

HB

180

<TARGET><BILL>HB 180</BILL><SUBJECT>HB
180</SUBJECT><COMM>SEDC28</COMM></TARGET>

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 4/3/13

FURTHER: Rules

DATE TURNED IN TO OFFICE: 4/12/13

Education Committee considered HOUSE BILL NO. 180

HB 180-MILITARY YOUTH ACADEMY

"An Act relating to the Alaska Challenge Youth Academy; and providing for an effective date."

and recommends:

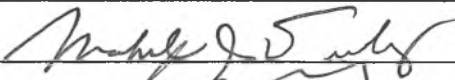


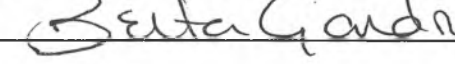

- be replaced with SCS _____ (_____) Same Title Technical Title Change
 New Title/SCR No. _____
- adopt previous SCS _____ (_____) Same Title Technical Title Change
 New Title/SCR No. _____
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt _____ Letter of Intent
- further referral to _____ Committee

Dept Abbr.	
ADM	LWF
CED	LAW
COR	LEG
CRT	MVA
EED	DNR
DEC	DPS
DFG	REV
GOV	DOT
DHS	UA

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #
MVA	✓			3
EED	✓			4

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	D. Hughes	✓			
	H. Huggins	✓			
	S. Gardner	✓			
	B. Gardner	✗			
	CHAIR: STEVEN	✗			

**Alaska State Legislature
House of Representatives
Representative Tammie Wilson**

Interim
1292 Sadler Way Ste. 308
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Phone - (907) 451-2723
Fax - (907) 452-3430



Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov

Session
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone - (907) 465-4797
Fax - (907) 465-3884

House Bill 180

"An Act relating to the Alaska Challenge Youth Academy; and providing for an effective date."

The Alaska Military Youth Academy has seen unparalleled success in serving Alaska's at-risk youth. A military-style 24-hour school, the AMYA serves only high school drop-outs between the ages of 16 and 19.

In almost 20 years of operation, the AMYA has graduated more than 4,000 cadets. Like any program, the AMYA started out small and has grown to graduating about 300 cadets each year.

The funding formula that currently serves the AMYA is outdated and must be changed. It was designed to protect a fledgling program from the budget cuts associated with \$9-barrel oil prices. The AMYA has weathered the storm and proven itself as a successful program that can stand on its own merits.

With this proven track record, it is time to move the Academy to a direct appropriation based on the number of cadets that graduate.

**Alaska State Legislature
House of Representatives
Representative Tammie Wilson**

Interim
1292 Sadler Way Ste. 308
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Phone - (907) 451-2723
Fax - (907) 452-3430



Session
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone - (907) 465-4797
Fax - (907) 465-3884

Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov

House Bill 180 - Sectional Analysis

Section 1— replaces the word “challenge” with “military” in the statute the directs school districts to report the names of high school drop-outs to the director of the AMYA

Section 2— establishes the Alaska Military Youth Academy in statute

Section 3—repeals the old BSA-based funding formula

Section 4—changes all statute referencing “Alaska Youth Challenge Academy” to “Alaska Military Youth Academy”

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2013 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 180
Fiscal Note Number: 3
() Publish Date: 4/12

Identifier: HB180-DMVA-AMVA-04-3-13
Title: MILITARY YOUTH ACADEMY
Sponsor: T.WILSON
Requester: Senate Education Committee

Department: Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs
Appropriation: Military and Veterans' Affairs
Allocation: Alaska Military Youth Academy
OMB Component Number: 1969

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2014 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2014 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services		7,349.2						
Travel		139.3						
Services		1,983.3						
Commodities		1,164.9						
Capital Outlay		103.1						
Grants & Benefits		334.8						
Miscellaneous								
Total Operating	0.0	11,074.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

1002 Fed Rcpts		4,172.9						
1003 G/F Match			1,238.3					
1004 Gen Fund		56.8	3,553.1					
1005 GF/Prgm		1.0						
1007 I/A Rcpts		6,814.2	(4,791.4)					
1108 Stat Desig		29.7						
Total	0.0	11,074.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time		89.0						
Part-time		1.0						
Temporary								

Change in Revenues								
---------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2013) cost: 0.0

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2014) cost: 0.0

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

This fiscal note reflects the FY14 funding currently in the operating buget, as passed by both bodies.

