



## Northwestern Alaska Career and Technical Center

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March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013

To: Representative Neuman  
From: Doug Walrath, Director  
RE: TVEP Reauthorization

Dear Representative Neuman,

Thank you for your efforts to extend the Technical and Vocational Education Program (TVEP) by sponsoring HB 150. This line of funding is instrumental to the delivery of Career and Technical Education training in Northwestern Alaska with several hundred young adults receiving vocational training from TVEP annually.

NACTEC continues to refine our vocational training programs to align with the 2012-2016 Alaska Integrated Workforce Development Plan with a technical training focus on priority industries such as: health care, construction, education, seafood harvesting and processing, information technology, and natural resource development as vocations in demand in Northwestern Alaska.

TVEP funding is of crucial importance to prepare young adults with workforce development skills. NACTEC is currently developing a "Success Series" of posters dedicated to young adults who've made the next step to the workforce as a result of their training. As one example, Marcus Barr a past trainee from Brevig Mission, completed NACTEC training, continued on to advanced VPSO training through Yuut Elitnaurviat, and then returned to his home village where he is now a VPSO. TVEP funding was instrumental to this success.

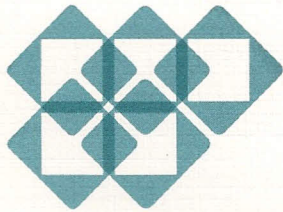
An extension of the TVEP funding will permit a continuation in much needed vocational training programs to meet local workforce needs in our region and prepare more young adults like Marcus. NACTEC supports all efforts to extend the current TVEP sunset and appreciate your proactive efforts to make it happen this year.

Sincerely,

Douglas J. Walrath, NACTEC Director

Cc: The Honorable Representative Mike Chenault, Speaker of the House  
The Honorable Senator Charlie Huggins, Senate President  
Representative Kurt Olson, Chairman House Labor and Commerce  
Representative Bill Stoltze, Co-Chairman House Finance  
Representative Alan Austerman, Co-Chairman House Finance  
Dianne Blumer, Commissioner Department of Labor and Workforce Development





# Partners for Progress in Delta, Inc.

Alaska Works Partnership ♦ Cooperative Extension Service ♦ Delta/Greely School District  
University of Alaska Fairbanks Community and Technical College

March 25, 2013

Representative Mark Neuman  
State Capitol, Room 513  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Neuman:

On behalf of the board of directors of Partners for Progress in Delta, Inc, I am writing in support of extending the sunset date for funding of Regional Training Centers through the program for Technical and Vocational Education Program (TVEP). Current funding is due to sunset June 2014. It is our understanding that your bill, HB 150, would extend the sunset date to 2024. Partners for Progress in Delta, Inc., a consortium of educational partners working together since 2003, is a state-recognized Regional Training Center committed to career advancement through education and training to develop Alaska's skilled workforce. Your support in sponsoring this bill is deeply appreciated.

A sunset date of June 2014 makes it difficult for our board to plan for the coming year. For us specifically in Delta Junction, if we commit to classes and training that we would like to offer at the Delta Career Advancement Center for the summer of 2014, but then learn next spring that funding will not be continued, we have little recourse since we are dependent on TVEP funding for our operation. We either severely scale back programs until we find additional support or perhaps even dissolve the consortium.

Furthermore, the timing of sunset in 2014 comes when we are looking to expand our operation with the construction of a building expansion to meet growing area needs for education and training. We are a small operation but have focused on quality and community needs as they relate to career advancement and workforce development needs of the state. Many describe us as a model for the state.

Our mission is to: *Make area youth and adults competitive for emerging jobs to help build Alaska's workforce.*

Since 2003 our educational partners have accomplished the following:

- Begin Construction Trades program at the high school. *100 + high school students to date*
- Build a facility in which partners deliver education and training programs for workforce development. The Delta Career Advancement Center opened in 2005.
- Hold first Industry Roundtable in 2005. We held our eighth Industry Roundtable in October 2012 to update our supporters and discuss with them their needs for future training and education.
- Kickoff in 2006 an intensive summer Intro to Heavy Equipment Operator Academy. *80+ Participants to date*
- Incorporate as Partners for Progress in Delta, Inc. in 2007 as a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit.
- Recognized by the State of Alaska as a Regional Training Center in 2008.
- Deliver for-credit and non-credit classes reaching 400+ students.

