



## Partners for Progress in Delta

A CONSORTIUM OF EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS

# Progress Report

### Facility Open and Centrally Located for the Region

We've come a long way since dignitaries and supporters helped cut the ribbon January 14, 2005 to officially open the Delta Career Advancement Center (DCAC) in Delta Junction. Funding partners include the Department of Defense Missile Defense funds granted to the City of Delta Junction, the Denali Commission, support from the Delta/Greely School District and the private sector.

The Partners for Progress, an educational consortium, raised more than \$250,000 in private funds thanks to a matching grant from the Rasmuson Foundation. The grant leveraged major gifts from Wells Fargo, Bechtel National, Inc., and the Boeing Company. The project also received strong support from local and state businesses, the Fairbanks Building and Construction Trades Council and the IBEW.

The 7,000 square-foot workshop in the 9,600 square-foot facility is home to the Delta/Greely School District's Construction Trades program. DCAC also houses a smart classroom and a computer lab.

The Career Center has already made it possible for the Construction Trades Program to build real world projects in the facility along with offering AutoCAD drafting in the new computer lab using the latest software. The Delta Mine Training Center offered adult training to prospective Pogo Mine employees. The facility also provides Tanana Valley Campus state-of-the-art space to offer its certificate and degree programs.

More than 60 Construction Trades program high school students have been involved in hands-on learning since the beginning of the fall 2003 semester. Besides learning construction basics, students are also certified in CPR/First Aid/AED, OSHA 10 Construction Safety, and MSHA (Mine Safety and Health Administration).

In addition, students are learning about cold climate building techniques through a pilot course being developed in cooperation with the Alaska



Building Science Network (ABSN) and industry experts. The long-term goal is to train a new generation of skilled workers who, with the latest information about cold climate construction, will help build a better Alaska through construction of energy efficient and "cold climate smart" residential and public facilities.

The consortium was created to deliver training and education for area residents seeking career advancement, university degrees and continuing education credit, and to better prepare high school juniors and seniors for career options. The partners are committed to providing students with on-the-job training for long-term employment.

According to the construction trades industry, as many as 7,800 new skilled workers will be needed by the end of the decade and the Delta program is described as a model for other communities across the state. The mineral industry also requires many new trained workers for a myriad of emerging mining operations around the state.

### The Partners

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

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

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

COMING  
 JUNE 2006  
 to Delta  
 Junction:  
 Construction  
 Civil Academy

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seminars and personal consultations. Workshops and training are offered in cold climate building techniques, home and work environment safety, consumer awareness and family finances, horticulture, pest management, home gardening and livestock production.

Extension offers hundreds of publications, written and produced by university specialists, which contain practical information of interest to Alaska residents. Many publications are free and are available online at [www.uaf.edu/ces](http://www.uaf.edu/ces).

### DELTA MINE TRAINING CENTER

The mineral industry in Alaska needs more trained workers if the Pogo Mine Development is any indicator of 21st century skilled worker requirements. According to the Alaska Department of Labor, more than \$70 million was spent on mining exploration in 2004, and the annual impact of the industry is estimated to be \$1.6 billion, with \$22 million paid in state and local taxes. The 2,500 person industry-wide, statewide workforce is expected to grow, but Alaska workers are in short supply.

#### Workplace Health and Safety

Health and safety in the workplace is no longer an option for business, and federal agencies under the U.S. Department

of Labor enforce a myriad of codes and laws. The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) regulates mining. Students who enroll in the programs offered through the DMTC receive the training and certifications required for employment in the occupations they are pursuing.

#### Mineral Industry Workforce Development

Mineral development is rapidly expanding in Alaska and there is a nationwide shortage of workers in this field. Delta Mine Training



Dean of the College of Engineering and Mines Richard Williams, CES Delta agent Phil Kaspari, UAF Chancellor Steve Jones, CES Associate Director Bill Butler, DMTC Executive Director Whit Hicks, TVC Director Rick Caulfield and CES Director Tony Nakazawa toured the DMTC mine in September 2005.

Center offers the training needed for Alaskans to enter numerous mineral industry occupations. The training is hands-on and meets the rigorous standards of the mineral industry.

### DELTA/GREELY HIGH SCHOOL

#### Construction Trades Program

A National Center for Construction, Education and Research (NCCER) certified instructor teaches a sequence of specific topics that are part of the core curriculum covering everything from basic math to use of tools, safety, and essential residential and commercial construction skills.

