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July-August 2011

Issue No. 9



Alaska Workforce Investment Board Newsletter

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Important Dates

August 8
CTE Grant Q&A Conference Call

September 6
CTE Grant Application Due

September 20
Notice of Intent to Award CTE Grant

October 24 - 25
AWIB Committee meeting in Fairbanks

Web Sites of Interest

[Apprenticeship](#)
[AVTEC](#)
[AWIB CTE](#)
[EED CTE](#)
[UA Workforce Programs](#)

Dear Reader,

In this issue we have the following articles: Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB) Update; \$525,000 Available in Competitive Grants for Implementation of the Alaska Career and Technical Education; Alaska Health Workforce Coalition: Preparing Generations Y and Z for Health Careers; Universal Access to Training Opportunities for Alaskan Workers with Disabilities; and Gas Pipeline Corridor Community Training Plan.

The AWIB has developed this newsletter to connect schools, industry and stakeholders with the AWIB and the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. We are publishing every other month and featuring opportunities, programs and information about State of Alaska initiatives aimed at helping youth and adults find meaningful employment and postsecondary training. Also, the newsletter will have articles from the Department of Education and Early Development related to Career and Technical Education.

Please let me know if you have ideas for future articles. The next newsletter will be published in October 2011.

Sincerely,



Jeff Selvey
AWIB Career Technical Education Coordinator
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jeff.selvey@alaska.gov

AWIB Update

Greg Cashen, Executive Director



The last AWIB meeting was held on May 24th and 25th, 2011 at AVTEC in Seward. The agenda included reports and updates related to the Gas Pipeline Training Plan, Alaska 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 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 the board on the afternoon of May 25th.

Staff from the AWIB, ESD, and Research and Analysis continue to meet 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. 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 postsecondary 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 a plan to resolve any barriers. A final programmatic report is due to HRSA on September 30, 2011. An update will be provided at the October AWIB meeting.

AWIB, ESD, and the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education staff continue to implement 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. An update will be provided at the October AWIB meeting.

The ASESP continues to work on the Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency (RE/EE) Workforce Development Plan and corresponding 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; including hydroelectric, wind turbine and weatherization industries. The request for grant application is open continuously until all funds available under the grant solicitation have been awarded. The next ASESP meeting will be scheduled this fall.

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. 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 train Alaskans for the jobs created by new film and television projects. The intent of these funds was for the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to work with the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development to identify workforce needs and develop workforce development programs for the film and television industry in Alaska. Initial planning work is expected to begin this summer on this new project, including 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 Gas Pipeline 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.

Committees

- The next Youth Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 3, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.
- The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 9th 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 October 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.

\$525,000 Available in Competitive Grants for Implementation of the Alaska Career and Technical Education

Beth Leschper, Communications Director, DOLWD



The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development is accepting applications for Career and Technical Education programs from Alaska school districts, post-secondary institutions and their partners.

"The grants will support local education projects that are aligned with the Alaska Career and Technical Education Plan strategies and priorities," said Jeff Selvey, CTE coordinator with the Alaska Workforce Investment Board, which administers the state funds. "CTE enhances students' education by providing rigor and relevance to academic and career preparation."

The CTE plan is a first-ever, comprehensive plan to help youth and adults obtain meaningful employment in the state. The plan supports a connected system of statewide resources that focuses on both the education and training needs of students, and the workforce needs in the state. It is a unified effort of the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, and the University of Alaska.

The plan calls for helping current and future workers identify interests, determine career goals, and develop the personal, academic and technical skills and abilities to accomplish those goals. In a world and workplace that is rapidly changing and evolving, successful job seekers need to develop these strategies early and will use them continuously throughout their careers.

Grant applicants must address four areas - develop and implement one of the six CTE plan strategies, address a high priority task identified by the Alaska CTE Plan Action committee, meet a demonstrated need with a lasting benefit and align with other CTE-providing entities.



Competitive grant applications must be submitted no later than 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 6. Applications are scheduled to be reviewed and approved by Sept. 20 for the 2011-12 school year.

The application guide and packet are posted online at <http://labor.alaska.gov/awib/cte.htm>.

