
March 11, 2021



Representative Adam Wool
State Capitol Room 501
Juneau, Alaska. 99801

Dear Representative Wool:

I am writing to inform you that I enthusiastically endorse the reauthorization of the Technical Vocational Education Program. (TVEP). I am the Director of the Alaska Technical Center (ATC) located in Kotzebue serving the northwest arctic region of the state. Leadership provided by the Northwest Arctic Leadership team (NWALT) representing the Northwest Arctic Borough School District through the Northwest Arctic Borough, NANA, and Maniilaq Association work together to maximize and reduce the duplication of efforts to address this region and the people who reside here. ATC and the people of northwest Alaska strongly support reauthorization of TVEP. TVEP is vital to the Alaska Technical Center as well as other statewide training centers that provide training for workforce opportunities. Thank you for sponsoring HB 100: it is extremely critical in maintaining education and training services that match regional and economic workforce needs.

ATC is an adult vocational/technical school for Alaskans providing training that leads to employment in the following areas: Health Care Occupations, Construction Trades, Process Technology and Culinary Arts. ATC also delivers various short courses that meet employer and business partner needs leading to employment or advancing in current employment. Employers like the Maniilaq Health Center, NANA, the Red Dog Mine and others in our region and statewide benefit from TVEP funding to ATC. ATC and other regional training centers provide high demand training that meets the unique workforce needs and has a positive impact through their training services towards sustainability and benefiting individuals and communities in Alaska. This is essential as we work together to build Alaska's economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to communicate my support in favor of TVEP reauthorization.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Cheryl Edenshaw', is positioned above the printed name.

Cheryl Edenshaw, Director
Alaska Technical Center

CC: Senator Donny Olson (Sen.Donald.Olson@akleg.gov)
Representative Josiah Patkotak (Representative.Josiah.Patotak@akleg.gov)
Commissioner Tamika Ledbetter, DOLWFD (Commissioner.Labor@alaska.gov)



Northwestern Alaska Career and Technical Center

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March 11, 2021

To: The Honorable Representative Adam Wool

RE: HB100 – Extend Workforce Investment Board Allocations

Dear Representative Wool,

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 otherwise needing 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 our students immediately into employment as Certified Nurse Aides, Village Health Aides, and in the near future Personal Care Attendants.

In addition to Healthcare needs, Nome is poised with several large projects addressing U.S. national interests. In December Congress authorized a \$379M appropriation for the construction of an Arctic deep draft port in Nome. In January the U.S. government's Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Committee designated Graphite Creek as a high-priority infrastructure project. Located 40 miles from Nome, this is the highest grade and largest known large flake graphite deposit in the U.S., with electric vehicle applications and lithium-ion batteries of all types. A vitally important workforce development training program supporting both of these projects 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

Cc: Representative Neal Foster
Commissioner Tamika Ledbetter



GALENA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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SUPERINTENDENT
Jim Merriner

The Honorable Adam Wool
State Capitol Room 501
Juneau, Alaska 99801

March 10, 2021

Re: House Bill NO. 100

Dear Representative Wool:

On behalf of the Galena City School District (GCSD), I write in support of House Bill NO. 100 which extends from June 30, 2021 to June 30, 2024 funding appropriated to the Alaska Workforce Investment Board and then allocated to institutions, including GCSD's Galena Interior Learning Academy.

These funds are vital for GCSD to continue providing career and technical educational opportunities for students.

Thank you very much for your service to Alaska. Please feel free to contact me at the number above or email below.

Yours in Education,

Jim Merriner, GCSD Superintendent
Email: jim.merriner@galenanet.com