



# Partners for Progress in Delta, Inc

A CONSORTIUM OF EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS

## Progress Report

### Northrop Grumman Presents \$35,000 Check at Annual Industry Roundtable

Northrop Grumman Corporation Vice President John Clay handed over a check for \$35,000 to Partners for Progress in Delta, Inc. board members during the annual Industry Roundtable held Oct. 29. John Clay, vice president of Missile Systems for the company's Aerospace Systems sector, said, "Our intent is for this donation to provide support to the Partners for Progress in Delta to continue its efforts to offer quality introductory career training and education. These skills will help sustain the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense system at Fort Greely by those who live here who are part of the local economy and are fully qualified for those jobs." The gift is timely as the state is emphasizing K-12 career pathways that make the transition from high school into the workforce and post secondary education effective. Clay said his company will be happy to work with the partners to introduce computer and electronics technicians as a career option in the schools and in the community.

Enthusiastic about the partnership with the Northrop Grumman Corporation, board president Rick Caulfield said, "As one of the state's regional training centers we help build Alaska's workforce to be competitive for the jobs in our region and beyond."

Prior to the gift presentation, representatives of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Pogo Mine, Alaska Natural Gas Development Authority, Denali, Boeing, Bechtel, GVEA, Delta Chamber of Commerce, Fairbanks Economic Development Authority, Alaska Environmental Power LLC, City of Delta Junction, local businesses, Northrop Grumman and Sen. John Coghill identified a number of possible program areas to develop marketable job skills. They include:

- Develop and deliver curriculum for wind turbine training/apprenticeship programs in alternative energy
- Address Delta's need for plumbing, HVAC and Biomass heating system maintenance workers
- Prepare computer and electronics technicians, which would include knowledge of hardware/software, router switches, hub-data communications, and electrical – technical – integrations
- Provide for certifications and safety training
- Address need for GPS training for data collection and quality
- Offer interpersonal communication and team skills

#### The Partners

Alaska Works Partnership  
[www.alaskaworks.org](http://www.alaskaworks.org)  
 907.457.2597

Delta Mine Training Center  
[www.dmtcalaska.org](http://www.dmtcalaska.org)  
 907.895.2051

Delta/Greely School District  
[www.dgsd.k12.ak.us](http://www.dgsd.k12.ak.us)  
 907.895.4605

University of Alaska Fairbanks Tanana Valley Campus  
[www.tvc.uaf.edu](http://www.tvc.uaf.edu)  
 907.455.2800

University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service  
[www.ces.uaf.edu](http://www.ces.uaf.edu)  
 907.474.7246



From left: Board members Jon Dufendach, Mary Leith-Dowling, Rick Caulfield and PJ Ford Slack accept the check from Northrop Grumman vice president John Clay.

Check out updates and our new video at  
[www.partnersforprogressindelta.org](http://www.partnersforprogressindelta.org)



## VISION

Greater Delta and Interior residents (high school students and adults) are competitive for current and emerging workforce and career advancement opportunities in Alaska's Interior region and elsewhere because the Partners for Progress in Delta, Inc. delivers quality custom technical and career pathway programs to increase and support Alaska's skilled workforce.

## MISSION

The Partners for Progress in Delta, Inc., (PPD), an educational consortium located in Delta Junction, serves as a gateway for learning and training in Alaska, providing the state with a long-term asset for developing and maintaining Alaska's workforce.

## GOALS

- ◆ To excel in helping Alaskans to be competitive for jobs emerging from new developments and existing workforce opportunities in the area;
- ◆ To be a focal point for Alaskans who seek career advancement education and training, academic degrees and continuing education credit;
- ◆ To better prepare secondary students for career options;
- ◆ To facilitate on-the-job training for long-term employment; and
- ◆ To build and nurture long-term partnerships with agencies, businesses, organizations, the trades and government.