◆ The June 30, 2003 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the district and the Trades, industry, Alaska Works Partnership, and the Dept. of Labor and Workforce Development—is a milestone in the state. The MOU formalizes a "School-to-Apprenticeship" program whereby successful completion of the DGSD Construction Trades Program can lead to a job and/or an apprenticeship.

◆ In addition, the Construction Trades program has been selected to help develop, and be the first to use, the building science curriculum for cold climates. Alaska Building Science Network (ABSN), a network of international scientists and contractors interested in cold climate building design, is spearheading this effort.

### TANANA VALLEY CAMPUS

### UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

#### From Certificates to Degrees

UAF's Tanana Valley Campus provides a broad range of quality courses and programs leading to certificate and associate degrees and beyond ([www.tvc.uaf.edu](http://www.tvc.uaf.edu)). For this partnership, it uniquely offers academic credit and leveraging university resources to support offerings of the Delta Career Advancement Center. It can offer courses that meet both academic needs and industry certification requirements.

#### Career Oriented Courses

Through the Partnership TVC has been offering courses in the Delta area since 2003. Classes have included computer applications, applied business, communications, AutoCAD, English, and Anthropology. TVC is working to help firefighters in the Delta area to get training required for certification. In addition, TVC is working with industry and the Trades to implement a two-year associate degree in Construction Management.

#### Fast Track Training

Delta programs align closely with TVC's FAST TRACK TRAINING program, which offers intensive training in six certificate areas: automotive, diesel/heavy equipment, power generation, instrumentation, and safety/health/environmental awareness.

Delta area students can use the DCAC as a springboard to this and other training for high-demand, good-paying jobs here in Alaska.



Patricia "Diane" Hill, TVC adjunct instructor for American Sign Language II is meeting a need for sign language education in the Delta area. Adult students form the community and Fort Greely take evening classes at the DCAC.

#### Tech Prep Agreements

TVC continues to work with the Delta Greely School District to articulate new Tech Prep Agreements that will offer UAF credits to secondary students in Delta.

#### Project RAVE (Rural Alaska Vocational Education)

TVC has been funded to implement best practices in bringing rural Alaska youth into occupational education careers. Project RAVE will bring rural youth ages 16-to-18 to Fairbanks to afford them opportunities to explore a range of training and apprenticeships that could lead to a job or career. As part of this program, the partners plan to bring participants to Delta for exposure to the construction trades and mining.

An intensive summer program, RAVE will focus on job readiness skills, personal wellness, individualized "road maps" which will lay out necessary steps to pursue career goals and follow-up staff support to offer advice and counseling to ensure they remain on course with their individual "road map."



Instructor Michael W. Downing came from Fairbanks to teach a custom Excel class for Delta residents.

### SUMMER CIVIL CONSTRUCTION CAMP

The first Interior Civil Construction Heavy Equipment Entry Level Academy will be offered June 5-23 in Delta Junction. Targeted for young adults ages 17-24, the three-week academy provides satellite training for the upper Tanana region which could open the door to registered apprenticeship training. Offering a summer academy has been a goal of the Partners for Progress for a while, and with the completion of the Delta Career Advancement Center in 2005 it was possible to proceed with plans for 2006.

Click Bishop, the Operating Engineers Local 302 training coordinator, said "This academy will provide awareness training and the opportunity to learn about career options in real time."

Although there is no guarantee of either an apprenticeship or a job, the academy will open the door to seeing if individual interests and aptitudes are a good match. Bishop points out that skills learned are transferable to many different industries. "This isn't about pipeline or building construction only. These skills can be applied in a number of the industries—to include mining and railroad.

The first week will focus on health and safety with OSHA and MSHA classes at the DCAC. In addition, forklift training and equipment maintenance and operation classroom instruction will occur at the Career Center. Day five will focus on equipment and site orientation.

Weeks two and three will include hands-on maintenance and operation of heavy equipment along with such topics as theory and methods and grade staking. The Partners for Progress are pleased to have the interest and involvement of Delta Industrial Services, Inc. to make this academy possible. Delta Industrial Services is making the training site available as well as providing the equipment for the class.

Depending on the success of this camp, the Partners envision providing this training opportunity in subsequent years. According to Delta/Greely School District Construction Trades coordinator Gary Hall, "We're at the center of it all here in Delta—roads, residential and commercial construction, possible gas line and railroad projects, along with mining and Dept. of Defense construction activity."

Participation is limited. Call 895-4605 to obtain information and an application.



## MISSION

The Partners for Progress Consortium delivers education and job training opportunities to area adults and high school students. The combined missions of the partners—Tanana Valley Campus of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Delta Mine Training Center, Alaska Works Partnership, the UAF Cooperative Extension Service and the Delta/Greely School District—reinforce a commitment to career advancement, workforce development, academic preparedness, community education and life-long learning. The Delta Career Advancement Center (DCAC), a collaborative project, is a gateway for learning and training in the region.

