



Northwestern Alaska Career and Technical Center

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To: The Honorable Senator Mia Costello

RE: SB85 - TVEP Reauthorization

Dear Senator Costello,

The Northwestern Alaska Career and Technical Center (NACTEC) supports the reauthorization of TVEP. The Regional Training Center (RTC) network, supported by TVEP funding, provides autonomy and flexibility to meet the unique needs of each region's priority industries. The RTC's provide workforce development training that otherwise would need to occur out of region, and at a much greater expense to the state.

Healthcare training is the top priority in the Nome Census Area. Norton Sound Health Corporation, our largest regional employer, partners with NACTEC to deliver dual credit high school courses: *Introduction to Health Field* and *Emergency Trauma Technician* training. TVEP funding supports industry certification in our Healthcare strand, through advanced technical training, which transitions students immediately into employment as Certified Nurse Aides or Village Health Aides.

In addition to Healthcare, NACTEC delivers a sequence of courses across Alaskan priority industries in Construction, Transportation, Seafood Harvesting & Processing, and Hospitality & Tourism. A vitally important workforce development training program, cutting across all industries, noted as a top priority is Driver Education training. NACTEC is the only provider of adult and high school Driver Education training in the Nome Census Area, and also a DMV-approved third party road test examiner in Nome.

As our State budget has restricted, shedding workers and training dollars alike, it becomes critically important to make earlier outreach to develop a technically skilled workforce. NACTEC supports TVEP reauthorization efforts and its expansive reach across our large state to train workforces locally, to best meet local needs.

Sincerely,

Douglas J. Walrath, Ph.D.
Director, Northwestern Alaska Career and Technical Center