010 with a recommendation to approve and forward to the AWIB for review at the October meeting.

On October 13, 2010 the ASEP Grant Process Committee met to review the proposed RFP process for training grants related to the renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors with a target application period to begin on October 26, 2010. An update on the RFP process and training grants to date was provided to the AWIB at the October board meeting in Fairbanks.

On October 19th and 20th, 2010 a meeting with the Regional Training Centers was held in Anchorage to review the Gasline Training Plan, State CTE Plan, TVEP funding, University of Alaska education and training programs, and the Alaska Performance Scholarship program.

On October 25th and 26th, 2010 the AWIB meeting was held at the University of Alaska, Board of Regents Conference Room in Fairbanks. The agenda included an update on the Gasline Training Plan, State CTE Plan and Implementation, Regional Training Centers, Regional Advisory Councils, Health Workforce Development Plan, and Alaska State Energy Sector Partnership (ASESP). Time was allocated on the agenda for board discussion and an update from the Executive Committee on two face to face meetings held over the summer. The AWIB conducted an election of officers and Jim Lynch was elected Chair, and Michelle Zenger elected Vice-Chair. Nominations for the Secondary Career and Technical Education (CTE) Instructor/Administrator of the Year and Post-Secondary CTE Instructor/Administrator of the Year were opened on

October 28, 2010. An update on the ASESP training grants for Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency (RE/EE) industries, including hydroelectric, wind turbine, biomass, geothermal, and weatherization was provided to the AWIB. The 2011 AWIB Calendar was finalized and AWIB meetings were scheduled for February 22nd and 23rd, 2011 in Juneau, May 24th and 25th, 2011 at AVTEC in Seward, and October 25th and 26th, 2011 in Fairbanks.

On October 25, 2010 the AWIB passed Resolution No. 10-04 adopting and recommending the Alaska State Energy Sector Renewable Energy Sector Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency Workforce Development Plan. An update on the Request for Grant Application (RGA) process for the ASESP training grants related to projects in the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RE/EE) sectors was provided to the AWIB. On October 27, 2010 the ASESP Request for Grant Proposal period was opened seeking competitive grant applications for training in RE/EE industries, including hydroelectric, wind turbine, biomass, geothermal, and weatherization. The AWIB was informed that competitive grant application reviews would be conducted for applications received on January 18, 2011 and April 18, 2011.

On October 27, 2010 the Gasline Steering Committee meeting was held at the Fairbanks Pipeline Training Center to review the Gasline Training Plan implementation schedule to date, project/manpower updates from Denali and TransCanada, workforce training needs from oil and gas industry employers, manpower updates from the pipeline crafts, a training providers report, and updates related to budget, research and analysis, and updated timeline for the Gasline Training Plan.

On February 22nd and 23rd, 2011 the AWIB meeting was held at Centennial Hall in Juneau. The agenda included an update on the Gasline Training Plan, State CTE Plan and Implementation, Regional Training Centers, Regional Advisory Councils, Health Workforce Development Plan, Disability Employment Initiative training grant, and activities of the Alaska State Energy Sector Partnership (ASESP). The AWIB passed three resolutions, including Resolution No. 11-01 to adopt and recommend the Alaska Performance Scholarship, Resolution No. 11-03 to Reduce Non-Resident Hire, and Resolution No. 11-04 in support of Alaska Engineering Academies. Commissioner Bishop and Chair Lynch presented Raymond Jensen from Wasilla High School with the Secondary Career and Technical Education (CTE) Instructor/Administrator of the Year award and Roger Hohl from AVTEC with the Post-Secondary CTE Instructor/Administrator of the Year award. The AWIB was given an update on the HRSA planning grant, DEI training grant, and ASESP training grant.

