

**Click Bishop**

*Commissioner*

P.O. Box 111149

Juneau, AK 99811-1149

[www.labor.state.ak.us](http://www.labor.state.ak.us)



**Guy Bell**

*Asst. Commissioner*

907.465.2700

fax: 907.465.2784

[guy.bell@alaska.gov](mailto:guy.bell@alaska.gov)

## Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

No. 08-32

Dec. 5, 2007

**For More Information:** Fred Esposito, AVTEC Director  
(907) 224-4159, [Fred.Esposito@alaska.gov](mailto:Fred.Esposito@alaska.gov)

### **AVTEC's LPN Graduates Entering Alaska's Workforce**

(Juneau, AK) – The Alaska Vocational Technical Center is graduating nine Licensed Practical Nurse program students tomorrow to work in assisted living homes, nursing homes and hospitals throughout Alaska.

“The graduates of this class are a highly motivated group – each of them worked nearly full-time hours while going to school full time in order to achieve their goal of becoming a nurse,” said Keenan Casteel, AVTEC’s LPN instructor.

LPNs provide care for people who are sick, injured, convalescing or developmentally disabled, under the direction of physicians and registered nurses.

“With 13 of the top 20 fastest-growing occupations in Alaska being in the health care industry, the Licensed Practical Nurse program gives students an excellent opportunity to train for a meaningful long-term career,” said Fred Esposito, AVTEC’s director. “Occupational forecasts indicate that job prospects for LPNs are excellent. The number of available LPN positions is well above the number graduated in recent years,” he said.

“These graduates demonstrate our ongoing efforts to train Alaskans for terrific jobs,” said Click Bishop, Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

AVTEC began LPN training in 2002 with one LPN class each year. But due to the high demand for nurses in Alaska, AVTEC has since expanded its training facility to accommodate a second class each year. With this graduation, AVTEC has produced 76 LPNs to work for Alaska employers.

In addition to the LPN program in Anchorage, AVTEC offers 16 long-term training programs ranging from six weeks to 11 months and roughly 60 short-term training programs that take from a week to six weeks to complete. Information is available online at [www.avtec.edu](http://www.avtec.edu). Click on the “Training Programs/Courses” link or call (800) 478-5389.

AVTEC’s main campus is in Seward. Remote-site and distance-delivery classes in nearly all AVTEC’s training programs are available to people statewide.

###