The Alaska Career and Technical Education Plan is posted online at http://labor.alaska.gov/awib/forms/AK_CTE_Plan_AUG2010.pdf.

Alaska Health Workforce Coalition: Preparing Generations Y and Z for Health Careers

Ellen Maling, Alaska Health Workforce Coalition Project Coordinator, ASHNHA



In a soon to be released Implementation Plan, [The Alaska Health Workforce Coalition](#) is proposing a coordinated initiative to build the capacity of young people to enter health careers. The Coalition is a group of key health leaders in state government, industry and education that are united around common strategies of Engage, Train, Recruit and Retain to ensure an adequate and qualified health workforce for Alaska. The Coalition has been formulating objectives and work plans for meeting the workforce needs of Alaska's fastest growing industry with the support of a Health Resources Services

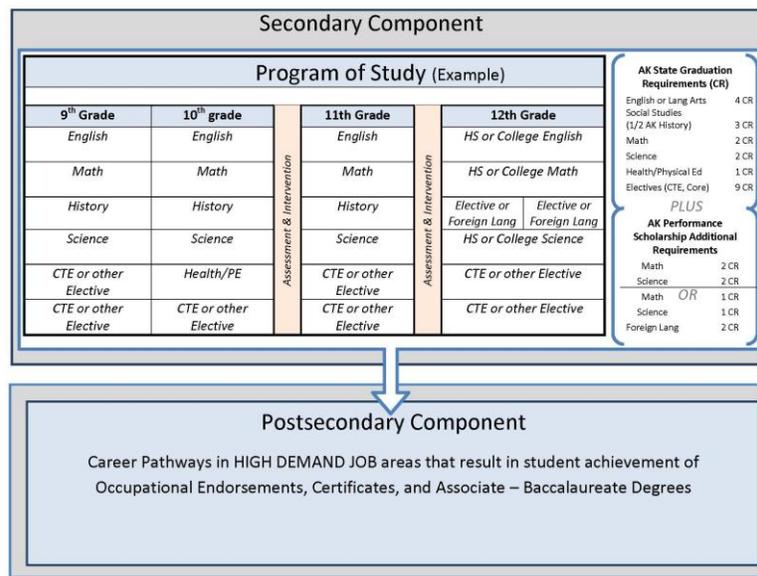
Administration grant awarded to Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD). The Implementation Plan will be released at the September Annual Meeting of the Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association in Ketchikan.

"Engage" is one of four overarching strategies identified in the Alaska Health Workforce Plan that will build the diverse workforce needed in the industry. Focusing on the critical skills and competencies that young people need to succeed in careers in general - and health in particular - young Alaskans can enter jobs that are locally-based, provide a living wage and ongoing security. The Coalition's initiative focuses on three elements that are inter-related and supportive of each other: STEM, Alaska's Career and Technical Education (CTE) Plan and a health Program of Study (PoS) to promote education and career success for Alaskan youth.

The continued projected job growth in the health industry requires a coordinated effort to ensure that Alaska's young people are well positioned to enter these high-demand careers. According to the DOLWD's Industry Reports, Alaska's healthcare industry has a greater number of occupations that require a post-secondary education than construction or oil and gas. Strategies are needed to develop a statewide approach to ensuring that young people are positioned to enter training, certificate or education programs after they complete high school. The Coalition's initiative has proposed to implement the career and technical program of study in health in three pilot schools beginning in spring 2012 enrollment season through the academic year 2015.

A Program of Study outlines the secondary education curriculum, competencies and skills that provide a consistent path for young people to follow in order to pursue health careers. As an educational model, a Program of Study contains a number of inter-related efforts, such as coordinated legislation and policies, partnerships, teaching and learning strategies, standards with evaluation systems and commonly understood sequences and established credit transfer agreements. Adequate guidance counseling and technical skills assessments will provide a seamless transition for young people.

