



Alaska Workforce Investment Board Newsletter

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Dear Reader,

In this issue we have the following articles: Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB) Update; Implementation of the Alaska Career and Technical Education Plan; Disability Employment Initiative Grant; Developing the Gas Pipeline Workforce; and Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency 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 June 2011.

Important Dates

May 6

CTE Action Committee meeting in Anchorage

May 24 - 25

AWIB Committee meeting in Seward

Web Sites of Interest

[Apprenticeship](#)

[AVTEC](#)

[AWIB CTE](#)

[EED CTE](#)

[UA Workforce Programs](#)



Sincerely,

Jeff Selvey

AWIB Career Technical Education Coordinator

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AWIB Update

Greg Cashen, Executive Director



The last AWIB meeting was held on February 22nd and 23rd, 2011 at Centennial Hall in Juneau. The agenda included an update on the Gasline Training Plan, State CTE Plan and Implementation, Regional Training Centers, Regional Advisory Councils, Health Workforce Development Plan, Disability Employment Initiative training grant, and activities of the Alaska State Energy Sector Partnership (ASESP). The AWIB passed three resolutions, including Resolution No. 11-01 to adopt and recommend the Alaska Performance Scholarship, Resolution No. 11-03 to Reduce Non-Resident Hire, and Resolution No. 11-04 in support of Alaska Engineering Academies.

Commissioner Bishop and Chair Lynch presented Raymond Jensen from Wasilla High School with the Secondary Career and Technical Education (CTE) Instructor/Administrator of the Year award and Roger Hohl from AVTEC with the Post-Secondary CTE Instructor/Administrator of the Year award.

The AWIB was given an update on the \$150,000 planning grant received from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) that is being utilized to complete further development of the Alaska Health Workforce Plan adopted by the AWIB in May 2010. The planning grant deliverables include, 1) Analyze State labor market information in order to create health care career pathways for students and adults, including dislocated workers; 2) Identify current and projected high demand State or regional health care sectors for purposes of planning career pathways; 3) Identify existing Federal, State, and private resources to recruit, educate or train, and retain a skilled health care workforce and strengthen partnerships; 4) Describe the academic and health care industry skill standards for high school graduation, for entry into postsecondary education, and for various credentials and licensure; 5) Describe State secondary and post secondary education and training policies, models or practices for the health care sector, including career information and guidance counseling; and 6) Identify Federal or State policies or rules to developing a coherent and comprehensive health care workforce development strategy and barriers and plan to resolve these barriers. A final programmatic report is due to HRSA by September 29, 2011.

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

Implementation of the Alaska Career and Technical Education Plan

Helen Mehrkens, CTE Administrator, EED

Jeff Selvey, CTE Coordinator, AWIB/DOLWD

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



The *Alaska Career and Technical Education Plan - A Call to Action* was created by the collective effort of Alaskans from across the state and supported by the Alaska Workforce Investment Board, the State Board of Education & Early Development, and the University of Alaska Board of Regents. These three entities are now diligently working together to make this unique effort a reality, one that reaches across agency boundaries to prepare Alaskans to support their families and meet the needs of Alaskan employers. The CTE Lead Team consists of Helen Mehrkens - EED, Jeff Selvey - AWIB/DOLWD and Fred Villa - UA Statewide. The three leads, representing each entity, meet on a weekly basis to develop and track implementation activities for each strategy.

One of the current tasks is to communicate the intent and implementation efforts of the CTE Plan with interested Alaskans. A CTE website (<http://www.labor.state.ak.us/awib/cte.htm>) has been created to inform Alaskans and to provide an avenue for Alaskans to communicate with the CTE Lead Team. In this website you will find the following information:

- New - the latest implementation update. At this time, there are three documents pertaining to personal learning career plans (PLCP).
- A link (CTE@Alaska.gov) for Alaskans to share their comments and suggestions about the Alaska CTE Plan.
- The Alaska Career and Technical Education Plan and the six strategies.
- Links to other specific CTE activities that are sponsored by the three state partners.



The Alaska Career and Technical Education Action Committee will be meeting on Friday, May 6, to review progress and provide recommendations for the continued implementation of the Alaska CTE Plan. This committee was instrumental in originally identifying the six strategies and developing the Alaska Career and Technical Education Plan.

Disability Employment Initiative Grant

Rich Sanders, Program Coordinator, Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education



On September 29, 2010 the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment Training Administration awarded the AWIB a Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) grant. This 2.7M grant will improve education, training and employment opportunities and outcomes of adults who are unemployed and/or receiving Social Security disability benefits (SSI and SSDI). Alaska was one of nine states to receive an award under the DEI. Partner agencies include the Employment Security Division (ESD), One Stop Job Centers, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), Division of Public

Assistance (DPA), AWIB, and Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education.