## Commissioner Applauds Academies' Participants

Department of Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Clark "Click" Bishop told the 18 graduates of the 2009 summer academies in Welding and in Heavy Equipment Operator that Alaska's future depends on its young people. He told the students too many out-of-state workers are getting the jobs Alaska should have. His goal is to have Alaskans trained and ready to compete for the jobs emerging as a result of gas line and other major development in the state. He also emphasized the importance of safety in the workplace, and noted he was impressed with the awareness of safe procedures at the training site. "Safety is a culture," he said. "Being safe helps the bottom line."

Ten applicants age 17-21 participated in the intensive three-week Welding Academy with hands-on welding operation and welding students each earned six college credits from UAF Tanana Valley

Campus, three credits in Welding I, and three credits in Introductory Pipe Welding. The eight participants in the Heavy Equipment Operator Academy received a forklift operator certification and all students in both academies received OSHA 10, MSHA, First Aid, and CPR/AED certifications. They also received Drug Awareness training from Alaska Works Partnership and work ethic instruction. The 18 completed the training on June 19.

Delta Industrial Services has been the long-standing business partner in the summer academies, making it possible to use an on-site active gravel pit for the Heavy Equipment Operator Academy. Some of the exercises included processing topsoil through a screening plant, shaping and grading a road system around the pit area, designing and building an earthen, simulated motorcycle race track, as well as trenching and backfilling pipe. The students also loaded, hauled, spread, and compacted stockpiles of backfill material while watering the sight for dust control, making it possible to upgrade the condition and quality of the training area while improving it for the owner.

*Left: Commissioner Bishop (center) helped present certificates to the 18 2009 summer academy participants.*



*Right: Students with their instructors at the close of the academy.*



## Wellness Workshop Fills Classroom

Dr. Eric Rentz's Wellness Workshop in early October attracted 25 Delta area residents for the intense three-day class. In his research and practice, Rentz focuses on epi genomes—or as he says the "genes of bliss and the genes of tragedy"—that have a lot to do with a person's overall health. Traditional medical training focuses on the genome. He was part of the team that resolved the Sever Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak in Asia in 2003. His clinical practice is based out of North Carolina, and his clinical research projects are based out of Florida.

His three-day course covered our agricultural roots, human DNA, nutraceutical plants, silver hydrosol technology and immunity and influenza. Rentz reviewed with the class how silver has been used over the years for accelerating wound



healing and he explained its importance in maintaining the immune system. From Hippocrates, the "Father of Medicine," who taught that silver had healing properties, to the silver-lined ves-

## Delta Graduate Represents IBEW Northern Region at Competition

Jared Creviston, who in 2004 took a Construction Trades class his senior year at Delta High School, was placed directly into an electrical apprenticeship sponsored by the Alaska Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW local 1547)

after graduation through the school-to-apprenticeship program. Completing five years of back-to-back training in less than five years, Creviston is now working at Fort Greely as a Journeyman. This past year he represented Alaska's northern region at the Western States Electrical Contest sponsored by the IBEW and the National Electrical Contractor Association (NECA).

Alaska Joint Electrical Apprenticeship and Training Trust training coordinator Tom Minder said he was "proud of the way Creviston represented the program and its spirit." For the competition, programs in Alaska, Washington, Utah, Idaho, California, and Oregon sent a representative to compete in the event held in Medford, OR. The contest included a hands-on scenario to wire rooms, drawing diagrams, material identification, a written test based on the five years of class material, and conduit bending. Besides being judged for



*Delta High School graduate and IBEW journeyman Jared Creviston concentrates during the wiring competition.*

in making good apprenticeship recommendations." IBEW has accepted seven Delta students into direct apprenticeships since 2004.

