

AWIB REVIEW

Spring 2004

"WORKFORCE INVESTMENT IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS"

STATE OF ALASKA
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR &
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
ALASKA WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

HB 559, STEP continuance, was amended to include a sunset date of June 30, 2008. The original bill would have institutionalized it. However, the bill passed both houses and is awaiting transmittal to the Governor.

An amended version of HB 123, the allocation of Training and Vocational Education Program money, passed both houses and is awaiting transmittal to the Governor. Allocations are as follows: The University of Alaska - 55%; Alaska Vocational Technical Center - 22%, Kotzebue Technical Center - 11%; Galena Project Education Vocational Training Center, Southwest Alaska Vocational and Education Center and Yuut Elitnaurviat, Inc. (the People's Learning Center) - 4% each.

AWIB ELECTS NEW OFFICERS



Outgoing Chair Galvin Receives Thanks

Andy Baker, senior vice president of Baker Aviation in Kotzebue, was elected Chairperson of the Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB) at its April board meeting in Juneau. Baker succeeds Dr. Alice Galvin, BP Exploration Alaska's Advisor in Organizational Development. David Stone, Senior Vice President of Alaska Electric Light & Power, was elected AWIB's Vice Chairperson. Dr. Galvin will remain on the board as past chair.

APRIL 2004 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

In addition to electing new officers, the recent AWIB meeting included several notable actions. The board gave their Executive Committee the authority to endorse regional councils. Committees reported on their accomplishments on actions resulting from last fall's strategic

planning. Several technical tasks were accomplished, including amending memorandum of agreements and adopting changes to regulations governing the AWIB, the State Training and Employment Program and the Alaska Technical and Vocational Education Program.

Of particular note was an address from Jon Lampman, the U.S. Department of Labor's Region VI's regional representative. Mr. Lampman updated the board on WIA reauthorization and federal funds for Alaska's workforce investment programs. Mr. Lampman also discussed the upcoming federal review of Alaska's programs and congratulated Alaska on its quick and comprehensive response to its earlier program review.

REGIONAL COUNCILS UPDATE

The Policy & Planning Committee has been working on regional council development since late last year and has received proposals to organize councils from the North Slope, Southeast, Interior, and Southwest, and letters of intent from Anchorage and the Kenai Peninsula.

The board discussed several issues concerning the development of regional councils at its recent meeting, including potential conflicts with Denali Commission efforts and the Dept. of Community & Economic Development's work. Commissioner Blatchford provided guidance through a memo to Commissioner O'Claray, endorsing the board's work but asking that, "to the fullest degree possible, boundaries established for the regional advisory councils should integrate and reflect existing organizational boundaries."

The board voted to refer discussions and endorsements of regional councils to the Executive Committee and to encourage them to continue the dialogue with the Denali Commission. The Policy & Planning Committee

expanded its membership to include ex-officio members from the Denali Commission, DCED. It has also invited the Alaska Federation of Natives to join.

Staff members are working with several regions, providing technical assistance as they fully develop their proposals. Once the committee determines the proposals are complete and meet our criteria, they will be forwarded to the Executive Committee for final acceptance.

WORLD NATIVE SUMMIT

At the request of Alaska's indigenous people, "Leadership Forum: Building Knowledge-based Economies," an international economic summit on rural and indigenous communities will take place in Anchorage on June 28 and 29, 2004. Co-sponsors include the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN), the Denali Commission's Economic Development Committee, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, The Inter-American Development Bank, Harvard University and other supporting organizations. Governor Murkowski and Alaska's congressional delegation are co-hosts. International indigenous leaders, educators, the president of the World Bank, as well as representatives of other development organizations are expected to attend.

AFN President and Denali Commissioner Julie Kitka said recently: "It is an opportunity for us to build tremendous partnerships which could bring home resources to our villages, bring job opportunities to our people, expand opportunities for our regional corporations and foster an exchange that is unprecedented in many ways."

The Division of Business Partnerships contributed funds to support this important and promising event.

SALMON FISHERIES NATIONAL EMERGENCY GRANT

Staff members from the Division of Business Partnerships and the Employment Security Division continue to work closely on services for Alaska fishermen and women, their families,

communities and individuals from associated businesses impacted by declines in the salmon fishing industry. At least 303 participants are enrolled to date, putting the department on target for meeting our goal of 468 by the end of June. Shawna Harper and Karen Backlund attended a regional forum in Oakland, California regarding integrated responses to dislocated workers. This has subsequently led to the development of a dislocated workers/rapid response task force that is looking to integrate services and identify new ways to serve this population of clients.

