

University of Alaska Legislative Request

From: Representative Tammie Wilson

Date: February 1, 2016

Following below is information on AVTEC and FSMI as requested by Representative Wilson.

- AVTEC: A statewide/regional training center co-located in Anchorage and Seward with 6 broad program categories including the Alaska Maritime Center consisting of a Master/Mate program, and the QMED (Qualified Member of Engine Department) Oiler program. Each program has a number of courses with important certifications and career opportunities for completers. One other maritime-related program of particular interest to this conversation is their Refrigeration training program.
- FSMI (Fisheries, Seafood, Maritime Initiative): A University of Alaska initiative to highlight the university's critical role through research, education and workforce development activities in support of the fisheries, seafood processing and maritime industries in Alaska and globally.
- University of Alaska, 3 universities and 13 community campuses (10 near open water): Maritime education and training inventory consists of Occupational Endorsements, Certificates, Associate-, Bachelor's-, Master's-, and Doctoral degrees as well as many non-credit certification programs. (A link to the comprehensive listing of maritime courses is provided below.) UAF also is recognized as a Sea Grant University for Alaska with Marine Advisory (MAP) faculty/agents providing education, training, and research to coastal communities throughout Alaska.

Brief Answers to Questions Listed Below:

1. "Is there as duplication/competition between the two programs?" Yes, and in areas identified as priority needs for this industry.

UAS Ketchikan Campus and AVTEC have similar programs for QMED, Able Seaman, 100-ton and 200-ton Master programs. All programs are Coast Guard Certified.

UA programs report that if programs were not available in the southeast region of Alaska, folks would go to Seattle rather than Seward for training. UA maritime program enrollments are almost at capacity and enticed by students receiving academic credit.

UAA Mat-Su Campus and AVTEC have refrigeration programs. Both programs are nationally industry certified.

UA has a refrigeration simulation trainer that is transported to coastal communities across the state for local training of fish harvesters and processors.

2. "What is AVTECs relationship to FSMI?"

AVTEC was represented by former DOLWD Commissioner Bishop at the first meeting and invited to participate throughout the development of the Alaska Maritime Workforce Plan.

AVTEC and UAS are currently co-chairing the Marine Vessel Engineering and Licensing Working Group. AVTEC is also represented on the Career Awareness and Refrigeration working groups.

Contextual Background:

FSMI was created as a broad partnership of employers, state agencies and education/training providers to address issues of importance in workforce and economic development, as well as environmental issues facing the state. Other than in-kind support from participating organizations, this coordination and facilitation of initiative was fully paid for through UA's Technical Vocational Education Programs (TVEP) funding.

Representatives from state agencies (EED, DOLWD, Commerce, DNR), employers, maritime professional organizations, regional training providers and university campuses, CDQ groups and others were invited to participate throughout the process. A website was developed and regular communication with the Alaska Workforce Investment Board allowed interested groups to keep abreast of developments. Semi-annual gatherings of stakeholders were held in Anchorage.

The result of close to three years of occupational assessments, surveys, interviews and discussions was the development of a single Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Plan recognized and endorsed by the Alaska Workforce Investment Board.

With the support of the University of Alaska to ensure the industry and employers are driving the implementation of the Plan, a separate industry-led entity was formed called 'Maritime Works'. Maritime Works is transitioning from a wholly UA TVEP supported working group to an industry-led group affiliated with the Alaska Process Industries Careers Consortium.

Priority actions identified in the Alaska Maritime Workforce Plan are directed by the Maritime Works through the development of Action Committees formed and led by Maritime Works employers and Trade Associations. Current priorities include career pathways, refrigeration training, and outreach, and vessel maintenance and repair occupations.

FSMI, the UA-based initiative, continues to work independently but aligned with Maritime Works. FSMI currently has two organizations.

- FSMI has a Leadership Team (LT) representing each of the universities and meets bi-monthly via audio conferences. Agenda items on the FSMI LT meetings regularly include:
 - Opportunities for Collaboration, when UA representatives share their programs, initiatives and potential partnership opportunities
 - Priority updates from representatives of Maritime Works
 - Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Plan action item updates
- FSMI has a Working Group consisting of Community Campus Deans and Directors and Marine Advisory Program (MAP) faculty who meet annually to share current activities, initiatives and share opportunities for collaborating and improving delivery of maritime-related programs.

UA TVEP was instrumental in developing a dynamic partnership for Alaska's maritime industry sector at a time preceding the economic downturn due to oil prices and production. Because federal education-training funding was written out of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, a never before economic, industry, education, and training partnership has been formed that will ensure that the sustainable economy derived from our maritime resource opportunities continue for generations to come.

Below are some document links that provide additional information between the efforts and entities.

Maritime Works: <http://www.akmaritimejobs.com/>

AVTEC Programs: <https://avtec.edu/avtec-program-page>

Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Plan:

http://alaska.edu/fsmi/AKMaritimeWFDPlan_HighRes_5-22-14.pdf

FSMI Newsletter: <http://www.alaska.edu/fsmi/outreach/>

UA Maritime Education and Training Inventory:

http://alaska.edu/research/wp/plans/maritime/FY15-UA-Maritime-Inventory_12-21-15.pdf