## Students willing, READY, and working!

More than 100 Delta Junction residents have been taking university classes and earning credits toward degrees or certificates. Students represent a broad cross-section of the community—from high school aged to retirees.

With Pogo Mine underway, Delta Mine Training Center has been reaching hundreds more who aim to qualify for emerging mine-related jobs. Delta Mine Training Center saw a jump from 150 students a year to up to 400 plus in 2004 and 2005.



Center left to right: Two graduates of the Delta/Greely High School Construction Trades program, Jessie Fisher and Chad Pinkleman celebrate completion of the Joint Crafts Pipeline Training Camp in Fairbanks in October 2005 with, far left, Operating Engineers program coordinator Click Bishop, and far right, Gary Hall, DGSD Construction Trades program coordinator and DCAC facility manager.



**Ben Blair (above), 2005 DHS Graduate**

"Because of the opportunity offered to me while I was a student at the Delta High School, I was able to explore new career fields that I never really knew existed. During the construction of the Delta Career Advancement Center, I had the opportunity to work alongside a Journeyman Electrician. Now, I am an Electrical Apprentice, and a part of the Fullford Electric team that wired and installed the electrical components at the new Air Traffic Control Tower at Ft. Greely. Currently, we are in the process of building the new Golden Valley Power Plant in North Pole. This is a rewarding career, and I greatly appreciate the opportunity the Center offered me."

"I am an older student who at over 50 years of age found it necessary to change professions. The instructors took the time to teach me the language of my new vocation, and to prepare me for the new world I was about to enter. The training made it possible to make the transition without much pain. I am pleased—with both their method and results."

—Clifford Robbins, Safety Observer  
TIC, The Industrial Company

## Goals

- ◆ To deliver quality and custom programs to accelerate rural Alaska's workforce development;
- ◆ to make Alaskans competitive for jobs emerging from new developments in the area;
- ◆ to facilitate training for community members seeking career advancement, degrees and continuing education credit;
- ◆ to better prepare high school juniors and seniors for career options, providing on-the-job training for long-term employment;
- ◆ to establish a cadre of qualified local instructors, and
- ◆ to build partnerships for regional delivery of select programs.

## Accomplishments

- ◆ Secured funding to build the Delta Career Advancement Center, a 9,600 square foot facility on the Delta/Greely School District campus grounds—includes a smart classroom, computer lab, and 7,000 sq. ft. workshop. Opened January 14, 2005.
- ◆ Delivered more than 15 three-credit associate level courses through Tanana Valley Campus, meeting the community's demand for computer, communications and business related classes.
- ◆ Delivered six semesters of Construction Trades training for high school students and have collaborated with the Alaska Building Science Network to help develop the curriculum for cold climate construction classes.
- ◆ Delivered classes required for the TVC Certified Public Manager Program and offered a number of customized classes such as Quicken and Excel.
- ◆ Delivered more than 31 DMTC Mine Training related classes plus several special workshops in partnership with the UAF Cooperative Extension Service.
- ◆ Established a School-to-Apprenticeship Memorandum of Understanding with the Union Construction Trades for direct entry into federally registered programs.
- ◆ Responded to community demand for firefighter certification training beginning 2005.
- ◆ Responded to community demand for contractor licensing training, May 2005.
- ◆ Held an Open House and Adult Career Fair at the Delta Career Advancement Center to acquaint the community with the facility and TVC programs.
- ◆ Delivered custom, topical short courses to meet area needs such as Oil Heating Systems and American Traffic Safety Services Association Flagger certification classes.

## Job clusters to address areas of high growth industry needs

The State of Alaska reports it expects 43,000 jobs to be created within a decade with energy industry growth the catalyst for this increase. With the missile defense project in full swing at Fort Greely, Teck-Pogo off the ground and on-going talk of a Gas Line and Railroad, Delta is at the crossroads for increased activity. The in-migration of people to assume temporary and permanent positions and the increased demand for skilled workers has set the stage for Delta to build a solid foundation and infrastructure to sustain long-term economic growth.

Given state identified needs and Delta's central location for major developments, the consortium has identified the following job clusters to focus development of training programs on high growth industries and is using this guide in its three-year planning.

