



Partners for Progress in Delta

A CONSORTIUM OF EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS

Progress Report

DELTA MINE TRAINING CENTER (DMTC)

Established in 1998 to address the issue of local hire for mineral industry jobs, the Delta Mining Training Center has helped prepare Alaskans for jobs in mining and mineral exploration throughout Alaska. In addition, Delta Junction currently offers the only fully functional mine training facility in the state through the DMTC, including an on-site dorm for cost-efficient training. DMTC has played and continues to play a major role in training entry-level miners for Teck-Pogo. The Delta Mine Training Center continues to be the connection for industry to find workers and Alaskans to find employment.

Students who enroll in the programs offered through the DMTC will receive the training and certifications required for employment in the occupations they are pursuing. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulates all occupations other than mining. The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) regulates mining.

Currently, mineral development is rapidly expanding in Alaska and there is a nationwide shortage of workers in this field. Delta Mine Training Center offers the training needed for Alaskans to be competitive for a range of mineral industry occupations. The training is hands-on and meets the rigorous standards of the mineral industry.



Left: DMTC Executive Director Whit Hicks (right) discusses the plans for the new underground control room with employee Jeb Timm. Right: A Scoop Tram Toro 007 enters the portal to the underground mine. The Scoop is used to muck out the mine after blasting. DMTC operates an underground training mine.

DELTA/GREELY HIGH SCHOOL (DGSD)

Construction Trades (CT) Program

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

- The 2003 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the district and the Trades, industry, Alaska Works Partnership, and the Dept. of Labor and Workforce Development formalized a "School-to-Apprenticeship" program whereby successful completion of the DGSD Construction Trades Program can lead to a job and/or an ap-

prenticeship. Since 2003, nine Delta program participants have been selected for direct entry into apprenticeships.

- The Alaska Building Science Network (ABSN) selected the DGSD CT program to help develop, and be the first to use, a building science curriculum for cold climates. ABSN is a network of international scientists and contractors interested in cold climate building design



(Above right) Delta/Greely School Superintendent PJ Ford Slack had the opportunity to experience her first Civil Construction Academy and found the training to her liking.

TANANA VALLEY CAMPUS (TVC), 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). For this partnership, it offers academic credit and custom non-credit classes, leveraging university resources to support program delivery through the Delta Career Advancement Center. It can offer courses that meet industry certification requirements.

Serving Delta since 2003, TVC offers classes ranging from computer applications, applied business, and communication, to AutoCAD, English, Anthropology and American Sign Language. TVC also helped firefighters in the Delta area receive training required for certification. TVC also provides:

Vocational/Technical Training

TVC is prepared to extend academic credit and continuing education credits for approved vocational/technical courses, including Applied Mining Technology, Process Technology, Drafting Technology, Welding and Materials Technology as well as Trades and Technology. The new portable welding equipment funded with support from the Rasmuson Foundation will make it possible to offer the first adult welding classes in 2008.

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. Discussions about an English and Applied Business options are underway.

FAST TRACK Training

This new program makes it possible to complete workforce development certificate programs, tuition free, in a nine-to-12-month format enabling students to put new job skills to work. The three-year US Dept. of Labor grant helped TVC develop and deliver six high demand programs in automotive, diesel/heavy equipment, drafting/CADD, power generation, instrumentation and safety, health and environmental awareness.



Covered Storage, Headbolt Heaters and Welding Enhancements Near Completion

The Rasmuson Foundation was a major contributor to the construction of the Delta Career Advancement Center. Awarded a matching grant to leverage private dollars, the Partners received support to enhance the facility by adding landscaping, headbolt heaters and covered storage—all underway in 2007 and involving students in the projects. In addition, the grant funded portable welding booths, thereby making it possible to offer an adult welding class through TVC in 2008.



DGSD high school CT students help construct the new sidewalk and headbolt heaters (above left) and covered storage (above). CT students benefited from hands-on learning during the semester and some were hired as a summer crew to help complete the projects funded by a Rasmuson Foundation grant.

