



# Northwest Arctic Borough

P.O Box 1110 Kotzebue, Alaska 99752  
(907) 442-2500 Fax (907) 442-2930  
www.nwabor.org

March 29, 2017

RE: reauthorization of the Technical Vocation Education Program

To whom it may concern:

As the Mayor of the Northwest Arctic Borough, I support the reauthorization of the Technical Vocational Education Program by the Alaska Legislature and Governor Walker. The reauthorization of this program will continue to support the delivery of vocational training programs that prepares Alaska residents for the workforce. Our region of Alaska currently has some of the highest unemployment rates in the nation.

The Technical Vocational Education Program administered by the Alaska Department of Labor expires at the end of June 2017 and requires the Alaska Legislature and Governor Walker to reauthorize the existence of the program. The Technical Vocational Education Program is funded through a percentage of the Unemployment Insurance contributed by all employed Alaskans and not funded by the State General Fund.

The Alaska Technical Center is recognized by the State of Alaska as a statewide post-secondary training center eligible for Technical Vocational Education Program funding. The Alaska Technical Center receives and utilizes the Technical Vocational Education Program.

The Alaska Technical Center provides a wide range of vocational training programs, and workforce development skills. The Alaska Technical Center has prepared many Alaska residents for high paying jobs in the local and statewide economy since its inception in 1981.

The Alaska Technical Center provides core vocational programs that include; Process Technology, Culinary Arts, Construction Trades, and Certified Nurses Aides certifications. These same programs also provide dual credit opportunities with the University of Alaska, where individual participants may continue his/her education in a degree program. In addition, the Alaska Technical Center provides many other courses in response to business and industry demand. Training includes: Community Health Aide/Practitioner, Mine Exploration Core Drillers, Millwright Maintenance, Water Treatment Operator, Hazwoper, State-RUBA, Arctic Leadership to name a few.

The Northwest Arctic Borough, through its' Frank R. Ferguson Scholarship program also contributes to Borough residents vocational training programs through our scholarship

Ambler [Ivisaappaat](#), Buckland [Nunatchiaq](#), Deering [Ipnatchiaq](#), Kiana [Katyaak](#), Kivalina [Kivaliniq](#), Kobuk [Laugviik](#), Kotzebue [Qikiqtagruk](#), Noatak [Nautaaq](#), Noorvik [Nuurvik](#), Selawik [Akuligaaq](#), Shungnak [Isinnaq](#)



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program. I urge you to support reauthorization of the State TVEP Act and extending it for another five years.

Sincerely,

Clement Richards Sr.  
Mayor, Northwest Arctic Borough