



February 26, 2020

The Honorable Representative Adam Wool
House of Representatives
State Capitol Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Wool,

Iḷisaġvik College supports the passage of HB 235, which provides for the reauthorization of the Technical and Vocational Education Program (TVEP). As the academic, career and technical training center for the North Slope, Iḷisaġvik also supports equitable distribution of TVEP funds.

Iḷisaġvik College is an Arctic regional training center and higher education institution that provides quality post-secondary academic, vocational, and technical education in a learning environment that perpetuates and strengthens Iñupiat culture, language, values, and traditions. Industrial Safety courses are being taught in every village on the North Slope and we continue to offer classes in Construction Trades Technology, which includes plumbing, electrical, carpentry, welding, and CDL/Heavy Equipment Operations. Recently we have redesigned our CDL programs increasing our CDL completion rate by 300% and many of our classes offer National Center for Construction Education and Research credit (a national certification), in addition to college credit. Iḷisaġvik received official Tribal College designation in 2005 and is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, the same body of which provides accreditation to other higher education institutions in Alaska. Iḷisaġvik is an independent, public, non-profit corporation and currently the only Tribal College in Alaska.

The North Slope is the only Borough/census area without a designated UA campus or otherwise State dollars for higher education and is the only academic and workforce institution on the North Slope region. Iḷisaġvik welcomes all who wishes to attend, and as such, is the local college and training center for all who now reside in the region, and beyond via distance education. Per the 2019 TVEP Annual Report Performance Measures, Iḷisaġvik is the:

- Third in the total number of adult participants, of 10 TVEP recipients
- Highest percent employed 1-12 months after exit (81.1%)
- Highest percent employed 1 year after exit (70.6%)
- Highest median wage 7-12 months after exit (\$26,277)
- Highest median wage 1-12 months after exit (\$52,554)

For these top performance measures, Iḷisaġvik receives 5% of the total funding pie. Through current distribution avenues, funding to many regions in Alaska is nearly duplicative with the existence of both a regional training center and the presence of a UA campus. Funding from TVEP is a meaningful avenue support for critical training and workforce preparation and we support discussions about equitable allocations for the North Slope, such as positioning Iḷisaġvik closer to 9%, in line with a regional training center of the College's scope and scale. We look forward to continued conversations and are happy to provide additional information regarding Iḷisaġvik College.

Quyanaq,

Dr. Pearl Brower
President, Iḷisaġvik College