Prepared By:	McHugh Pierre, Deputy Commissioner	Phone: (907)428-6003
Division	Office of the Commissioner, DMVA	Date: 04/03/2013 01:00 PM
Approved By:	Major General Thomas H. Katkus, Commissioner	Date: 04/03/13
	Office of the Commissioner, DMVA	

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2013 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 180

Analysis

This bill 1) changes the name of the Alaska Challenge Youth Academy to the Alaska Military Youth Academy under AS 14.30.745, 2) allows the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs (DMVA) to establish and operate the Alaska Military Youth Academy under AS 44.35.020, 3) repeals the funding formula prescribed under AS 14.30.740, and 4) establishes an effective date of January 1, 2014.

There is no fiscal impact to DMVA for this bill. The repeal of the funding formula would replace, in FY15, the Reimbursable Services Agreement from the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) with a direct appropriation to DMVA. State funding is diversified to include match funding as required under the federal Cooperative Agreement and general funds for costs that exceed match requirements but support AMYA's mission to intervene in and reclaim the lives of at-risk youth and to produce graduates of the program with the values, skills, education, and self-discipline necessary to succeed as adults.

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2013 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 180
Fiscal Note Number: 4
() Publish Date: 4/12

Identifier: HB180-EED-K12-4-3-13
Title: MILITARY YOUTH ACADEMY
Sponsor: T.WILSON
Requester: Senate Education Committee

Department: Department of Education and Early Development
Appropriation: K-12 Support
Allocation: Alaska Challenge Youth Academy
OMB Component Number: 2837

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

(Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2014 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2014 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Services								
Commodities								
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits		4,791.4						
Miscellaneous								
Total Operating	0.0	4,791.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

1004 Gen Fund		4,791.4						
Total	0.0	4,791.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

Change in Revenues								
---------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2013) cost: 0.0

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2014) cost: 0.0

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

The initial version reflected a zero fiscal note and this version shows the current operating costs in FY2014 and negative amounts from FY2015-FY2019 as the component allocation would be moved to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

Prepared By:	Elizabeth Nudelman, Director	Phone:	(907)465-8697
Division	School Finance & Facilities	Date:	04/03/2013 08:15 AM
Approved By:	Mike Hanley	Date:	04/03/13
	Commissioner		

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2013 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB180

Analysis

The legislation amends AS 14.30.745 by changing the name of the Alaska Challenge Youth Academy to the Alaska Military Youth Academy (AMYA).

The legislation adds a new subsection, AS 44.35.020, that authorizes the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to operate the AMYA as part of the National Guard Youth Challenge Program established under 32 U.S.C 509.

Finally, the legislation repeals AS 14.30.740, which provided the calculation for funding the Alaska Challenge Youth Academy and authorized the Department of Education & Early Development (DEED) to allocate those funds to the program.

The legislation would take effect January 1, 2014.

With an effective date of January 1, 2014, the K-12 Alaska Challenge Youth Academy component allocation of \$4,791,400 in DEED's FY2014 operating budget would remain and be paid to the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs.

In subsequent years, the Alaska Challenge Youth Academy component allocation would be in the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs operating budget.

Repealing AS 14.30.740 would result in a reduction to DEED's operating budget for FY2015 through FY2019.

Fiscal Note

HOUSE

State of Alaska
2013 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 180
Fiscal Note Number: 1
(H) Publish Date: 3/27/13

Identifier: HB180-EED-K12-3-21-13
Title: MILITARY YOUTH ACADEMY
Sponsor: T.WILSON
Requester: House Military & Veterans' Affairs

Department: Department of Education and Early Development
Appropriation: K-12 Support
Allocation: Alaska Challenge Youth Academy
OMB Component Number: 2837

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2014 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2014 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Services								
Commodities								
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None								
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

Change in Revenues

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2013) cost: 0.0

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2014) cost: 0.0

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Initial version.

