

Developing Alaska's Arctic Workforce

Alaska Legislature Special Committee On The Arctic



**Presentation by the Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development
March 5, 2015**

Declaration of State Arctic Policy - Priorities



- **Promoting economic and resource development**
- **Addressing the response capacity gap in the Arctic region**
- **Supporting healthy communities**
- **Strengthening a state-based agenda for science and research in the Arctic**

Workforce Development

Key to Addressing Arctic Council Priorities

- **Alaska has decades of experience educating and training an Arctic workforce**
- **Alaska has collaborative “workforce” partnerships in place to meet the challenges of increasing activity in the Arctic region**
- **Alaska has substantial education and training infrastructure to support Arctic Workforce Development**

Alaska's Public Postsecondary Education, College and University Systems are Engaged in Arctic Workforce Development

- **University of Alaska & Rural College
Campuses in Nome, Kotzebue, Bethel,
Dillingham, Interior and Aleutians**
- **Alaska Technical Center in Kotzebue**
- **Ilisagvik College in Barrow**
- **Alaska Vocational and Technical Education
Center (AVTEC) in Seward**



Arctic Region Training Capacity

- **“Arctic Region” education and training infrastructure has grown significantly over the past 15 years**
- **Regional Training Centers (RTC) have established workforce partnerships with regional employers, health care providers, schools, college campuses, Alaska Native Corporations, and mobile industry training providers**

Arctic Region Training Centers

- **Kotzebue – the Alaska Technical Education Center**
- **Nome – Northwest Arctic Career and Technical Education Center**

RTC programs are funded, in part, through the Alaska Technical and Vocational Education Program (TVEP)



Fairbanks Pipeline Training Center

- **Specializing in teaching “Arctic Construction Skills”**
- **Building large diameter pipelines for oil and gas**
- **Heavy equipment operation and maintenance**
- **Industrial welding and pipefitting**
- **University of Alaska’s Process Technology Associates Degree for facility operations**
- **Occupational and Environmental Safety and Health Certificates and OSH Associates Degrees**
- **Campus with housing for Arctic trainees**

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**

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

Alaska has several relevant Industry Sector Workforce Plans in place *(cont.)*

- **Workforce plans were created through collaborative partnerships with industry employers, educators and trainers to meet the challenge of supplying a ready workforce today and developing tomorrow's talent**
- **Industry Sector workforce plans help guide policy makers, educators, counselors and Industry trainers**
- **The plans create education & training pathways for students and adults to jobs, careers and advanced learning – for “Arctic Region” industry occupations and careers**



Workforce Planning Areas Identified by the Alaska Arctic Council

- **Emergency and environmental response**
- **Search and rescue**
- **Telecommunications**
- **Maritime**
- **Transportation**
- **Ports, roads and civil construction**
- **Oil and Gas Development and Facility Operations**



Key “Arctic” Workforce Planning Principals:

- **Career & Technical Education planning for Alaska’s Arctic economy with local communities**
- **Industry, regional employers, educators and community representatives are directly involved in planning**
- **Training programs must be sustainable**



Research Based Planning

- **The Alaska Workforce Investment Board and the Department of Labor and Workforce Development will perform an Arctic Workforce education and training “gap” analysis**
- **The Department will provide labor market research to help policy makers better understand our emerging and expanding Arctic occupations**
- **The Alaska Workforce Investment Board and the Department will recommend action steps to address our Alaska Arctic workforce system gaps**