Our founding partners—Alaska Works Partnership, Delta/Greely School District, University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service and UAF Community and Technical College deliver a

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A consortium of educational partners operating the **Delta Career Advancement Center** to train, educate and build Alaska's workforce



range of workshops, testing services and classes for credit and non-credit skills building classes as well as certification opportunities at the Delta Career Advancement Center.

In addition, our annual summer academy has become life changing for many. Since 2006, more than 75 young adults have been introduced to the safe operation of heavy equipment through our **Introduction to Entry Level Heavy Equipment Operator Intensive Summer Academy**. Partners for Progress in Delta offers this academy each June in cooperation with one of the consortium's founding partners, Alaska Works Partnership, and the Operating Engineers Local 302 and its Training Trust.

Since 2006, we have had 20 apprenticeship placements resulting from the summer academy and high school Construction Trades classes; the 20<sup>th</sup> was just accepted by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) as a direct indenture from the Construction Trades high school program, and he will be recognized at the May 2013 high school graduation.

Of these 20 placements, many were youth who previously had not thought about their future and how they might fit into the workforce. Not all plan to attend college right after high school.

- In one instance a bank teller left her position to become a heavy equipment operator who is earning a good wage working throughout the state.
- In another instance someone who took the high school sequence is pursuing a career in the U.S. Coast Guard as a journeyman electrician.
- Yet another academy participant is working on a civil engineering degree at UAF—he wanted to understand what it meant to move dirt so he could be a better engineer.
- One success story is that of the high school student who took the high school Construction Trades classes, participated in the summer academy, was accepted into an IBEW apprenticeship, is now a journeyman and currently is working on a college degree by taking classes at the Delta Career Advancement Center.

We survey all of our participants annually and many tell us they appreciate the “hands-on experience and the opportunities to learn to get a well-paying job.” Additional comments include statements such as the following:

- “It was very helpful in teaching me how to operate equipment the correct way...it was a great experience.”
- “This center helps students find their career. People here have connections with employers.”
- “I learned, practiced a lot.”
- “I learned how important a good work ethic is on any job.”
- “It made me realize what I wanted to do.”

In 2012 and for 2013 as well, emphasis will be directed toward both heavy equipment operation and heavy equipment mechanic training. Importantly, the academy has had tremendous support from the City, local businesses and the Delta Fair Association. We hope to have the 2012 academy students work this summer with a local contractor who is building the new Senior Care Center in Delta. Academy participants have the opportunity to operate each of the pieces of equipment used during the hands-on two-week portion of the program including a dozer, grader, excavator, water truck, backhoe, compactor, and end dump. The three-week academy results in 20-hour MSHA, Forklift operator, First Aid/CPR/AED training and certifications.



Below is a sampling of classes offered as needed and as demand warrants—for credit and not-for-credit through UAF Community and Technical College:

- Arctic Engineering, (graduate level) was video conferenced from the main UAF campus
- Birds of Alaska
- Certified Nurse Aide course through a combination of in-person instruction at the Center, videoconferencing and hands-on training in Fairbanks.
- Computer Business Applications (Microsoft Word, and Microsoft Excel)
- Developmental Math
- Digital Photography
- EMT II
- English 111
- Fundamentals of Oral Communication
- Information Technology (distanced delivered from Nome)
- Introductory Russian
- One student joined the Cisco Networking Academy training twice weekly in our facility. Another student took a distance delivered Communications class via video conferencing throughout the semester.
- Private Pilot Ground School
- Quick Books
- Small Business Marketing
- Welding I and Welding II
- Graduate student working on a master's degree in Natural Resources Management took a class vis-à-vis video conferencing at the Center
- Computer Business Applications: Microsoft Word and Excel
- Alaska Works Partnership offered two Weatherization classes

In addition we offer a number of workshops on a variety of topics to build skills for employment.