Prepared By: Elizabeth Nudelman, Director
Division: School Finance & Facilities
Approved By: Mike Hanley
Commissioner

Phone: (907)465-8697
Date: 03/21/2013 09:30 AM
Date: 03/21/13

Analysis

The legislation amends AS 14.30.745 by changing the name of the Alaska Challenge Youth Academy to the Alaska Military Youth Academy (AMYA).

The legislation adds a new subsection, AS 44.35.020, that authorizes the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to operate the AMYA as part of the National Guard Youth Challenge Program established under 32 U.S.C 509.

Finally, the legislation repeals AS 14.30.740, which provided the calculation for funding the Alaska Challenge Youth Academy and authorized the Department of Education & Early Development (DEED) to allocate those funds to the program.

The legislation would take effect January 1, 2014.

With an effective date of January 1, 2014, the K-12 Alaska Challenge Youth Academy component allocation of \$4,791,400 in DEED's FY2014 operating budget would have already been paid and would result in a zero fiscal note.

Fiscal Note

HOUSE

State of Alaska
2013 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 180
Fiscal Note Number: 2
(H) Publish Date: 3/27/13

Identifier: HB180-DMVA-AMVA-03-22-13
Title: MILITARY YOUTH ACADEMY
Sponsor: T.WILSON
Requester: (H) Spec. Comm. on Military and Veterans' Affairs

Department: Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs
Appropriation: Military and Veterans' Affairs
Allocation: Alaska Military Youth Academy
OMB Component Number: 1969

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2014 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2014 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Services								
Commodities								
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None								
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

Change in Revenues								
---------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2013) cost: 0.0

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2014) cost: 0.0

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Not applicable, initial version.

Prepared By: McHugh Pierre, Deputy Commissioner Phone: (907)428-6003
Division: Office of the Commissioner, DMVA Date: 03/22/2013 12:30 PM
Approved By: Major General Thomas H. Katkus, Commissioner Date: 03/22/13
Office of the Commissioner, DMVA

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS #2

STATE OF ALASKA
2013 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 180

Analysis

This bill 1) changes the name of the Alaska Challenge Youth Academy to the Alaska Military Youth Academy under AS 14.30.745, 2) allows the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs (DMVA) to establish and operate the Alaska Military Youth Academy under AS 44.35.020, 3) repeals the funding formula prescribed under AS 14.30.740, and 4) establishes an effective date of January 1, 2014.

There is no fiscal impact to DMVA for this bill.

Fiscal Note

SENATE

State of Alaska
2013 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 180
Fiscal Note Number: (3)
() Publish Date: 03 APRIL 13

Identifier: HB180-EED-K12-4-3-13
Title: MILITARY YOUTH ACADEMY
Sponsor: T.WILSON
Requester: Senate Education Committee

Department: Department of Education and Early Development
Appropriation: K-12 Support
Allocation: Alaska Challenge Youth Academy
OMB Component Number: 2837

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2014 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2014 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
			FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2014	FY 2014					
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits		4,791.4					
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	0.0	4,791.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

1004 Gen Fund		4,791.4					
Total	0.0	4,791.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues							
---------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2013) cost: 0.0

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2014) cost: 0.0

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

The initial version reflected a zero fiscal note and this version shows the current operating costs in FY2014 and negative amounts from FY2015-FY2019 as the component allocation would be moved to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

Prepared By: Elizabeth Nudelman, Director
Division: School Finance & Facilities
Approved By: Mike Hanley
Commissioner

Phone: (907)465-8697
Date: 04/03/2013 08:15 AM
Date: 04/03/13

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2013 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB180

Analysis

The legislation amends AS 14.30.745 by changing the name of the Alaska Challenge Youth Academy to the Alaska Military Youth Academy (AMYA).

The legislation adds a new subsection, AS 44.35.020, that authorizes the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to operate the AMYA as part of the National Guard Youth Challenge Program established under 32 U.S.C 509.

Finally, the legislation repeals AS 14.30.740, which provided the calculation for funding the Alaska Challenge Youth Academy and authorized the Department of Education & Early Development (DEED) to allocate those funds to the program.

The legislation would take effect January 1, 2014.

