

Senate Bill 139

Questions for regional training centers and institutions receiving TVEP funds, per AS 23.15.835(d):

**Alaska Technical Center • ATC • (Kotzebue Technical Center)  
Northwest Arctic Borough School District • Box 51 • Kotzebue, AK 99752**

1. How long have you been in operation?  
*Alaska Technical Center was established in 1981, and has continuously provided workforce development training since that time.*
2. What is your governance structure?  
*Alaska Technical Center is the only postsecondary training center that is part of a school district, Northwest Arctic Borough School District (NWABSD). NWABSD and ATC have a proven record of success in articulating secondary and postsecondary programs to help students prepare to enter the workforce. Our governing body is the NWABSD Board of Education, made up of elected representatives from Ambler, Buckland, Deering, Kiana, Kivalina, Kobuk, Kotzebue, Noatak, Noorvik, Selawik, and Shungnak.*
3. What manner of public/private partnerships do you share?  
*ATC has developed a number of long term, substantive partnerships with agencies, businesses and other organizations. These include Northwest Arctic Borough, NANA Regional Corporation, NANA Development Corporation, Maniilaq Association, Aaqaluk Trust, Kikiktagruk Inupiat Corporation, Teck Alaska/Red Dog University of Alaska Fairbanks, Chukchi College, Shell Oil, ConocoPhillips, Nova Copper, and the Alaska Process Industry Careers Consortium.*
4. What specific training programs do you offer?  
*The Alaska Technical Center has four fully implemented core program areas: office occupations, construction trades technology, millwright maintenance technology, and health occupations. A culinary arts program and a one and two year process technology program are in development for FY 15. In addition, the Alaska Technical Center provides Adult Basic Education, including a regional GED program. ATC also provides a variety of responsive market-based short-term training in areas such as industrial safety, driver education, commercial driver's license preparation, core drilling, boiler and heater maintenance, work readiness, customer service training, software applications, emergency responder training, work readiness, and rural water and wastewater systems training. We also offer face-to-face and video distance delivery introductory courses in our core program areas for high school students dual enrolled at ATC and funded by a partnership with NWABSD and Aaqaluk Trust.*

February 25, 2014

Page 1 of 6

5. How many participants do you currently have in those respective programs?  
*We currently have 42 adult students enrolled in the four core programs. As of today, our short training programs offered this semester have served 46 students. We have 74 students enrolled in short training programs scheduled for the remainder of this semester. There are 49 high school students dual-enrolled at ATC this semester. We project serving approximately 211 total students in these programs this semester. The total for these programs for first semester was 52 core, 122 in short trainings, and 137 high school students dual enrolled, for a total of 311. In addition, our regional ABE/GED programs have a current enrollment of 91. We anticipate serving at least 625 students for FY 2014.*
6. What do you offer in the form of degrees and/or certificates in these programs?

*The four fully implemented programs, and industry, state and university standards they are articulated with are:*

*Business Technology*

- *ATC Certificate*
- *Courses meet requirements for Microsoft Office Software Certification.*
- *Courses are aligned with the University of Alaska, Fairbanks certificate and degree programs, and are available for dual credit*

*Construction Trades Technology*

- *ATC Certificate*
- *Courses are certified through National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER)*
- *Courses are aligned with University of Alaska, Fairbanks certificate and degree programs, and are available for dual credit*

*Health Occupations*

- *ATC Certificate*
- *Courses meet requirements for Alaska State License/Certification*
- *Courses are aligned with University of Alaska, Fairbanks certificate and degree programs, and are available for dual credit*
- *CPR Certification is through Red Cross*

*Process Technology: Millwright Maintenance*

- *ATC Certificate*
- *Courses are certified through National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER)*
- *Courses are aligned with University of Alaska, Fairbanks certificate and degree programs, and are available for dual credit*
- *Courses are aligned with the Teck/Red Dog apprenticeship.*

February 25, 2014

Page 2 of 6

Two new programs are in development for implementation for the 2014-2015 (FY 15) academic year:

*Culinary Arts*

- *ATC Certificate will be awarded*
- *Courses are in process of being aligned with SafeServe requirements*
- *Courses are in process of being aligned with National Restaurant Association ProStart standards*
- *Courses are in process of being aligned with University of Alaska, Fairbanks certificate and degree programs*
- *Courses are in process of being aligned with industry standards by coordination with industry partner NANA Development Corporation*

*Process Technology One Year and Two Year Programs*

- *ATC Certificate*
- *Courses are in process of being certified through National Center for Construction Education and Research*
- *Courses are in process of being aligned with University of Alaska, Fairbanks certificate and degree programs*
- *Course are being aligned with Teck/Red Dog apprenticeship*
- *Courses are in process of being aligned with the standards of the Center of Advancement of Process Technology*

7. How many certifications have you issued and in what training fields, since you began operating?

*Since opening, ATC has issued 6039 certificates in the areas of business, construction, culinary arts, health care, millwright, and short training programs.*

Since beginning to receive TVEP funds?

*Since the inception of TVEP in 2000, through FY 13, ATC has issued 3029 certificates.*

8. Describe the demographic profile of your student body.

*Our Northwest Arctic Borough lists our 2012 population as 81.1% Alaska Native. The average age of residents in our region is 25. These demographics tend to be reflected in our student body.*

9. What are the technical and vocational labor demands in your region and how successful are you in satisfying that demand?

