

Developing Alaska's Arctic Workforce



**Joint MTG- House Committee on Economic Development, Tourism and Arctic Policy
and the Senate Committee on the Arctic**

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The slide features a header with a background image of a snow-capped mountain range under a clear blue sky. The text is centered and reads "Alaska Arctic Policy Commission Recommendation 3H". Below the header is a horizontal line. The main body of the slide contains a large, bold, black quote: "Create workforce development programs to prepare Arctic residents to participate in all aspects and phases of Arctic development". At the bottom center, there is a small number "2".

Alaska Arctic Policy Commission Recommendation 3H

“Create workforce development programs to prepare Arctic residents to participate in all aspects and phases of Arctic development”



State Arctic Policy Priorities

- **Promote economic and resource development**
- **Address the response capacity gap**
- **Support healthy communities**
- **Strengthen state-based science and research agenda**



Workforce Planning Areas Identified by the Arctic Council

- **Emergency and environmental response**
- **Search and rescue**
- **Telecommunications**
- **Maritime**
- **Transportation**
- **Ports, roads and civil construction**
- **Oil and gas development and facility operations**

Alaska has several relevant Industry Sector Workforce Plans in place

“Create Workforce Development Programs to prepare Arctic Residents to participate in all aspects and phases of Arctic Development”

Alaska Arctic Policy Commission

- Construction
- Health Care
- Mining
- Oil & Gas
- Maritime
- Career & Technical Education

All Industry Workforce Plans are Aligned with Alaska’s Career & Technical Education Plan



Arctic Labor Market

- **Nome area unemployment: 13.4% (includes most Bering Sea Alliance communities)**
- **Northern Arctic workforce:**
 - 26.9% non-Alaska residents**
 - 38.4% Alaskans from other part of state**
 - 34.7% local residents**

(“Northern Arctic” means Norton Sound communities, St. Lawrence Island, and North Slope)

Arctic Labor Market: Oil Industry



- Oil industry is largest Northern Arctic employer, providing approximately 9,000 jobs in the region
- Only 2% of oil jobs are held by local residents
- 39% of jobs held by non-Alaskans
- 59% of jobs held by non-local Alaskans



Labor Market: Government & Mining

- **Local government is Northern Arctic's second largest industry**
- **83.1% of workers are local residents**
- **Red Dog Mine has 435 permanent and 18 temporary employees**
- **Approximately 80% of workers are Alaskans**



Workforce Development: Key to Addressing Arctic Policy Priorities

- **Alaska has decades of experience training an Arctic workforce**
- **Alaska has a public workforce system capable of meeting challenges of increased Arctic activity**
- **Attracting Alaska's students to education and training that prepares them for a career in the Arctic is a large challenge**



Renewed Focus on Alaska Hire

- **Alaska Hire is a top priority for Governor Walker and Commissioner Drygas**
- **A new Zone of Underemployment determination promotes local hire on public funded construction**
- **Expand apprenticeship training in Mining, Maritime, Oil & Gas, and Health Care**
- **Enforcement against worker misclassification and labor trafficking**

University of Alaska – the Leader in Arctic Workforce Development

- **University of Alaska including campuses in Nome, Kotzebue, Bethel, Dillingham, Interior and Aleutians**
- **University of Alaska's Process Technology Associates Degree for mine operations**
- **Occupational and Environmental Safety and Health Certificates and OSH Associates Degrees**

Arctic Regional Training Centers

- Kotzebue – Alaska Technical Education Center
- Nome – Northwest Arctic Career and Technical Education Center (NACTEC)
- Barrow – Ilisagvik College
- King Salmon – Southwest Alaska Vocational Education Center (SAVEC)
- Bethel – Yuut Elitnaurviat

Fairbanks Pipeline Training Center

- **Training to build large diameter pipelines for oil/gas**
- **Civil construction; heavy equipment operation, mechanics, construction truck driving, surveying**
- **Ice road construction and long-haul trucking**
- **Industrial welding and pipefitting**
- **52 acre training field, 9 acre campus with classrooms, shops and dormitory**
- **UAF – Process Technology & Occupational Safety degree programs**



AVTEC Training for Maritime Workforce

- **Maritime training programs:**
 - **Master of Not More than 200 Tons**
 - **Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vehicles**
 - **Qualified Member of Engine Dept. Oiler**
- **27 Coast Guard approved shorter courses**
- **AVTEC has only Coast Guard approved Class A full mission control bridge simulator in Alaska**
- **Industrial construction**

Key Arctic Workforce Planning Principles

- **Career & Technical Education planning for Arctic economic and workforce development**
- **Directly involve industry, regional employers, educators and community representatives**
- **Training programs must be focused and designed for sustainability**



Research Based Planning

Perform an Arctic Region Economic & Workforce analysis of:

- **the projected occupational demand, cross industry skills, and emerging occupations**
- **the current and projected skills gaps, to determine the region's priority occupations**
- **Local workforce demographics**

Provide a report with recommendations to the Legislature's Arctic Policy Council - Spring 2016