

News Release



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

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Workforce Development Partnership Prepares 11 for High-Growth Industry Jobs

(Juneau) - The Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development, Coeur Alaska, and the University of Alaska Southeast held a graduation ceremony on Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2005, in the UAS Technical Education Center to celebrate the first 11 graduates of the six-week Introduction to Industrial Training course.

"Today is a great example of the state, the University and employers working together to help Alaska's youth get ready for the jobs in Alaska that are ready for them," said Labor Commissioner Greg O'Claray. "Governor Murkowski is familiar with the hiring challenges of miners throughout the world. He is supportive of locals receiving this training so they will get first priority for Alaskan Jobs. Jobs are Alaska's future, and we're training Alaskans for Alaska's jobs."

"These are eleven people whose lives will be changed for the better," said UAS Chancellor John Pugh. "These are all local people who are learning the skills to succeed in the workforce, and will make great employees for local industry."

Students attended class from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday for six-weeks to learn construction safety, rigging, concrete forming, heavy framing, steel work, first aid and more. The class was created to help begin filling the need for construction jobs in the mining industry. The partnership between the Department of Labor, UAS and Tlingit Haida helped make tuition more affordable for students. Additional workforce development training classes are planned, with UAS working to offer one during the spring semester.

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