



## Alaska Workforce Investment Board Newsletter

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### Important Dates

- October 17 - 19**  
2010 Alaska Fall Principal Conference in Anchorage
- October 25 - 26**  
AWIB meeting in Fairbanks
- October 27**  
Gasline Steering Committee meeting in Fairbanks

Dear Reader,

In this issue we have the following articles: Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB) Update; The Alaska Career and Technical Education Plan Needs Involvement; 2010 Legislation Regarding Education; Gasline Training and Apprenticeship Update; and WorkKeys / Career Ready Update. This is an exciting time in Alaska with workforce development and career and technical education as we prepare youth and adults for Alaskan careers.

The AWIB has developed this newsletter to connect schools, industry and stakeholders with the AWIB and the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. We are publishing every other month and featuring opportunities, programs and information about State of Alaska initiatives aimed at helping youth and adults find meaningful employment and postsecondary training. Also, the newsletter will have articles from the Department of Education and Early Development related to Career and Technical Education.

Please let me know if you have ideas for future articles. The next newsletter will be published in October 2010.

Sincerely,



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 AWIB Career Technical Education Coordinator  
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## AWIB Update

**Greg Cashen, Executive Director**



The last year has been a busy one for the Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB), and staff to the AWIB have been working hard on several initiatives, including implementation of the strategies of the Gasline Training Strategic Plan, development of a statewide Career and Technical Education (CTE) Plan, development of an inventory of training programs from Regional Training Centers, expansion of registered apprenticeship opportunities and the coordination of the Alaska Apprenticeship Conference, implementation of a Sector Plan and Grant Process for the Alaska State Energy Sector Partnership (ASESP), and working with the State Training and Employment Program (STEP) Task Force to pass a new STEP statute, implement new STEP regulations, and make changes to policies and procedures for the STEP program. Over the last year, the AWIB has added three employees to assist in this effort. This report includes a detailed timeline and summary of work completed by the AWIB, the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD), partner departments and agencies, and staff to the AWIB from February 2009 to date.

On February 23rd and 24th, 2009 the AWIB meeting was held at Centennial Hall in Juneau. The AWIB reviewed the Annual Report to the Legislature from Research and Analysis, the FY 10 Workforce Development Budget from the DOLWD, a STEP Task Force Report from Deputy Commissioner David Stone, briefings from a Tourism Industry Panel, the AWIB Training Plan Template, proposed AWIB by-law revisions regarding designees, and an update on registered apprenticeship and the Gasline Training Strategic Plan. Commissioner Bishop and Chair Lynch presented the AWIB Secondary Vocational Instructor of the Year Award to Brian Walsh of King Career Center, and the AWIB Postsecondary Vocational Administrator of the Year Award to Bret Helms of the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 375 in Fairbanks. The AWIB passed Resolution No. 09-01, fully supporting the proposed recommendations contained in the STEP Task Force Report, including making the STEP program permanent, which was forwarded by the DOLWD to the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives.

[Click here to read the entire article.](#)

## The Alaska Career and Technical Education Plan Needs Involvement From All Alaskans

**Helen Mehrkens, EED CTE Administrator**

**Jeff Selvey, DOLWD CTE Coordinator**

**Fred Villa, Vice-President of Academic Affairs for Workforce Programs, University of Alaska Statewide**



To expand and grow in the 21st Century, Alaska's economy needs an up-to-date workforce, which in turn requires a world-class education system.

The Department of Education and Early Development, the Department of Labor and Workforce Development and the University of Alaska are pleased to present the Alaska Career and Technical Education Plan. This plan outlines a comprehensive, integrated career and technical education system for Alaska that aligns training programs and coordinates delivery to prepare our citizens - youth and adults - for Alaska careers.

This plan is a living document that will not sit on the shelf. It invites coordinated and focused action from all stakeholders. We encourage everyone's involvement in the implementation of this plan.

We are committed to working together in the truest sense of partnership. Our citizens and state will reap the benefits of our work. We invite you to join us in this quest. The action starts now!

Please view the following websites for further information:

EED: <http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/CTE/>

DOLWD/AWIB: [http://labor.alaska.gov/awib/cte\\_network.htm](http://labor.alaska.gov/awib/cte_network.htm)

UA Workforce Development: <http://www.alaska.edu/research/wp/>

## 2010 Legislation Regarding Education

Beth Leschper, DOLWD Communications Coordinator



Governor Sean Parnell signed two pieces of legislation to bolster education that establishes a framework for scholarships and encourages more private-sector investment in educational and career and technical programs. Listed below is information pertaining to scholarships and private sector investment.

### Scholarships:

Chapter 14 SLA 10, which became law on May 10, 2010, establishes the framework for Alaska scholarships and creates the Joint Legislative Higher Education Scholarship Funding Task Force to explore funding mechanisms. The legislation was sponsored by Senate President Gary Stevens.

The following members have been appointed to the Scholarship Funding Task Force as of July 29:

Sen. Kevin Meyer, Chair	Rep. Paul Seaton, Vice Chair
Sen. Johnny Ellis	Rep. Anna Fairclough
Sen. Lyman Hoffman	Rep. Wes Keller
Sen. Gary Stevens	Rep. Chris Tuck
Sen. Joe Thomas	Rep. Peggy Wilson
Sen. Linda Menard	

"Economic opportunity and education are inextricably linked," Governor Parnell said. "As Alaska's well-educated baby boomers retire, we must replace them with a well-educated workforce. Our families and our economic future depend upon it."

The scholarships may be available by the fall of 2011, after funding issues are resolved during the next legislative session. The scholarships would range from \$2,379 to \$4,755 to students who earned them by taking a rigorous curriculum.

