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Press Release

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Labor Department to Hold Emmonak Career Fair on April 20

JUNEAU, Alaska—The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development will hold a career fair on Monday, April 20 in Emmonak, which will be open to all area residents, including those from Alakanuk, Kotlik and Nunam Iqua.

The Lower and Middle Yukon area of Western Alaska has been hit by a “perfect storm” of cold snaps, high fuel prices and poor commercial king salmon fishing on the Yukon River. Through a multi-stage approach, the Department of Labor is responding by providing information about jobs and job training directly to residents.

“The career fair is the outcome of sending members of our staff directly to the villages that have been impacted,” Labor Commissioner Click Bishop said. “This event continues our long-term commitment to help Western Alaskans, as well as residents of the rest of the state, improve their skills and improve their ability to compete in today’s workplace.”

Job seekers will have a chance to interview directly with employers, learn about job openings in law enforcement and in the seafood, travel and tourism industries, and discover job training opportunities.

Since the end of January, the Department of Labor has helped 125 job seekers in Emmonak, 45 from Alakanuk, 45 from Kotlik and 13 from Nunam Iqua register for work and employment services through ALEXsys, Alaska’s online job bank operated by the department.

Staff members provided information about the Alaska Job Center Network, through which Alaskans can connect with employers and learn about career and job seeker resources. Job center staff also provided information about training opportunities – including registered apprenticeships – and unemployment benefits, vocational rehabilitation programs and public assistance.

“Six employers will be at the career fair – Alaska State Troopers, Association of Village Council Presidents, Westward Seafoods, Golden Alaska, Ocean Beauty and Kwikpak Fisheries,” Commissioner Bishop said. “Four others – Yardarm Knot, Pederson Point, Togiak Fisheries and Alaska General Seafoods – will allow our staff to pre-screen job seekers. In addition to year-round jobs, the seasonal jobs offered by many of these employers would mesh with rural lifestyles.”

After the career fair, the department’s Anchorage Business Connection staff will continue working to schedule employer recruiter visits to these areas, providing opportunities for job seekers to link directly with employers.

The department’s Alaska Vocational Technical Center, or AVTEC, provides training in Seward, Anchorage and “connected” online classes across the state. The U.S. Department of Labor’s Alaska Job Corps Center in Palmer provides training programs for Alaskans ages 16 to 24.

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