On a practical level, a Program of Study includes the obvious requirements for graduation in the state and also provides opportunities for CTE electives that expose young people to health careers throughout their attendance at High School. Several threads are needed to develop this Program of Study; including strong academic programs for science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), industry involvement in development of career exploration activities, capacity for students to develop Personal Learning Career Plans and a strong alignment of educational certifications with industry standards. With the outcome clearly in mind, Alaskan youth will be motivated to complete their education with courses and learning outcomes that prepare them for a wide range of high demand occupations.



For more information about the efforts to launch a health Program of Study, contact Cathy LeCompte, UAA's Associate Dean at the Career and Technical College, at afcal02@uaa.alaska.edu. To sign up for the distribution list or receive more information about the Alaska Health Workforce Coalition, send an email to Kathy Craft at kathryn.craft@alaska.gov. Kathy is currently staffing the workforce efforts of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and will be assuming coordination of the Coalition in September.

Universal Access to Training Opportunities for Alaskan Workers with Disabilities

Rich Sanders, State Lead Disability Resource Coordinator, Disability Employment Initiative



Individuals with disabilities comprise a significant portion of Alaska's workforce. The 2009 American Community Survey revealed there are approximately 27,000 employed Alaskans with disabilities. To ensure access to training opportunities, employers and training programs can offer software, web based training applications, and training materials that are designed to be accessed by individuals experiencing a wide variety of disability related barriers. Additionally, the manner in which the training is provided - i.e. environmental settings, instructional methods, and assessment methods - can be done in a multiple access framework. This allows for a variety of accessible formats and technologies to be used in a single lesson that is universal to all students.

Traditional print training materials can now be accessed through web based formats or electronic formats and ensure access for employees with vision, learning, hearing or physical disabilities. Common assistive technologies include screen reading software (vision and learning disabilities), closed captioning (hearing disabilities) and voice recognition software (physical and learning disabilities). Though many of these technologies are initially designed to provide greater access to people with disabilities, they often become "mainstream" as their usage by all employees shows greater efficiency in accomplishing the daily work of a business; e.g. voice recognition software has become popular in the legal and medical fields.

Employers and training programs can examine their existing training materials and either adapt them to be accessible or build them from the ground up through implementing universal design principles. An introductory video and supplemental materials can be found at the University of Washington's "DOIT" website at: <http://www.washington.edu/doit/Video/index.php?vid=13>. A "Checklist for Inclusive Teaching" (http://www.washington.edu/doit/Brochures/PDF/equal_access_udi.pdf) is also available through the DOIT program and is a useful and easy to use tool for employers and training programs.

For more information on how to ensure your program is accessible or how to begin converting your existing training options into a universal design format, you can contact the State Lead Disability Resource Coordinator of the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Disability Employment Initiative, Rich Sanders at (907) 269-5703 or at richard.sanders@alaska.gov.

Gas Pipeline Corridor Community Training Plan

Gerry Andrews, DOLWD Pipeline Administrator



The Alaska Gasline Inducement Act legislation enacted in 2007 designated Alaska's Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD) to help equip the Alaskan workforce with portable skills and training for the gas pipeline project. The [Oil and Gas Training Plan](#) illustrates how to accomplish this goal.

The DOLWD and AWIB accepted [Alaska Pipeline Project's \(APP\)](#) invitation to participate in community meetings along the proposed pipeline corridor. APP actively engage stakeholders in order to share information about the project and understand issues related to project development; participants include Alaska Natives, community members, Canadian aboriginal peoples and their First Nations.

From March through May 2011, APP held over 35 open house meetings in Alaska and other communities in Canada. The expectations of these meetings are:

- to continue building long-term relationships with communities along the proposed pipeline corridor;
- to provide information regarding various aspects of the project;
- to outline the proposed route and field work;
- to understand the socio-economic impacts; and
- to provide information to residents and other interested parties on training and near-term job opportunities, supported by DOLWD, the University of Alaska, AVTEC, Regional Training Centers and other training and education organizations.

During these open house meetings, I presented the Oil and Gas Training Plan. Included in my presentation is the "Alaska's Connected Education and Workforce Development System" utilizing Tech Prep, Career Pathways, Personal Learning Career Plans (PLCP) and Registered Apprenticeship.



APP Cultural Specialist Alice Crow discusses the proposed pipeline route at the community meeting in Tanacross.