- Archaeological Fieldwork—an introductory class aimed at building entry level skills for work on archaeological digs—developed in cooperation with the U.S. Army Garrison—Fort Wainwright.
- CDL Prep Class and a CDL 10-hour intensive driving class with testing at the end. Worked with the Center for Employment Education to offer a pilot 10-hour Commercial Drivers' License (CDL) driver training and testing in Delta July 16-20, 2012. Of eight applicants four were interviewed and selected for this pilot training. Three of the four earned their license.
- Certiport
- Culinary Arts classes
- Drinking Water for Emergencies—developed to meet the needs of the Alaska State Defense Force, a 16-hour workshop aimed at training for decontaminating water in the event of disasters
- English as a Second Language workshop
- Heating Efficiently with Oil (Systems and Controls)—a CEU course for operating oil burners offered in cooperation with the Alaska Science Building Network
- ServSafe for food handler certification



One of our partners, Cooperative Extension Service (CES), increased its use of the Center with a series of videoconference classes, workshops and discussions. The local CES 4H program depends on the Delta Career Advancement as a place for its meetings.

- Alaska Residential Building
- DOT Trucking Regulations
- Solar Energy for Alaskans
- A required pesticide applicator class was delivered from Delta at the Center via videoconference to link with Anchorage, Kodiak, Juneau, and Fairbanks.
- Workshops on "Raising Chickens" and "Raising Fruits" were delivered from Fairbanks to the Center for local participation.
- Introduction to Specialty Food, Business, Family Child Care, as well as several sessions commemorating the 150th anniversary of the land-grant 1862 Morrill Act, were available through videoconferencing.

Our Delta/Greely School District partner uses the facility throughout the year for delivery of many of its career and technical education classes. In addition, the Delta Career Advancement Center has been the hub of the Delta High School Career Day programs for several years, including the fall 2012 daylong "Women in the Trades" focus. The Delta Career Advancement Center also serves as an important site for testing for appropriate placement in classes with Accuplacer testing, Center for Distance Education (CDE) testing, and the ACT tests offered throughout the year as the Center is now listed as a testing site.

In 2012 our Center headcount for classes for university credit, workshops, specialized training and testing at the Delta Career Advancement Center (DCAC) totaled 417 students. That's up from the 2011 total of 248.

As required by the Department of Labor and Workforce Development we annually survey our students and area employers. We heard 97% of student respondents to our annual survey say they would take another class or recommend others to take a class at this center. In 2012, more employers than ever responded to the survey and they believe we are providing quality training.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Student Response rate</u>	<u>Employer Response rate</u>
2012	100%	69%
2011	53%	58%
2010	33%	31%
2009	27%	46%

In 2012, employers told us the following:

- 92% of employees who took classes still work for the organization.
- 68% of those who responded are very satisfied and 28% satisfied with overall skills of employees who take classes.
- 84% are very satisfied with the work ethic of employees hired who took classes at the Delta Career Advancement Center.

In 2012 area employers identified the following classes as important to offer in the future:

- GIS
- AutoCAD

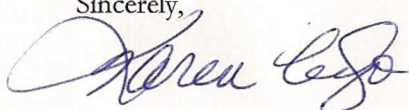


- How to Teach Math
- Noncertified X-ray technician
- EMT II
- ESL more simplified
- Network Plus, Security Plus (8750 certificate training)
- Computer-related training
- Equipment safety for youth under 16
- Pedagogy and phlebotomy

At a February 2013 Delta Junction Chamber of Commerce Meeting we shared our vision for the expansion and attendees were asked if they supported us. We heard an enthusiastic "yes." For this reason the board is committed to working with the community to continue to offer a range of classes and training that can make a difference for the residents of our region. Continued TVEP funding is critical to this effort.

Please let us know what additional information you might need. Again we appreciate your sponsorship of this bill and support of workforce development efforts underway across the state.