Additional teleconference training sessions have been held, including a well-facilitated "Open Forum" facilitated by Mark Mickelson. Job Center staff continues their outreach efforts to prospective clients in the affected regions and grantees are helping identify and/or enroll participants in some

of the more dispersed and remote regions of the state. Another training session is scheduled for

May 12th on technical issues and other subjects, including DBP grants, outreach efforts and operations.

INTEGRATION & COORDINATION

The AWIB's concentrated efforts at integration and coordination are bearing fruit. The board is strengthening its connections with the regions by development of regional councils. It is bringing in its economic development and workforce development partners by a new ex-officio committee membership policy. A Memorandum of Understanding is being drafted with Native organizations to strengthen that connection. Administrative functions were integrated when state and local boards merged, and the workforce investment strategy has streamlined its grants programs.

FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE

Over a three-year period, the First Alaskans Institute's Alaska Oil and Gas Industry Job Training and Placement Project created more than 850 training, education and employment

opportunities for Alaska Natives statewide by fostering partnerships among Alaska's oil and gas industry companies, state educators and Alaska Native organizations to develop and enhance joint programs and create a career pathway for Alaska Natives interested in the process industries.

Similarly, in a fourth year of developing leaders in the oil and gas related fields, First Alaskans Institute proposes to provide management and oversight for industry partners who provide



management level internships for policy related experiences. This will allow for Alaska Natives representing a broad range of disciplines to gain an understanding of those skills needed for

decision-making, strategic planning and overall management in this sector. The goal is to

increase exposure to high performing Alaska Native candidates while continuing to grow Native hire throughout the system. In addition, First Alaskans Institute will partner with Alaska Works

Partnership to provide apprentices/journeymen with a pilot project in leadership pathways for Alaska Natives working in construction.
(Submitted by Gail Pass, First Alaskans Institute)

AWIB WALKS THE TALK



Estella Baker, a student in the Office Specialist Program at the Career Academy in Anchorage, recently completed her 108-hour 'externship' in the Anchorage AWIB office. "I

came into the department not knowing many things. I am now going out into the real world with many things that I have learned...fax machine,

Xerox machine, postage meter and how to use a multi-line telephone system," she said. Estella was the fifth intern in the past year that has had an introduction to office procedures and state workforce policy through the division's volunteer intern project, supervised by Penelope Goforth. "This is so great to be walking our talk, giving young people the opportunity to step into the professional working world and find out what a real job is all about. They learn not only work readiness skills like showing up on time and how to answer the phone but also the dynamic of the work flow in a busy state government office," Goforth said.

"I'm pleased to announce that we are renewing an internship agreement with the Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association this summer. Jana Nickel, a student at the University of Alaska Anchorage Campus from False Pass, will work with us as a volunteer intern for nearly three months this summer," said Goforth.

WHERE IN THE WEB?

- ↓AWIB
<http://www.awib.Alaska.gov>
- ↓Alaska Dept. of Labor Research & Analysis Section Workforce Info
<http://almis.labor.state.ak.us/>
- ↓Alaska Job Center Network
<http://www.jobs.state.ak.us/>
- ↓Denali Commission
<http://www.denali.gov/index.cfm>
- ↓ADOLWD Trends Magazine
<http://labor.state.ak.us/trends/home.htm>
- ↓Workforce ATM
<http://www.icesa.org/>

🔔🔔🔔Calendar of Events🔔🔔🔔

- ◇ **Executive Committee**, Tues., May 11, 12 p.m.
- ◇ **Assessment & Evaluation Com.**, Wed., May 19, 12 p.m.
- ◇ **Employment & Placement Com.**, Wed., May 26, 10 a.m.
- ◇ **Policy & Planning Com.**, Friday, May 28, 10 a.m.
- ◇ **Workforce Readiness Com.**, June 1, 1:30 p.m.
- ◇ **World Native Forum**, June 28-29, 2004 - Anchorage (see related story)
- ◇ **AWIB Business Meeting**, Thurs., August 12, 2004 - Fairbanks
- ◇ **AWIB Business Meeting**, Wed., Nov. 17, 2004
- ◇ **Professional Development Conf.**, Nov. 17-20, 2004