The AWIB was given an update on the \$150,000 planning grant received from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) that is being utilized to complete further development of the Alaska Health Workforce Plan adopted by the AWIB in May 2010. The planning grant deliverables include, 1) Analyze State labor market information in order to create health care career pathways for students and adults, including dislocated workers; 2) Identify current and projected high demand State or regional health care sectors for purposes of planning career pathways; 3) Identify existing Federal, State, and private resources to recruit, educate or train, and retain a skilled health care workforce and strengthen partnerships; 4) Describe the academic and health care industry skill standards for high school graduation, for entry into postsecondary education, and for various credentials and licensure; 5) Describe State secondary and post secondary education and training policies, models

or practices for the health care sector, including career information and guidance counseling; and 6) Identify Federal or State policies or rules to developing a coherent and comprehensive health care workforce development strategy and barriers and plan to resolve these barriers.

An update was given to the AWIB on the Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) training grant received from the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment Training Administration in the amount of \$2,727,000 to improve education, training and employment opportunities and outcomes of youth and adults who are unemployed and/or receiving Social Security disability benefits. To enhance coordination for the implementation of the DEI training grant, Rich Sanders from the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education is working closely with Louise Dean in the AWIB Office, and the Employment Security Division to implement the training grant. Training and site accessibility assessments have been conducted at the Juneau, Anchorage Midtown & Muldoon, Ketchikan, Sitka, Kenai, Homer, Mat-Su, and Fairbanks Job Centers. The Kodiak, Seward, Dillingham, Barrow and Bethel Job Centers will have site accessibility assessments and training conducted before the end of FY 11.

An update was given to the AWIB on the ASESP grants awarded for training in Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency (RE/EE) industries, including hydroelectric, wind turbine, biomass, geothermal, and weatherization will be provided to the AWIB. The first competitive grant application reviews were conducted for applications received by the January 18, 2011 deadline. The request for grant application is open continuously until all funds available under the grant solicitation have been awarded.

On February 24, 2011 a Gasline Steering Committee meeting was held at Centennial Hall in Juneau. The committee reviewed the Gasline Training Plan and implementation schedule to date, project/manpower updates from Denali and the Alaska Pipeline Project, a FERC update from the Office of the Federal Coordinator, workforce training needs from oil and gas industry employers, manpower updates from the pipeline crafts, a training providers report including current and projected capacity, and updates related to budget, research and analysis, and an updated timeline for the Gasline Training Plan.

On March 29, 2011 an application was submitted to the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) by the AWIB in partnership with the Employment Security Division for a Green Jobs Innovation Fund training grant in the amount of \$5,852,000. This training grant application included 21 local job centers and their one-stop service partners, serving seven communities/regions including Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Ketchikan, Mat-Su, Kenai Peninsula, Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, and other statewide communities. The proposal estimated 3,000 participants would be enrolled in training in five green job technologies including Energy Efficiency End User Technology (weatherization/building retrofits), hydroelectric, wind, biomass, and geothermal energy. The proposal was intended to build upon work begun under the Alaska State Energy Sector Partnership by partners, including the AWIB, DOLWD, Department of Education and Early Development, Alaska Energy Authority, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, Denali Commission, University of Alaska, Alaska AFL-CIO, and Alaska Works Partnership. Two new partners were added to the partnership with this proposal, including the Alaska Apprenticeship Training Coordinators Association and the Construction Education Foundation. Unfortunately, the AWIB was not awarded the training grant. However, the AWIB and department will continue

to pursue grant funding related to training in Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency (RE/EE) industry occupations.

On May 24th and 25th, 2011 the AWIB meeting was held at AVTEC in Seward. The agenda included reports and updates related to the Gasline Training Plan, State CTE Plan and Implementation, Healthcare Workforce Development Plan, Disability Employment Initiative training grant, ASESP training grant, legislative and budget issues, and the Perkins CTE grants. Time was been allocated for review of the State WIA Plan Modification, One Stop System presentation, board discussion, and Regional Advisory Councils. As part of the AWIB meeting, a tour of AVTEC-Alaska's Institute of Technology was provided to board on the afternoon of May 25th.

Staff from the AWIB, ESD, and Research and Analysis continue to meet regularly with the Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association (ASHNA) and the Alaska Healthcare Coalition on deliverables related to the \$150,000 planning grant received from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) that is being utilized to complete further development of the Alaska Health Workforce Plan adopted by the AWIB in May 2010. A final programmatic report is due to HRSA on September 24, 2011 and will be provided to the AWIB.