Sincerely,



Karen Cedzo

*Partner Coordination and Development, Partners for Progress in Delta, Inc.*

Board Members

Mary Leith, *President, Delta Junction City Council*

Randy Cheap, *Vice President and Secretary, Alaska Works Partnership*

Jon Dufendach, *Treasurer, Camp Water Industries*

Fred Schlutt, *Cooperative Extension Service*

Michele Stalder, *UAF Community and Technical College*

Eric Stewart, *Copper Current Electric*

Duncan Ware, *Delta/Greely School District*

CC

The Honorable Representative Mike Chenault, Speaker of the House

The Honorable Senator Charlie Huggins, Senate President

Representative Kurt Olson, Chairman House Labor and Commerce

Representative Bill Stoltze, Co-Chairman House Finance

Representative Alan Austerman, Co-Chairman House Finance

Dianne Blumer, Commissioner Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Representative Eric Feige

Senator Click Bishop

Senator John Coghill



Southwest Alaska Vocational & Education Center  
Training Alaskans to fill Alaskan Jobs

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Representative Mark Neuman  
State Capitol Room 513  
Juneau AK, 99801

Re: HB150

Dear Representative Neuman:

The Southwest Alaska Vocational and Education Center would like to express gratitude to you for filing HB 150, which would provide for the extension of the unemployment contributions for the Alaska technical and vocational education programs. The extension will allow us to continue to provide jobs training for our rural residents in our rural setting.

Since the inception of the unemployment contribution, SAVEC has made substantial gains in Vocational and Education programs. This funding mechanism has led to many jobs in the Bristol Bay region. The result of providing training for jobs is the best example of workforce development for our region, where unemployment approaches some of the highest percentages in Alaska.

Among the most recent classes, we have had a historically successful STEP grant program training mostly rural residents for CH2M Hill oil industry jobs. That program has one of the best returns of investment, and one of the highest wage gains of all STEP programs that are funded in Alaska.

SAVEC has also recently become a recipient of a BBNA written grant, with many Bristol Bay and federal partners that will result in the Bristol Bay fisheries job cluster development through a USDA and EDA Rural Jobs Accelerator Challenge grant. It is the first of its kind for training of rural Alaska residents for fisheries related jobs in the future.

Also, for the first time, SAVEC has partnered successfully with two of the Bristol Bay School Districts to provide CTE certified training for high school juniors and seniors in the Lake and Peninsula School District and Bristol Bay Borough School District. The program teaches basic business, construction, small engine repair, OSHA, Safety and First Aid, and other classes that will enable youth to get a head start, gaining both high

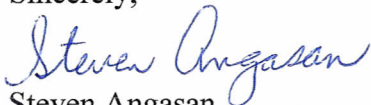
school credits, and college credits through a perpetual partnership with the University of Alaska, Bristol Bay Campus.

SAVEC has also become a recipient of a recent Denali grant for certification of Rural Alaska Maintenance Program Training in partnership with Alaska Works Partnership and five other Bristol Bay area regional partners.

SAVEC is making strides in providing technical and vocational training. Thanks for giving us the opportunity to enhance the job skills and the ability to get a job through the extension of the unemployment contributions for Alaska technical and vocational education programs.

Without the HB 150 contribution extension, and subsequent extension at historical levels, SAVEC will not be able to operate under the ever increasing costs of fuel and electricity that we encounter.

Sincerely,



Steven Angasan  
Executive Director

SA/sa





# Yuut Elitnaurviat

P E O P L E ' S L E A R N I N G C E N T E R

Alaska National Guard • Association of Village Council Presidents • Association of Village Council Presidents, Regional Housing Authority • Bethel Community Services Foundation • Calista Corporation • City of Bethel • Lower Kuskokwim School District • Orutsaramuit Native Council • UAF – Kuskokwim Campus • Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation

March 25, 2013

RE: HB 150-TVEP Sunset Extension

ATTN: Labor and Commerce Committee

Dear Committee Members:

Yuut Elitnaurviat-People's Learning Center Inc. (YE) recently learned the House Bill 150 is being reviewed and if approved will change the sunset date for Technical and Vocational Education Program (TVEP) from 2014 to 2024. YE is 100% in support of this bill.