- Construction—residential and public (heavy, civil and engineering)
- Fire fighters and emergency preparedness
- Security
- Transportation/logistics/distribution
- Information/technology
- Building maintenance
- Business and administrative support
- Operations of systems (technical)
- Essential math and English
- Hospitality and tourism
- Recertification needs
- Health/medical related
- Energy related science with a special emphasis on the mineral industry



Extension Energy and Housing Specialist Rich Seifert reads a specification label on a recently installed energy-efficient window at the site of the Cold Climate Housing Research Center, currently being built on the UAF campus. CES photo by Jeff Fay

## Partners Bring Strengths

### ALASKA WORKS PARTNERSHIP

The Partners for Progress thank the following who helped make the Delta Career Advancement Center a reality.

**OUR FOUNDATION**  
\$100,000 and Above  
City of Delta Junction Missile Defense Impact funds  
Delta/Greely School District  
Denali Commission  
Rasmuson Foundation

**OUR ANCHORS**  
\$20,000 to \$99,999  
Bechtel National, Inc.  
The Boeing Company  
Wells Fargo

**OUR BEAMS**  
\$2,500 to \$19,999  
Alaska Interstate Construction  
Associated General Contractors  
Wilbur "Bill" Seitz in memory of Viola BP  
Chugach Alaska Corporation  
Delta Building Supply  
Delta Chamber of Commerce  
Delta Concrete Products  
Fairbanks Building and Construction Trades  
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers  
Mt. McKinley Bank  
The Usibelli Foundation

**OUR NUTS AND BOLTS**  
Gifts Up to \$2,499  
Copper Valley Enterprises  
Delta Meat & Sausage  
Friends of Delta Agriculture  
IGA Food Cache  
Kumin & Associates  
Peter C. Sorenson

**IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS**  
Alyeska and Houston/Nana JV  
Brice Inc.

Alaska Works Partnership (AWP) is a statewide non-profit corporation representing all of Alaska's building and construction trade unions and their federally registered apprenticeship and training programs. Founded in 1996, the Alaska Works Partnership program offers training opportunities that can lead to careers with good wages and benefits for Alaska residents.

Alaska Works develops partnerships with employers, local municipalities, housing authorities, village councils, school boards, and others to increase local hire and provide jobs and career opportunities for rural Alaska residents.

### Apprentice Outreach

AWP provides information about construction- and maintenance-registered apprenticeship programs and assistance. AWP assists individuals with applications, employment and training plans, and provides support services for persons entering trade apprentice programs.

### Women in the Trades

AWP has an on-going, award-winning program that assists women prepare for construction jobs and apprenticeships.

### Helmets to Hardhats (H2H)

AWP has a statewide program providing assistance and support for Veterans and those leaving military service who want to work in construction. Services include short-term certificate training and apprentice training.

### Pipeline Training Program

In working with AWP, Alaska's four "pipeline" unions—the Operating Engineers Local 302, Laborers Local 942, Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 375, and Teamsters Local 959—have offered four pipeline-training programs. The training provides individual training combined with joint multi-craft exercises. An emphasis is placed on safety and the environment.



The fourth annual Alaska Pipeline Crafts Joint Training organized by Alaska Works Partnership in cooperation with Alaska's four pipeline unions culminates in a day of celebration during which trainees demonstrate what they have learned. Above on October 27, 2005 trainees demonstrate how side-boom tractors carefully lift pipe into position in slings guided by a worker at each end.

### Custom Construction Academies

AWP offers intensive courses for people who need pre-vocational training for employment in construction. Courses concentrate on technical math, occupational safety, health and residential carpentry.

### Certificate Training

Short-term industry certificate training is available to upgrade skills of area workers for construction, mining, power generation and public safety.

### COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

### UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

The Cooperative Extension Service, with its headquarters located on the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus, is a research-based, informal educational delivery system providing ready access to practical and useful information on a variety of topics to enhance the well-being of Alaskans.

As Alaska's gateway to its university system, Extension serves some 60,000 Alaskans annually through its faculty educators, agents and staff throughout the state. Major program areas include agriculture and natural resources, community resource and economic development, home economics and consumer science, 4-H and youth development, and housing and energy.

UAF's Extension is part of the largest informal education system in the world, connecting Extension programs at land-grant colleges and universities in every U.S. state and territory. As a state land-grant university, UAF is charged by Congress to conduct resident instruction, research and outreach to people beyond the classroom.

Extension joined Partners for Progress in 2006 to strengthen the university's educational capacity in Delta. Educational programs and outreach include workshops, demonstrations, training



Extension Livestock Specialist Milan Shipka and reindeer involved in studies of reindeer gestation provide information to help Alaska's alternative livestock producers. CES photo by Jeff Fay.