Students must also achieve a minimum score on a college entrance exam, and a minimum grade point average. The scholarships could be used at the University of Alaska, any certified, in-state job training institution and at other certified post-secondary institutions in Alaska.

The legislation also creates an Advisory Task Force on Higher Education and Career Readiness.

[Click here for roster](#) (Roster provided by the Alaska Education Task Force on Higher Education and Career Readiness.)

#### Advisory Task Force on Higher Education & Career Readiness Meeting Schedule

September 1-2, 2010 (Fairbanks)

October 4-5, 2010 (Nome)

November 8-9, 2010 (Sitka)

### Private-sector Investment:

Chapter 92 SLA 10, which became law June 21, 2010, allows the private sector to support educational and vocational facility construction that will help improve training for Alaska's workforce. The law increases tax credits for contributions to Alaska's higher education and job training institutions, with a new cap of \$5 million for qualifying donations.

The legislation was sponsored by Senate Education Committee Chairs Kevin Meyer and Joe Thomas.

## Gasline Training and Apprenticeship Update

Gerry Andrews, Gasline Training Administrator and Apprenticeship Coordinator



### Gasline Training Update:

The Alaska Pipeline Project and Denali Pipeline are in "open season" and Alaskans will have opportunity to train and work on this mega project. We will soon experience the "demand" to fill the occupations essential to complete the proposed gas treatment facility and pipeline. The AWIB is working with many stakeholders to identify education and workforce development needs. These findings will be utilized to develop strategies through the new Alaska Career and Technical Education plan in order to prepare a skilled workforce to the project.

The Department of Labor and Workforce Development's (DOLWD), Research and Analysis Section's annual survey on training provider's programs provide data to identify Alaska's ability to train for a gasline. It also identifies existing training gaps that may hinder Alaskans from working on this project. Data assembled will strengthen our training and education system enabling a person, to gain portable skills and credentials. Through this connected system, it is anticipated Alaskans will find training and educational opportunity regionally from certificate programs for registered apprenticeship and degree programs statewide.

We are preparing a survey to obtain a gap analysis of training providers to train Alaskans for the 113 Alaska Gasline occupations. Your assistance will be needed to complete this survey. Further information on how to participate will be available soon.

### Apprenticeship Update:

At present, the DOLWD is at the implementation stage of an apprenticeship project started by Lisa Pekich. Recognizing the industry's needs, she proposed a new apprenticeable occupation, Environmental Technician. Environmental Technicians will gather samples, data and information in the field. Lisa, John Hakala (USDOL Office of Apprenticeship), several stakeholder/employers, and the AWIB prepared the occupational analysis in order to register this new occupation. We are actively working with a sponsor to help enable Alaskans train and work in this occupation.

For many years, the Alaska Teamsters-Employers Training Trust has sponsored a 2400-hour Construction Driver apprenticeship program and a 4000-hour Technical Engineers (Surveyors) apprenticeship program. This year they have added two new registered apprenticeship programs:

- Bus and Truck Diesel Engine Technician (8000-hour apprenticeship program); and
- Freight Over-the-Road/Linehaul Driver (3600-hour apprenticeship program).

## WorkKeys / Career Ready Update

**Marcia Olson, EED CTE Education Specialist**



The Department of Education & Early Development (EED) is gearing up for the fall implementation of WorkKeys® tests, which will be required for all 11th-graders. During the past three years of piloting the assessments in several districts, nearly 2,000 Alaska students have already earned a National Career Readiness Certificate; which is based on the WorkKeys tests in the foundational skill areas of applied mathematics, reading for information, and locating information.

We are excited to announce that EED will be providing access to a new web-based instructional program to all schools this fall. The KeyTrain/Career Ready 101 courseware allows students to practice the skills that are assessed by WorkKeys.

The software, which is FREE to all public schools, contains:

- pre-tests;
- lessons; and
- post-tests.

This software also provides additional resources that are based on all WorkKeys areas and skills levels. WorkKeys job profiles are available, as well as lessons in soft skills, financial literacy, career information, and much more.

For information on WorkKeys testing or using KeyTrain/Career Ready 101, please see the Alaska Career Ready website

<http://www.careerready.alaska.gov/>

You may also contact Krista Heard via email [krista.heard@alaska.gov](mailto:krista.heard@alaska.gov), or by phone, (907) 465-6410.

ACT publishes case studies on its website to highlight success stories from business and industry, schools, and community groups that are using the WorkKeys assessments, training, and National Career Readiness Certificate. Two Alaska educational programs that have been using WorkKeys are featured in a recent ACT publication. The Alaska Military Youth Academy and the Kodiak School District are the basis for ACT's newest WorkKeys case study. Instructors at the youth academy reinforce their usual classroom instruction with training on the WorkKeys skills, with the goal of providing real-world relevance to their students. The vast majority of cadets earn a National Career Readiness Certificate to complement their high school diploma or General Education Development (GED). Kodiak uses WorkKeys in its Learning Café and Career Center as part of a program to reach individuals 14 to 24 years old who have left high school. The program is offered in partnership with the school district and the local job center.

To read the entire case study online, visit ACT's website at <http://www.act.org/workkeys/case/alaska.html>.

To download a PDF copy of the case study, check out the Alaska Career Ready website. [Click here for PDF file.](#)

### **DOLWD WorkKeys Update**

**Kim Kolvig, ESD Employment Security Analyst III**

Hiland Mountain Correctional Center recently offered the WorkKeys assessment to some of the inmates to help them earn a National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC). This certificate may help prepare these women upon their release for employment and reduce the recidivism rate. This assessment will soon be offered to inmates several times a year; up to 30 individuals per testing session.