*Our region's technical and vocational labor demands are well documented in the January, 2010 McDowell Report commissioned by the University of Alaska, Fairbanks and the Northwest Arctic Borough School District. The purpose of this report was "to document the workforce needs and preferences of the Northwest Arctic Borough's major employers and to determine the implications of those employer needs for an effective career pathways approach to local education and training".*

February 25, 2014

Page 3 of 6

*The results are the basis for our expansion and program development at Alaska Technical Center. The findings underscore the importance of the business, construction, culinary, education, health care, millwright and process technology career pathways upon which we focus. As we further develop longer, more technically oriented programs, we seek to grow incrementally rather than exponentially. We want to focus on quality and excel within the career pathways that are in demand by Alaska's employers.*

10. What is your annual budget? What other sources of funding do you have besides TVEP?

*Our annual budget is approximately \$2.5 million, about 40% of which comes from TVEP. Grants, partner sponsored training, and revenue from high-demand short training programs make up the remainder of our budget.*

11. What annual level of TVEP funding have you received historically and to date?  
*Initially ATC received 11% of the TVEP allotted funding each year. When TVEP was subsequently restructured, ATC's share was decreased to 9%, where it has remained to date.*

12. What specifically do TVEP funds pay for at your training center?

*TVEP funds the foundation of our operation. Our \$968,400 TVEP funding is used as follows: Instruction 42.7%, Dormitory 12.8%, Counseling and Placement 11%, Operations 14.5%, Food Service 11%, and Administrative Support 8%.*

13. What would you do if TVEP were reduced or eliminated? Increased?

*TVEP forms a foundation that allows us to leverage additional revenues to offer quality, current relevant training to meet business and industry workforce needs. If the program were reduced or eliminated we would be forced to make training program cuts. If funds were increased, the ATC, along with our other regional training center partners could increase collaboration to ensure that Alaska's workforce development needs are met through in-state training programs.*

14. Do you operate a residential facility in conjunction with your programs? If so, please give history of its construction, and current manner of operation and maintenance. Current number of residents?

*Alaska Technical Center operates a 40-bed dormitory for adult learners. It was constructed in 1983. It is utilized to house both short and long term students participating in training programs. Dorm attendants, who provide 24-hour coverage, and shape residence life in collaboration with counseling and administrative staff, staff it. A shared .5 FTE facility maintenance specialist provides maintenance for both the instructional complex and the dormitory. As of this date, the facility is full.*

15. What is your student/teacher ratio?

*This varies depending on the various programs offered at any given time, and the safety, state and industry requirements for each area. In our four core areas, our average student/teacher ratio ranges 12-15:1. This ratio is higher for our adult basic education/GED program.*

16. How many faculty do you employ? Describe their certification levels.

*We have four core area instructors, and two adult basic education instructors (funded from another source). All have college degrees related to their specialty areas. Four have Alaska teaching certificates. Two are National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) certified. One holds a Registered Nurse's license and is an American Cross approved instructor. All core instructors are approved as adjuncts by the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.*

17. Describe how your training center benefits your local community or region.

*The Alaska Technical Center (ATC) is an active partner with agencies, businesses and organizations in our region. ATC provides services that have a crosscutting benefit within our region and the state; we offer programs that meet industry standards in high-demand career pathways. Our programs result in an ever-increasing number of people who hold skilled jobs and are self-sufficient. This benefits our students, our communities, our employers, our region, and the state as a whole. Strong individuals make strong communities.*

18. Please share any other highlights and needs of your training center.

*As we move forward in implementing culinary arts and the highly technical and challenging Process Technology program, beginning next year, we have a great opportunity in front of us. We will be able to better serve the needs of Alaska industry and train our students for success in high demand, high paying jobs. Programs of this magnitude will require us to continue to work with our partners for technical assistance, and for financial resources for curriculum, materials, advanced equipment, and student academic support.*

19. Are there other regional training centers you feel should be receiving TVEP funds?

*TVEP funds have been of great benefit to all of Alaska's postsecondary training centers. We are currently much more effective in training Alaska's workers in Alaska than we were in 2000. ATC supports the further development of our network of regional training centers. Doing this in a quality way will require additional resources as time goes on; we have already absorbed funding decreases, and are concerned that dividing current available funds amongst additional programs would not be fair to the individuals whom we are preparing to enter into or advance in the workforce.*

February 25, 2014

Page 5 of 6

20. Do you believe the current allocation structure for distributing TVEP funds is adequate and fair? If not, how would you recommend adjusting it?

*As stated above, we are advocates for Alaska Technical Center and Alaska's other regional training centers. The current TVEP allocations allow us to provide cost effective training for our students. Through conservative spending, and the stability that the TVEP funding offers, we are positioned to team with partners to benefit our future workforce, and thus our state. While we certainly could utilize additional funding, given Alaska's current fiscal situation, we feel that the existing allocation structure is adequate.*

The committee would appreciate receiving your response to these questions by 2:00 P.M. Tuesday, February 25, 2014. Responses may be submitted electronically via e-mail to [Tim.Lamkin@akleg.gov](mailto:Tim.Lamkin@akleg.gov), or via fax at: 907-465-3517

February 25, 2014  
Page 6 of 6