Hall said he sets high standards, lets his students know they are preparing for real world jobs and then encourages them to set goals after graduation. He said, "Teaching and instilling proper work ethic is of huge importance and the ones who practice it are always going to find success in the work place. I aim to help them find their way. Jared is one of those who seized the opportunity to pursue a long-term career with IBEW. I'm proud of all the students who have made it into an apprenticeship."

competency in the skill areas tested, contestants are timed. In a hands-on wiring scenario they are evaluated for their work's alignment with code, orderliness and whether the wiring worked

Minder credits DGSD high school Construction Trades teacher Gary Hall with the success of students such as Creviston. "Gary has credibility with us," he said. "He knows the students and he sends us those worth our while. Pretty much Gary is running at 100%



*Tom Minder at the Kornfeind Training Center in Fairbanks.*

## Spring 2010 Underway

- **Tanana Valley Campus classes for the spring semester began January 21.** Classes include "Beginning AutoCAD" and two levels of welding at the Delta Career Advancement Center. In addition, we are offering "Academic Writing about Literature."

- **PPD will offer another Heavy Equipment Operator Academy in June 2010.**

Call 895-4605 about application deadlines.

sels of Alexander's armies, the silver coins in the drinking water barrels of the Old West and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) use of silver in space shuttle water purification systems, Rentz explained that silver is a natural way to help maintain health and well-being.

Cheryl Helkenn, class participant and TVC employee in support of the Partners said, "Dr. Rentz's use of examples and in-class demonstrations made the difficult scientific terms easier to follow and the class content understandable to all."

He told the group viruses replicate every 60 minutes and the



*Board member Jon Dufendach said Rentz coming to Delta to deliver his class "provided an opportunity to learn how we can all help ourselves through the tough flu season and maintain a healthy immune system year round."*

goal in getting well is to get ahead of the replication cycle through a regimen of ridding the body of toxins. He pointed out that the H1N1 virus is not a normal virus. It is a manmade structure and he urged caution about vaccination against this flu virus as many with healthy immune systems could be the ones hurt most with this particular vaccination. Rentz believes the vaccine developed for H1N1 can result in serious neurological side effects because the vaccination, which is very fat soluble, can be absorbed easily by brain tissue.

According to Rentz, the treatment for this flu strain in healthy people with strong immune systems has resulted in lungs filling with fluids so the body literally drowns because the body is waging an all-out attack against the invaders. He offers that the immune system in such cases needs to be calmed down.

Providing an overview of the foods and minerals that can either calm or stimulate our immune systems, Rentz, while also recognizing common sense measures such as hand washing, covering mouths and staying home until we aren't contagious during flu outbreaks, promotes the use of silver hydrosol products to stay healthy. He is a proponent of using olive, almond, walnut, flaxseed and avocado oils rather than canola and peanut oils.



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[www.partnersforprogressindelta.org](http://www.partnersforprogressindelta.org)

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PAID  
Fairbanks, AK  
Permit No. 2

This newsletter funded through the Division of Business Partnerships of the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

## Videoconferencing Opens Avenues for Career Options

Salcha-Delta Water and Soil Conservation District employee Meghan Lene took her first video teleconferenced class this past fall semester to see if it would work so she could pursue a graduate degree. It did. She was online weekly for 13 weeks as a videoconference participant in “Research Methods in Natural Resources Management.” It was my door to possibly pursuing my master’s in Natural Resources Management. I wanted to get an idea of distance delivery.” Lene admitted it didn’t replace the classroom environment because you miss out on networking and regular contact with the instructor. However, she calls the class “a life saver.” “Because my employer supports classes taken during normal work hours I could get to the Career Center during the day for two hours to concentrate on learning.” Although apprehensive at first, she’s glad she persisted and pioneered the path because “it is a real promising alternative to getting my master’s degree. I can do it from here in Delta with a few trips to Fairbanks for labs.”

Lene will use her class experience to help with research trials to be conducted in Delta during the 2010 season. A cooperative effort between the Salcha-Delta Soil and Water Conservation District, the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the district-sponsored research will study phosphorous and potassium availability on soils within the Tanana Valley to determine optimal nutrient requirements for common crops grown in the area. This project will benefit producers and technical specialists within the Tanana Valley agricultural community.



*Meghan Lene at her desk in the Delta Career Advancement Center linking via videoconference to her UAF graduate class in Natural Resources Management.*