Summer 2008 Academy in Delta

Plans are underway for a "pipeline training" focus for the 2008 Summer Academy in Delta in June 2008. Alaska Works Partnership will be developing a series of introductory pipeline training classes so Alaskans can begin now to prepare for jobs related to the building of the pipeline. Currently,

the Partners are working with AWP to design an intensive summer program focused on welding. More information will be available at the beginning of 2008. Call the Delta Career Advancement Center at 895-4605 to check on the 2008 academy plans for Delta.

Who Hires Our Program Participants?

Businesses who have hired our graduates:

- Delta Industrial Services, Inc.
- AAA Fence
- Morley Electric
- Delta Concrete
- Clearwater Construction
- Cold Regions Test Center
- Teck Pogo

Other graduates have entered a career path with the following Trades:

- Operating Engineers, Local 302
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)
- Plumbers and Pipefitters
- Carpenters
- Laborers

Delta Residents Participate in Pipeline Academy

Max Sprott, Travis Riesner and Olga Kulinich participated in the sixth Fairbanks Pipeline Academy in Fairbanks in October. Alaska Works Partnership (AWP) works with Alaska's four "pipeline" unions—the Operating Engineers Local 302, Laborers Local 942, Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 375 and Teamsters Local 959—to offer pipeline-training programs. The training, funded jointly by the Denali Commission and the Alaska Dept. of Labor and Workforce Development, provides individual training combined with joint multi-craft exercises. An emphasis is placed on safety and the environment. AWP has committed to a 20% rural placement, which includes Delta. Olga Kulinich is a 2006 graduate of the Delta Civil Construction Academy, and Max Sprott has completed the Delta High School Construction Trades Program and participated in the 2007 Civil Construction Academy.



Olga Kulinich, (left), an apprentice with Operating Engineers Local 302, spends time with Miranda Alley and Alyona Malyk, members of the current Construction Trades class taught by program coordinator Gary Hall (inset). Local 302 selected Kulinich at the end of the 2006 Academy for direct entry into an apprenticeship with the Operating Engineers.

Industry, Agencies Discuss Workforce Opportunities, Needs

At an October roundtable luncheon we asked representatives of industry, labor and government agencies what jobs were on the horizon for the area and what we needed to consider for future programming. It's clear the Construction Trades Program at the high school and the summer academies are creating enriched backgrounds for young folks to be competitive for emerging jobs. Industry representatives told the group what they are looking for in prospective employees and described the kinds of jobs they

will need to fill. They said they want classes and programs to help prospective workers and assist the existing workforce:

- understand what is meant by a work ethic
- know what it takes to get a security clearance
- attain technical training in select fields
- secure professional certificates of fitness locally
- acquire hazmat and safety certifications
- access the latest knowledge in drafting and pipeline welding technologies.

Area business representatives and the Partners for Progress in Delta discuss job skills needed and emerging job opportunities. From left: Jim Malingowski, the Boeing Company's Fairbanks representative, Scott Campbell, Boeing site manager at Missile Defense, TVC Director Rick Caulfield and DGSD Superintendent Ford Slack.



The Partners

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MISSION

Partners for Progress in Delta, Inc, an educational 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 lifelong learning. The Delta Career Advancement Center (DCAC), a collaborative project, is a gateway for learning and training in the region.

Second Civil Construction Academy is Another Success

Alaska Works Partnership sponsored a second summer construction academy in Delta Junction in conjunction with the Partners for Progress in Delta, Inc. Ten applicants participated in the intensive three-week program leading to First Aid/CPR/AED, OSHA 10 and forklift certifications, hands-on heavy equipment operation, work ethic, and equipment maintenance instruction.

The 10 received an in-person congratulations and their certificate from Speaker of the House, Representative John Harris, on June 21 at the Delta Industrial Services, Inc. (DIS) gravel site. DIS is a Delta-based company and an important partner in making the academy possible.

One of the 10 was Ft. Greely soldier Rusty Smith, who received time off from his current job as a weapons officer to attend the Academy. "I've had great training in the military, but this is better than any training I've ever done," Smith said.



