

News Release



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

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Alaskans Graduate From Unique Pipeliners Training Program

Fairbanks - Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Greg O'Claray joined with other state and federal officials, labor leaders and leaders of the state's petroleum industry in congratulating almost 100 Alaskans graduating from the 4th Annual Alaska Pipeline Joint Crafts Training Program.

The intensive two week training program, the only one of its kind in the country, focused on crew development, safe work practices, quality craftsmanship and environmental awareness, all skills necessary in laying pipe efficiently in Arctic conditions. The 97 graduates are from throughout the state. Almost 40% are from rural Alaska and 13 % are female. The average age of the graduates is 23.

Commissioner O'Claray said, "This program is a continuation and expansion of Governor Frank Murkowski's ongoing efforts to recruit and train Alaskans for high paying jobs and careers in the construction trades. As the Governor has often said 'Let's make sure Alaskans are ready for the jobs that are ready for them.'"

O'Claray was joined by Jim Sampson, head of the Alaska AFL-CIO; state Senator Gene Therriault; Fairbanks North Star Borough Mayor Jim Whitaker as well as Conoco/Phillips President Jim Bowles; David MacDowell external affairs director of BP Alaska; Mike Kinney of Teamsters Local 959; Wade Blasinggame, V.P. of ASRC Energy Services; Bill Morrow of Norcon; Tim Sharp, business manager of Laborers Local 942; Curtis Thomas of Alyeska Pipeline Service Company; Jim Laiti with the Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 375; Randy Cheap and Mike Andrews, with the Alaska Works Partnership; Click Bishop, training coordinator for Operators Local 302; Mike Kinney with the Teamsters Local 959 and Dave Matthews with HC Price.

The labor department supported the training in Fairbanks with a \$350,000 grant from the State Training and Employment Program (STEP). Oil companies, participating contractors and unions also committed time, money, training staff, and equipment.

The Alaska Works Partnership administered the program grant for the state on behalf of the Alaska Petroleum Joint Crafts Council and members of the North Slope Contractors Association. The Alaska Works Partnership is a non-profit corporation representing building and construction trade unions and federally registered union apprenticeship and training programs.

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