



## A BLUEPRINT FOR SUCCESS: STORIES ABOUT ALASKA CONSTRUCTION ACADEMY STUDENTS AND EMPLOYERS FY14

Alaska Construction Academies were created in 2006 to attract and train young people and adults for entry-level jobs in construction and trade apprenticeship programs. The high levels of satisfaction expressed about the construction academies by participants and Alaska employers led to the creation of “A Blueprint for Success: Stories about Alaska Construction Academies Students and Employers FY14”. Construction academy participants are finding great jobs and Alaska employers are finding the right kind of employees for their businesses – a perfect match!

The Alaska Construction Academies (AkCA) have a successful track record for training Alaska’s new generation of construction workers. The key to the success of all the AkCA is two-fold – 1) students and adults who take advantage of the quality education and training offered through the construction academies, and 2) the employers who hire and invest in the graduates of the academies. Each year the AkCA recognizes these young adults and their employers and applauds their dedication and commitment to participate in and develop a skilled and successful workforce.

“A Blueprint for Success” documents the journeys of 17 young adults as they create their futures in the construction field and the employers who are training and nurturing these employees to add to the success of their Alaska businesses. The AkCA programs highlighted in the “Blueprint” include: Anchorage, Dillingham, Juneau, Mat-Su, Fairbanks, Kenai Peninsula, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Nome, Fairbanks Pipeline Training Center, and the Voyage to Excellence program.

The AkCA appreciate these exceptional employers for their dedication to developing a skilled workforce by hiring AkCA students. The Construction Education Foundation supports education and training that leads to employment and careers in construction.

For more information regarding the Alaska Construction Academies, contact the Executive Director, Kathleen Castle, or access the website at [www.alaskaca.org](http://www.alaskaca.org).

The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Business Partnerships and the Denali Commission fund AkCA through grants to the Construction Education Foundation.



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*Josh Menadelook and Kip Marshall, GHEMM Company, Inc.*

### JOSH MENADELOOK

Josh Menadelook grew up on Little Diomed Island until he was 14 years old when he moved to Nome. At age 17 he attended the Alaska Job Corps program, focusing on carpentry classes. Josh has been working construction jobs since he was 18 – he is now 27 years of age.

As an adult, Josh learned about the Alaska Construction Academies (AkCA) from the Alaska Works Partnership staff and found that it provided him additional and varied construction skills that would enhance the skills he had already acquired. Now working for GHEMM Company based in Fairbanks, Josh is using all of the skills he learned through the AkCA to work on construction projects throughout the state.

In addition to improving his construction skills, Josh is seeing a marked improvement in his on-the-job communications skills with colleagues, supervisors, and those in the other trades who are working projects with him. Josh says, “Listening to and watching my supervisors help me learn what I need to know.”

GHEMM Company was established in 1952 and is a building contractor. Josh’s supervisor, Kip Marshall first heard about the AkCA in a local television commercial. Kip recognizes and values Josh’s initiative and confidence on the job, which have resulted from Josh’s experiences in the AkCA, an apprenticeship through the local carpenters union, and all of Josh’s other construction related work throughout his life.

“Josh has great skills and is very hard working,” says Kip. So far Josh has worked on forming concrete, framing and tying rebar. As the current construction project continues, Josh will be working on sheetrock and finish carpentry.

Josh encourages all who have an interest in construction to consider enrolling in the AkCA. “The AkCA is a great first step,” he says. Having this opportunity to get construction experience is invaluable.

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Josh Menadelook

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