



Click Bishop  
Commissioner  
P.O. Box 111149  
Juneau, AK 99811-1149  
[www.labor.alaska.gov](http://www.labor.alaska.gov)

Beth Leschper  
Communications Director  
907.465.2700  
cell: 907.723.1321  
[beth.leschper@alaska.gov](mailto:beth.leschper@alaska.gov)

## Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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For more information: Fred Esposito, AVTEC Director  
907-224-6150, [Fred.Esposito@Alaska.Gov](mailto:Fred.Esposito@Alaska.Gov)

### AVTEC Offering Village Internet Agent Training

JUNEAU, Alaska—As part of an effort to increase Internet access across Alaska, an information technology program at AVTEC-Alaska's Institute of Technology will produce trained technicians to maintain personal computers and networks in Alaska's remote villages.

The Village Internet Agent program will provide free tuition, books and supplies to qualified students, although students will responsible for their housing, meals and travel.

VIA is a partnership with AVTEC, the University of Alaska and 20 other entities, which is funded by a \$4.5 million federal "Bridging the e-Skills Gap" program that is part of the federal Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

Classes will begin in the fall at the AVTEC campus in Seward. The first four-month course will be Aug. 23-Dec. 15. The 80-day, six-hour-a-day program will be offered again Jan. 17-May 10.

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 or 907-224-3322.

AVTEC's main campus is in Seward. Classes for the school's Allied Health program are held in Anchorage. Remote-site and distance-delivery classes in nearly all AVTEC's training programs are available statewide.

Alaskans who are interested in the VIA program, or other AVTEC training, should contact the AVTEC Admissions Office for details on qualifying for the program and also for testing.

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AVTEC – Alaska's Institute of Technology  
[Labor.Alaska.Gov/AVTEC](http://Labor.Alaska.Gov/AVTEC) or [AVTEC.edu](http://AVTEC.edu)  
800-478-5389  
907-224-3322