YE is a fully operational vocational school located in Bethel. Our organization was created to deliver workforce development programs to our region, the most populated in rural Alaska. The legislature took a leap of faith and named YE as a TVEP recipient when the program was created in 2004. YE was still early in its development, and this investment from the state made it possible to pilot programs while our campus was still under construction. When we became fully operational in 2009 we were ready to expand and we hit the ground running. Our service numbers jumped from an average of 150 per year during development to nearly 3,000 in 2012.

YE fully utilizes all of our TVEP funding by March or April of each fiscal year. We then spend earned revenue to get us through the end of each year. As it stands we have struck a nice balance with our business model. Our staffing is small, but adequate. Our programs are robust and responsive to our regional workforce development needs. When fuel costs increased dramatically last summer and heating fuel hit \$7 a gallon, we invested in wind turbines and solar panels. The net effect has been that our costs are the same as they were the year before the increase. Our current funding level ensures we are frugal and encourages us to constantly strive to improve and explore new opportunities.

We have data and statistics demonstrating the state's investment in our activities is a good value. As it presently stands TVEP constitutes approximately 24% of our annual operating budget. In return for this investment YE provided services to 2981 individuals in fiscal year 2012. YE has developed a very sophisticated customized student tracking database over the last 7 years. The database tracks students progress through programs and after they enter the workforce. YE services include direct training for dozens of industry driven classes, career guide services, GED instruction & testing (largest program in rural Alaska), Rural Alaska's only State Certified Driving School (permit classes, behind the wheel training, ADL & CDL testing), hosting the Dental Therapy Program (the only of its kind in the US), Rural Alaska's only full apprenticeship programs for Industrial Electric, Plumbing & Carpentry, coordinating the RANSEP program (brings village based students to Bethel so that they can take advanced math and science classes), and YE now hosts Village Police Officer Trainings for the entire state.

YE carefully collects student data and keeps impeccable financial records. We take our commitment to our funders seriously and strive to ensure we are always good stewards of all public and private funds that support our endeavors. Our greatest pride however is our commitment to our students. We know





# Yuut Elitnaurviat

P E O P L E ' S L E A R N I N G C E N T E R

Alaska National Guard • Association of Village Council Presidents • Association of Village Council Presidents, Regional Housing Authority • Bethel Community Services Foundation • Calista Corporation • City of Bethel • Lower Kuskokwim School District • Orutsarmuit Native Council • UAF – Kuskokwim Campus • Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation

them. We know their families. Their success is our success. We link our services and programs to encourage students to keep advancing.

George Kameroff graduated from Aniak High School and went on to complete our Certificate in Construction and Maintenance in 2012. He then enrolled in our Electrical Apprenticeship program with Chulista. Receiving the certificate allowed him to transfer 500 hours towards his apprenticeship program. .

Debbie Rushing moved to Bethel and completed her GED at YE at age 54. She is now enrolled in our Certified Nursing Assistant Program (CNA) and has a job waiting as soon as she finishes the program in March.

Eddie Stanley Jr. received his GED at YE. He then completed our Certificate in Construction and Maintenance and entered our Electrical Apprenticeship Program. The licensed electrical journeyman who is now signing off on Eddie's apprenticeship hours, Jason Martin, is a graduate of our apprenticeship program in his own right.

YE is currently partnered with the Association of Village Council Presidents to deliver a welding class. We have a cohort of 9 students who upon completion of the program will go straight to work building the boardwalks in their own community. After the guaranteed experience this summer, these new welders will have both classroom and real-world work experience under their belts. They will be highly qualified for additional high wage jobs at remote camp sites throughout the state.

Anthony Nevak was a 19 year old junior in danger of dropping out. YE recruited him into the RANSEP Program. He came to Bethel from Toksook Bay for two semesters of advanced math and science coursework. He completed both the ANSEP Acceleration Academy and the ANSEP Summer Bridge Program. Anthony graduated in 2012 and entered UAA without needing any remedial classes. He is now excelling in his freshman year of college at UAA with the ANSEP program.

TVEP funding has been critical to our success. We believe that the TVEP program is a great investment, and an effective way for the State to support workforce development in the YK Delta.

Sincerely,

Kurt Kuhne  
Executive Director  
Yuut Elitnaurviat-The People's Learning Center, Inc  
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(907)543-0999