Staff from the AWIB, ESD, and the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education continue to implement the Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) training grant received from the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment Training Administration to improve education, training and employment opportunities and outcomes of youth and adults who are unemployed and/or receiving Social Security disability benefits.

The ASESP continues to work on the RE/EE Workforce Development Plan and implementation plan. Training funded by the ASESP grant continues in FY 12 with AVTEC, the Alaska Energy Authority, Alaska Apprenticeship Training Coordinators Association, and Alaska Works Partnership in RE/EE industries. Current Project Operator grantees have been conducting training in renewable energy and energy efficiency industries. The AATCA is training apprentices and journeyman in energy efficiency construction trades skills, the AEA is training bulk fuel and power plant operators at AVTEC, Alaska Works Partnership has begun training workers in weatherization and commercial construction energy efficiency, and AVTEC has begun training wind technicians, industrial electricians, power plant operators (wind), and hydro plant operators.

Current competitive grant recipients include the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters, Local 367 who have begun training for the beginning of a five year, 10,000 hour Heating and Ventilation Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVAC-R) apprenticeship program, Rural CAP who will be conducting a Energy Wise Job Training Program, Sitka Works who will be conducting renewable energy training for the expansion of the Sitka Blue Lake Dam and weatherization training for Home Energy Efficiency Programs, and the University of Alaska Southeast who is conducting Building Energy Retrofit Training. The request for grant application is open continuously until all funds available under the grant solicitation have been awarded. An update of all training grants will be provided to the AWIB at the next meeting scheduled for October 25th and 26th, 2011 in Fairbanks.

The AWIB will hold four quarterly meetings of the ASEP in FY 12. Major activities will include further development and implementation of the Alaska RE/EE Workforce Development Plan and long-term sustainability plan. An RE/EE Forum is presently being considered in the Spring of 2012 to provide an opportunity for ASEP members and stakeholders to identify and share best industry practices and align with the state energy policies. The 2011 Alaska Rural Energy Conference is scheduled on September 27th through 29th in Juneau.

On July 5, 2011 a public notice was published announcing a request for grant applications for support of local educational projects that are aligned with the Alaska CTE Plan strategies and priorities. The department received \$625,000 in funding to support this new grant program, which is being implemented by the AWIB, DEED, and University of Alaska. The grant applications are due no later than 4:00 p.m. on September 6, 2011. Applications are scheduled to be reviewed with recommendations by September 20, 2011. The application guide and packet can be viewed at <http://www.labor.state.ak.us/awib/cte.htm>.

The FY 12 capital budget included \$486,000 to the AWIB, to offer, in cooperation with the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, grants for training Alaskans in the film and television industry for fiscal years 2012 through 2015. Initial planning work has begun this summer for the new project, including developing policy and procedures for a competitive grant program and identifying the workforce development needs of the industry in Alaska.

The AWIB website continues to be updated at <http://www.labor.alaska.gov/awib/> and includes links related to the Alaska Gasline Training Plan, Registered Apprenticeship, Career and Technical Education, State Energy Sector Partnership, Employment, Training, and Grant Information, Regional Advisory Councils, Regional Training Centers, and the AWIB Newsletter.

In closing, I would like to welcome John Maketa from Wasilla as a new member of the AWIB in a business/industry seat.

Committees

- The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 13th at 1:30 p.m. **All AWIB members are invited to call into the teleconference.**
- The next Assessment and Evaluation Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 15, 2011 at 3:00 p.m.
- The next Workforce Readiness/Employment Placement Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 21, 2011 at 3:00 p.m.
- The next Policy and Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 22, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

Important Dates

- The WIA Annual Report is due to the USDOL by October 1, 2011.

- The next AWIB meeting is scheduled for October 25th and 26th, 2011 in Fairbanks.
- The Training Program Performance Report is due to the Legislature on February 16, 2012.