



February 7, 2014

Governor Sean Parnell
Alaska State Capitol Building
Third Floor
PO Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

RE: SUPPORT FOR REAUTHORIZATION OF THE TECHNICAL VOCATION EDUCATION PROGRAM (TVEP)

Dear Governor Parnell:

As you know from your visits to our facility, the Alaska Technical Center (ATC) is an adult vocational school designed to meet the vocational and technical training needs of rural Alaskans. As Alaska's northernmost regional training center, ATC understands the Arctic and rural Alaska because we live here, train here and work here. Alaskans trained at ATC know how to succeed in Alaska jobs. All programs are designed to build the Alaskan workforce and meet the needs of Alaska's employers in high fields such as natural resources, health care, education and technology.

ATC is in support of House Bill 278 and Senate Bill 139 which includes language addressing the reauthorization of the Technical Vocational Education Program (TVEP) which provides grants to high demand career and technical education entities for industry-specific, on-the-job, and classroom training like ATC. It is particularly important to rural training centers that the allocated percentages written into the current bill remain in place; further dilution of these funds will be detrimental for rural learners.

ATC has just completed a major renovation and addition, including new state-of-the-art equipment and curriculum supporting our programs. This expansion has allowed us to grow rapidly and we are already seeing quantifiable results. During the Fall 2013 term, ATC served a total of 395 adult learners.

Technical Vocational Education Program (TVEP) funds provide a significant portion of the basic operational funds for ATC. ATC has four high-demand core program areas: business technology, construction trades technology, process technology, and health occupations. TVEP funds will allow for implementation of a new culinary arts program for FY 15. In addition, ATC provides Adult Basic Education, including a regional GED program. ATC also provides a variety of short-term training sessions during the year, in response to regional and statewide needs.

All ATC training programs are aligned with University of Alaska Fairbanks courses and certificate and degree programs. Students may dual enroll for ATC and UAF credit in most courses. All programs

ALASKA TECHNICAL CENTER

"A Vocational/Technical School for Alaskans"

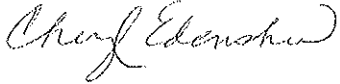
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meet the requirements of recognized state and national certifications. TVEP helps to provide a foundation that allows ATC to maximize additional resources through our various partnerships. ATC partners with multiple organizations and corporations locally, regionally, and statewide, to maximize resources and address workforce development issues affecting northwest Alaska. ATC is an active participant in NWALT, the Northwest Arctic Leadership Team, a collaboration designed to maximize the effective use of resources in our region. In addition, ATC is a partner in the Star of the Northwest magnet school, a grade 11-14 program with education, health, culinary and process technology career pathways.

If you have any questions and/or need further information, please feel free to contact me at (907) 442-1501 or via email at cedenshaw@nwarctic.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
ALASKA TECHNICAL CENTER



Cheryl Edenshaw
Director

CC: Dr. Norman Eck, Superintendent, NWABSD (neck@nwarctic.org)
Senator Donny Olson, District T (Senator.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov)
Representative Benjamin Nageak, District T (Representative.Benjamin.Nageak@akleg.gov)
Commissioner Dianne Blumer, Department of Labor (Dianne.blumer@alaska.gov)
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