

Click Bishop
Commissioner

P.O. Box 111149
Juneau, AK 99811-1149
www.labor.alaska.gov



Beth Leschper
Communications Director
907.465.2700
cell: 907.723.1321
beth.leschper@alaska.gov

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For more information: Fred Esposito, AVTEC Director
907-224-6150, Fred.Esposito@Alaska.Gov

AVTEC Dedicates New Culinary & Maritime Facilities in Seward

JUNEAU, Alaska—AVTEC-Alaska's Institute of Technology has new facilities that will enhance training efforts in its Alaska Culinary Academy and Maritime Safety Training Center.

"We're training for industry needs – for example, the recently opened Kensington mine in Southeast Alaska, the burgeoning healthcare industry across the state, and for the construction and oil and gas industries," Labor Commissioner Click Bishop said. "AVTEC is a critical component in the state's plan to promote Alaska hire and to build a current and future work force."

The Alaska Culinary Academy addition allows for expansion of AVTEC's culinary training, which has been accredited by the American Culinary Federation Education Foundation since 2006. The designation means it's one of the best programs in our region and the country.

The new facility includes a restaurant-sized commercial kitchen and bakery, four classrooms, training café, and faculty offices. The facility's dining room provides students with on-the-job-training required for ACFEF accreditation. Additional dining room capacity also serves the need to provide daily meals to AVTEC's growing student population.

The Maritime Safety Training Center, located across Resurrection Bay from AVTEC's other facilities, has a lifeboat davit system that supports U.S. Coast Guard proficiency in survival craft course, a classroom training facility and a state-of-the-art fire fighting simulator.

A part of the Alaska Department of Labor, AVTEC has a rich history of providing Alaska employers with well-trained and skilled technicians, ship captains, professional cooks and bakers, welders, practical nurses, mechanics and electricians, among other professions.

"For more than 40 years, AVTEC has trained students in programs in oil and gas, mining, hospitality, transportation, construction, healthcare and information technology," AVTEC Director Fred Esposito said. "We can train Alaskans for a career in less than a year."

The institute also offers about 60 short-term training programs that take from one to six weeks to complete. AVTEC's main campus is in Seward, with its Allied Health program in Anchorage. Some training programs are available statewide through remote-site and distance-delivery classes.

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AVTEC – Alaska's Institute of Technology
<http://Labor.Alaska.Gov/AVTEC> or <http://AVTEC.edu>
800-478-5389