With an effective date of January 1, 2014, the K-12 Alaska Challenge Youth Academy component allocation of \$4,791,400 in DEED's FY2014 operating budget would remain and be paid to the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs.

In subsequent years, the Alaska Challenge Youth Academy component allocation would be in the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs operating budget.

Repealing AS 14.30.740 would result in a reduction to DEED's operating budget for FY2015 through FY2019.

Fiscal Note

SENATE

State of Alaska
2013 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 180
Fiscal Note Number: 4
() Publish Date: 03 APRIL 13

Identifier: HB180-DMVA-AMVA-04-3-13
Title: MILITARY YOUTH ACADEMY
Sponsor: T.WILSON
Requester: Senate Education Committee

Department: Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs
Appropriation: Military and Veterans' Affairs
Allocation: Alaska Military Youth Academy
OMB Component Number: 1969

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

(Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2014 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2014 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
			FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2014	FY 2014					
Personal Services		7,349.2					
Travel		139.3					
Services		1,983.3					
Commodities		1,164.9					
Capital Outlay		103.1					
Grants & Benefits		334.8					
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	0.0	11,074.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

1002 Fed Rcpts		4,172.9					
1003 G/F Match			1,238.3				
1004 Gen Fund		56.8	3,553.1				
1005 GF/Prgm		1.0					
1007 I/A Rcpts		6,814.2	(4,791.4)				
1108 Stat Desig		29.7					
Total	0.0	11,074.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time		89.0					
Part-time		1.0					
Temporary							

Change in Revenues							

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2013) cost: 0.0

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2014) cost: 0.0

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

This fiscal note reflects the FY14 funding currently in the operating budget, as passed by both bodies.

Prepared By: McHugh Pierre, Deputy Commissioner
Division: Office of the Commissioner, DMVA
Approved By: Major General Thomas H. Katkus, Commissioner
Office of the Commissioner, DMVA

Phone: (907)428-6003
Date: 04/03/2013 01:00 PM
Date: 04/03/13

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2013 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 180

Analysis

This bill 1) changes the name of the Alaska Challenge Youth Academy to the Alaska Military Youth Academy under AS 14.30.745, 2) allows the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs (DMVA) to establish and operate the Alaska Military Youth Academy under AS 44.35.020, 3) repeals the funding formula prescribed under AS 14.30.740, and 4) establishes an effective date of January 1, 2014.

There is no fiscal impact to DMVA for this bill. The repeal of the funding formula would replace, in FY15, the Reimbursable Services Agreement from the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) with a direct appropriation to DMVA. State funding is diversified to include match funding as required under the federal Cooperative Agreement and general funds for costs that exceed match requirements but support AMYA's mission to intervene in and reclaim the lives of at-risk youth and to produce graduates of the program with the values, skills, education, and self-discipline necessary to succeed as adults.



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

**Department of Military and
Veterans Affairs**

Alaska Military Youth Academy

P.O. Box 5727
JBER, AK 99505-0727
Main: 907.428.6003
Fax: 907.384.6007

March 22, 2013

Representative Tammie Wilson
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Subj: House Bill 180

Representative Wilson:

In 1994, the Alaska National Guard Youth Corps (renamed the Alaska Military Youth Academy in 1999) was founded as a pilot program with the aim to help reclaim the lives of at-risk youth and produce program graduates with the values, skills, education and self-discipline to succeed as adults. The program's quasi-military structure has matured into one of the most successful programs of its type in the United States. The national program and other state programs regularly look to Alaska for suggestions on best practices and successful integration of process and techniques.

Previous state support has been outstanding and integral to the ability of the Academy to lead the way in developing a superior product that addresses individual, familial and community issues in a way which provides a focused, values-based training and education environment for those individuals who have volunteered to enter and finish a tough but rewarding environment. The Academy has now graduated almost 4,000 cadets who have received certification and/or been redirected successfully to high school, college, the military or a productive work environment.

We support formal establishment and operation of the program as a mature component of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. As a staff, we at the Academy are also very appreciative of the continued support by both the Department of Education and Early Development and school districts across the State for providing contact information for young Alaskans. This helps us ensure awareness of this valuable program and we look forward to continuing teamwork in this area. As we teach our graduates, there are always challenges ahead and we believe that this program has greater vistas ahead to support the great citizenry of a great state. On behalf of the entire staff at AMYA, we offer both our thanks and full support for House Bill 180.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clyde T. Burton".

