

News Release



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

August 19, 2005
No. 06-04

AVTEC Graduates Six from New Maritime Program

Six Alaskans graduated today from a new maritime training program at the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Alaska Vocational Technical Center (AVTEC) in Seward. The program was specifically developed in partnership with Conoco/Phillips, Polar Tankers, Inc. and Maritime Pride and Education.

"These graduates are just part of our ongoing efforts to train Alaskans for these terrific jobs. I'm very proud of them and I know their family and community will benefit from this hard work. I am glad to see companies work with educational programs, like AVTEC, to achieve 90% Alaska hire," said Governor Frank H. Murkowski.

This unique and exciting six-week program provided the hands-on skill training and orientation to qualify these Alaskans to participate in the next step, spending six months as an intern on board a tanker transporting crude oil from Valdez to its final market.

"This program is part of an ongoing partnership between the department and industry to train Alaskans for the high paying jobs being created in the energy field by Governor Murkowski's administration," said Alaska Labor Commissioner Greg O'Claray.

During the six weeks at AVTEC's Alaska Maritime Training Center, students passed a series of US Coast Guard approved courses in Basic Safety Training, Proficiency in Survival Craft, Tankerman, and Ratings forming part of a navigational watch.

They were also exposed to engineering basics, galley basics, and Polar Tanker orientation. Students are prepared to spend the six-month internship working in all three departments of the ship: deck, engine, and galley. At the end of the internship, Polar Tanker will evaluate their work and offer appropriate employment. This project was funded by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development with Maritime Pride and Education providing recruitment and pre-qualification.

The six graduates are: Kenneth Bishop, Joshua Crouse, Sandra Johns, Chaney Sparks, Ezekiel Tenhoff and Kevin Clark.

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