The five primary goals of the DEI are to:

1. increase the number of adults with disabilities who use the One Stop Job Centers to secure employment by 20 percent;
2. bring all one stop job centers in Alaska up to level III of "DPN" (Disability Program Navigator) implementation maturity (a model developed in an earlier grant defining a high level of proficiency in serving customers with disabilities);
3. increase the number of certified work incentive counselors and number of customized employment and /or customized self employment providers in Alaska by 15 percent;
4. increase the availability of local resources (e.g. asset building, accessible transportation) that help job seekers with disabilities secure and maintain employment by 15 percent; and
5. sustain a full time Disability Resource Coordinator within the One Stop Job Center system permanently.

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

Developing the Gas Pipeline Workforce

Gerry Andrews, DOLWD Pipeline Administrator



Many Alaskans have been planning and dreaming for a natural gas pipeline project in Alaska. Many issues affecting Alaska's oil and gas industry have been addressed during this current legislative session. As our state works through these complicated matters, industry indicators suggest that the window is still open for a major Alaska gas pipeline project. Whatever the future may hold, Alaska must meet its energy and workforce development needs.

Below is information that is pertinent in developing a gas pipeline workforce:

- In 2007, the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD) established a training plan for the Alaska Gas Pipeline project; http://www.labor.state.ak.us/AGIA_teams/docs-combined/agiaweb.pdf.
- Occupations and workforce development plans for the pipeline project were featured in the Alaska Economic Trends, May 2009 edition; <http://labor.state.ak.us/trends/may09.pdf>. C
- Community meetings are being hosted by the Alaska Pipeline Project. Many communities along the pipeline corridor were visited by representatives from the Alaska Pipeline Project (APP), U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Departments of Natural Resources, and AWIB/DOLWD. These meetings provided the communities with information and an opportunity to ask questions about the project, agencies involved, and training Alaskans for careers in related gas line occupations.

- US-DOL-ETA provides counseling tools for youth and adults investigating potential careers; <http://www.mynextmove.org/>.
- The University of Alaska system, AVTEC - Alaska's Institute of Technology, Regional Training Centers (RTCs), Fairbanks Pipeline Training Center, and other training providers are working together to train and educate Alaskans for future workforce demands. With these plans, Alaska is better positioned to connect Alaskans to training and careers.

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Careers

Julie Frizzell, DOLWD DBP Program Coordinator

The Alaska State Energy Sector Partnership (ASESP) received funding from the US Department of Labor under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act to provide job training for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RE/EE) industry projects. Many RE/EE jobs require upgrading skills of incumbent workers; teaching new skills to workers in RE/EE technologies and preparing entry-level workers planning to enter RE/EE jobs and careers.

Current job training activities funded by ASESP are taking place around the state. AVTEC - Alaska's Institute of Technology, installed a wind turbine on campus to facilitate training for Wind Technicians. Advanced Power Plant Operator Training and Hydro Power Plant Operator training is available through the Alaska Energy Authority. Alaska's Apprenticeship Training Coordinator Association (AATCA) is coordinating training of apprentices and journeymen across several trades in order to ensure energy efficiency construction trades skills are included. Classes such as *Introduction to Alternative Energy Systems*, for wind, solar and hydro-electric power generation offered by the Alaska Electrical Apprenticeship Training Center are enhancing the RE/EE skills of apprentices and journeymen who complete the course. Alaska Works Partnership is developing curriculum for certified training of workers skilled in the areas of weatherization and the retro fit of commercial buildings.

Grant applications are still being accepted for projects that provide RE/EE training. Projects should focus on occupations:

- that are expected to experience an increase in employment demand due to new products or technology;
- that will experience significant changes in the work and worker requirements subject to new products, technology or methods of application; or
- that are emerging as a result of the RE and EE industry's specific need.

Grant applications are being accepted online through EGrAMS, the new Electronic Grants Administration and Management System. The next grant application deadline is June 20, 2010. For more information and tutorial, check out [EGrAMS](http://www.labor.alaska.gov/bp/egramms/home.htm) on the Division of Business Partnership's web page: <http://www.labor.alaska.gov/bp/egramms/home.htm>. For more information about the Alaska State Energy Sector Partnership grant, contact Julie Frizzell at (907)-269-4590 or Julie.Frizzell@Alaska.gov.