



MEDIA RELEASE

Jobs are Alaska's Future



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
Greg O'Claray, Commissioner

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Underground Miner Training Program Graduates 21

Coeur Alaska hires seven immediately.

(Juneau) – Department of Labor & Workforce Development Commissioner Greg O'Claray and representatives from industry and education congratulated 21 graduates of the Entry Level Underground Miner (Nipper) Training Program in a ceremony in February at the Maggie Kathleen Mine in Thane. Coeur Alaska conducted interviews on graduation day, and made offers to seven graduates to go to work at the Kensington Mine.

“We’re proud to be a part of this training which provides good jobs for Alaskans,” said Commissioner O’Claray. “These young men have worked hard and are now prepared to work in the growing mining industry.”

“This group is among the best I’ve ever worked with,” said Dennis Steffy, director of the Mining and Petroleum Training Service (MAPTS), through University of Alaska. “Any mine would be lucky to have these guys on their team.”

“Finding well-trained qualified workers for the Kensington Mine project can be challenging,” said Meg Day, Human Resources manager at Coeur Alaska. “We’re excited about hiring graduates from the MAPTS program, which has a reputation for putting top-notch workers into the mining industry.”

The Nipper Miner Training Program was offered as a result of a partnership between the Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development, University of Alaska, Mining and Petroleum Training Service (MAPTS), Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, Coeur Alaska and the Berners Bay Consortia. The term Nipper has evolved from the entry-level worker’s role of “nipping things in the bud” while directly assisting experienced miners on the job.

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