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Alaska Oil and Gas Workforce Plan Focuses on Industry Demand

ANCHORAGE, Alaska—In this decade alone, Alaska needs 7,500 trained, highly skilled oil and gas workers to meet industry demand, according to a new workforce development plan produced by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Mega-projects like the Alaska LNG project will increase the demand.

“The Alaska Oil and Gas Workforce Development Plan recognizes the needs of the industry today and in the coming years,” said Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Dianne Blumer. “The plan also anticipates the new workforce demand created by increased investment and a portfolio of new projects.”

The plan, which focuses on the next five years when dozens of new exploration and production projects will take off, is the work of oil and gas industry leaders, aided by education and training advisors.

“To prepare Alaskans to claim the thousands of jobs that will be available, we must have a comprehensive strategy that aligns our workforce development system with workforce demand,” she said.

Less than a decade ago, nearly 40 percent of young Alaskans left for education and jobs outside.

“We are now focusing on a workforce development system that is a combination of education, training – and timing,” Blumer said. “We must be prepared to produce work-ready Alaskans just as increased demand is emerging. Students in our middle and high schools will comprise much of the workforce for these future projects.”

The plan is available online at Labor.Alaska.Gov/OilandGasPlan.

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Alaska Oil and Gas Workforce Development Plan 2014
Labor.Alaska.Gov/OilandGasPlan