Clyde T. Burton
Director

From: John Lopetrone
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2013 2:29 PM
To: Lindsay Williams
Subject: The letter I promised to you!

To Whom It May Concern;

I am Johnny Lopetrone and I am writing this on behalf of the Alaska Military Youth Academy, of which I had the great honor and privilege of being an instructor there for 15 years. I instructed the Carpentry Class and many of my Cadets were able to find good paying jobs with smaller builders as none of them had joined the Unions as of yet, and were able to earn a decent living until they decided to attend Schools of higher learning, or looked for other types of jobs such as with the lumber yards, or companies who sold and installed cabinets. I know this as many would call me asking if I would be a referral for them seeking employment.

One of the key principals of the Academy was to prepare our Cadets, who decided not to enter college, or the military to be able to find gainful employment. While I was there many of our cadets studied how to cook, some applied to learn computers and were certified after completion of the course, as many of the people I new who attended two year course of computer training who were never certified and could not gain employment, and many attended a class at the Academy learning EMT training. There were times when I was asked by this instructor if we could set up set up a mock injury without his class knowing this and I would send some one from my class to his class asking for help with this injury. Their response time was great and the way they handled the mock injury was great as they worked like professionals, and I was deeply gratified that they were trained so well.

During my class cycle I was able to take my Cadets to 6 of the JATC's,(Joint Apprentice Training Centers), provided by our Union Training Centers, and they worked with our Cadets to show them what is out there if they wished to continue their Carpentry training, or could chose either to attend the Plumbers, Electrician, Heavy Equipment Training, and to NC Machine as they have a great 2 year program for those who wish to learn how to work on Caterpillar Machinery. There were times when Spenard Builders Supply would allow me to take our Cadets there and they could see and understand the engineering of trusses and see the trusses being built, and also to see the area where they build, and install Formica and other types of finishes on counter tops, etc.

Because of inflation many cuts had to be made so that the academic classes could continue un impeded. This is no ones fault as no one knows what's going to happen from year to year. This Academy has done so many wonderful things for our troubled youth and if you could read their dossiers you would cry, and believe me it is a wonder that many of our Cadets lived long enough to attend this fantastic Academy. I know what some are going through as my father was killed in a Coal Mine accident when I was 13 months old, and my mother, God rest her soul, was never allowed to finish the 6 TH. Grade, and many of the ethnics were the same. But the one thing she pushed me to do was to educate myself, just as the Academy are trying to do with our troubled youth. You have no idea of the accomplishments of this wonderful Academy and just how hard they are working to educate and prepare our Cadet for their future lives.

Everyone in our State who is in our State Government, in our National Guard, and in our Educational offices have done a very wonderful Job trying to help keep our Academy going and helping our troubled youth. The one thing I feel is one of the most important parts of our Academy is the VO-Tec training, as this helps our Cadets to find gainful employment if they decide not to go on to higher learning or into the military. All that I am asking is that you all please find some way to return our VO-Tec training funds to this wonderful Academy.

There is one wonderful thing that happened to me while instructing at this Academy and that is my Cadets looked at me as their Papa. I once told my cadets that before they decide to do something foolish to please sit down with me and we could talk this over and I would help them in any way that I could, and if they needed a papa, I would be their Papa if they wished. Every Cadet in my classes and all the staff at the Academy called me Papa Johnny, and still do every time I visit the Academy. I feel that I was able to give these Cadets some one they could talk to and trust not to lie to them. Many a Cadet stayed after class, which was their lunch time and talked to me about their problems, at their homes, and sometimes at the academy and I was truly delighted that I could be of help to them in any way. This is another wonderful thing about our Academy as our Cadets new they could talk to anyone and would have their attention when needed. I was the only one known as Papa Johnny. I thank you for taking the time to read my letter and hope it will help to bring the Vo-Tec training back to the Academy.

In Christ,
Johnny Lopetrone
Denali Youth Academy Board Member
Passed Carpentry Instructor
Knights of Columbus