



# MEDIA RELEASE

Jobs are Alaska's Future



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
Commissioner Click Bishop

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## For Immediate Release

For more information, contact Fred Esposito, AVTEC's director, at (907) 224-4159.

### AVTEC's New High-Tech Connected Education Center

SEWARD – The Alaska Vocational Technical Center had a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house June 8 for its new \$2.6 million Connected Education Center in Seward. AVTEC's goal in building the Connected Education Center is to help the school's growth by providing training and education online and using other technology-based instructional delivery systems such as video-teleconferencing. Class instructors in all AVTEC's departments will use the center, said Fred Esposito, the school's director.

"AVTEC graduates are now employed in Alaska's highest paying technical and skilled trades jobs. By providing training and education online, we have another tool to reach Alaskans, no matter where they live," Esposito said.

The 4,787-square-foot center has three classrooms, a video broadcast studio, a video production and editing room, and four offices. The building is outfitted with the latest in distance-delivery technology, including wireless Internet connectivity throughout the building, video-teleconference cameras, ceiling-mounted speakers and microphones, flat screen monitors, a moveable wall to accommodate large groups and SMART Board interactive white boards.

Click Bishop, Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, which runs AVTEC, said, "We're excited about the training opportunities that this center will provide and the prospect of reaching more Alaskans in rural areas, giving them the opportunity to be employed with some of the best companies in Alaska enjoying great pay and benefits."

The center was built using a \$2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration, as well as \$323,000 from the State of Alaska. In-kind donations came from the state, GCI and the Chariot Group.

AVTEC has 16 long-term training programs (ranging from six weeks to 11 months) and roughly 60 short-term training programs (a week to six weeks). Fall classes begin Aug. 20; enrollment is open until the first day of classes. For more information, go to [www.avtec.edu](http://www.avtec.edu), or call (800) 478-5389.

- More -



Photo, pictured from left to right: Christine Klein, AVTEC's Advisory Board chair; Todd Palin, Gov. Sarah Palin's husband; John Williams, Kenai Peninsula Borough mayor; Tara Jollie, Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development's deputy commissioner; and Fred Esposito, AVTEC's director. Photo by Courtney Nelson, age 14.

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