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Press Release

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AWIB Recognizes Hall, Plutt, Rios for Contributions to Career and Technical Education

JUNEAU, Alaska—The Alaska Workforce Investment Board has recognized instructors from Delta and Fairbanks, and an administrator from Anchorage, for their contributions to career and technical education. Gary Hall of Delta was named Secondary CTE Instructor of the Year, John Plutt of Fairbanks was named Postsecondary CTE Instructor of the Year and Rick Rios of Anchorage was named Secondary CTE Administrator of the Year.

“Career and technical education is a necessary piece of Alaska’s workforce development system that provides rigor and relevance to academic and career preparation,” Labor Commissioner Click Bishop said. “CTE helps keep students in school, reduces dropout rates, improves grades and increases entry into the workforce or postsecondary education.”

The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development collaborated with the Department of Education and Early Development and the University of Alaska to create the first-ever, comprehensive plan for Career and Technical Education in Alaska that will help youth and adults obtain meaningful employment in the state. The plan supports a connected system of statewide resources that focuses on both the education and training needs of students, and the workforce needs in the state.

The AWIB has awarded more than \$500,000 in grants to educational institutions across the state to support CTE. For a list of grantees and project, go online Labor.Alaska.Gov/awib/forms/CTE_Grant_Update.pdf.

“Gary, John and Rick have joined a select group of Alaskans whose contributions are significantly improving and promoting career and technical education,” AWIB Chair Jim L. Lynch said. “Nominations for these prestigious awards come from an Alaska business or industry.”

Secondary CTE Instructor of the Year Gary Hall, Delta High School

Gary Hall has spent more than 30 years in the construction trades industry and teaching. In 2002 he was a driving force in implementing a Construction Trades program at Delta High School. He understands that the time to develop good work habits is while a person is young. Hall’s work ethic and professional attitude are core values he teaches to his students. The students that exit his classes have bedrock principles that are key for young adults in a competitive marketplace.

Postsecondary CTE Instructor of the Year John Plutt, Local 375 Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee

John Plutt has been an apprentice and journeyman instructor for Local 375 JATC for 13 years. Plutt is dedicated to providing a quality learning environment and always takes the time to offer assistance to a struggling student or

provide training for journeymen who cannot attend classes during the work week. He assists in providing apprentice outreach by attending career fairs and visiting high schools.

Secondary Administrator of the Year
Rick Rios, Anchorage School District

Rick Rios has helped make CTE a viable option for the students in Anchorage to explore career opportunities. Rios helped develop two career academies within the school district – the Constructions Academy and Health Career Academy – that are providing more, and better qualified, students interested in two of Alaska’s major industries.

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Alaska Workforce Investment Board
Labor.Alaska.Gov/awib/home.htm

Governor of Alaska 2012 CTE Month Proclamation
EED.Alaska.Gov/tls/CTE/docs/FEB2012/2012-alaska-proclamation.pdf

Photo Attachments
Labor.Alaska.Gov/news/2012/12-22/