Alaska Works Partnership Fairbanks Manager Randy Cheap looks on as Rep. Harris congratulates Rusty Smith.

Harris was joined for the ceremony by Gerry McDonagh and Nikki Kreatschman of the Department of Labor, Greg Cashen, executive director of the Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB), Dorothy Shockley of Sen. Albert Kookesh's office, and City of Delta Junction Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling, along with representatives of the Partners.

The Partners view the summer academy as a critical component of the organization's goal to link education and training with real world experiences. At the close of this summer's program two of the participants were hired by Delta Industrial Services, Inc. to complete contracts at Fort Greely. President Jon Dufendach appreciates the quality of the end product of the local program. "Our experience with the graduates is very positive. Those we hire come ready to work and their preparation has been outstanding." An important private sector partner in the 2006 and 2007 academies, Delta Industrial Services, Inc. provided equipment and access to its gravel pit.

Partners for Progress in Delta has been delivering job training and education programs to help build the region's workforce since 2003. The consortium incorporated as a non-profit in early 2007.



Delta Industrial Services, Inc. made its gravel pit at Mile 5 Nistler Road available to the 2006 and 2007 Academies in Delta Junction.

In June 2007, 10 youth, ages 17-24, participated in Delta's second Civil Construction Academy. Back row from left are: Local 302 instructor Russ Penrod, Vitaly Malyk, Max Sprott, AWIB Director Greg Cashen, Dmitriy Gayvoronkiy, Pavel Ionashku, Dmitriy Chayka, Rep. John Harris, Morgan Hartman, Mark Lambert, Daniel Becker, Russell Smith, George Pursey IV, AWP Fairbanks Manager Randy Cheap, Local 302 instructor Ken Assyd. Photo by Kaylene Johnson, courtesy AWP.



Ground-Based Midcourse Defense Project Provided Impetus for the Partners and GMD Still Helping

The federal impact grant associated with the Ground-based Midcourse Defense system installation at Fort Greely inspired the partnership which benefited from impact funding between 2003 and 2006. GMD is still interested in skilled workers and its director has been a strong supporter of the Partners for Progress in Delta and the Delta Career Advancement Center since its inception. Sherwood "Woody" Byam directs the GMD operation and served on the Delta/Greely School District school board when the board was making decisions about the Construction Trades program and the facility which is now the DCAC.

According to Byam, "At the time I really liked the concept, which is used, for example, in Germany, where they emphasize getting youth onto job sites." He continues to be encouraged by the approach the Construction Trades program is taking at the high school. He is also a firm believer in exposing young people to the type of work that goes on at Fort Greely: Since most of the GMD work is not done by area residents, he is especially supportive of summer hire programs "to expose young people to the type of work underway and to help them attain the skills needed." Byam believes "having the opportunity to see it first-hand" sends the message there are career options in Delta and in Alaska.

This past summer he hired an intern who is majoring in engineering at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Michele Helkenn is no stranger to the DCAC—her mom, Cheryl, is the office coordinator for the DCAC. Born and raised in Delta, Michele said she was in and out of the Career Center frequently and saw first-hand all that was going on. "I'm kicking myself for not taking AutoCAD when I had the opportunity in high school," she said. "Now I have to take AutoCAD for my engineering program and I will pay much more."

"I thought early on I wanted to be an engineer and then senior year something happened and I switched to criminal justice and decided to go outside for college." However, Michele came back within the year—she loves her family, Delta and



GMD Director Sherwood "Woody" Byam and summer hire and UAF engineering student Michele Helkenn

Alaska, and learned she really wanted to be an engineer. "I had the opportunity to be on a job shadow my senior year right before I graduated, but by then I had signed up to go to school outside."

Helkenn said the summer job really made her want to be an engineer. She explains, "I learned about the importance of communication skills and protocol—how to handle projects from a big picture and how to deal with people." Byam agrees that communication skills are critical. "It's all about being able to convey your ideas clearly and working with others to get a job done," said Byam, "I'm glad Michele walked away with that view."

Michele also learned she is interested in mechanical as well as civil engineering. "Just being exposed to the range of engineering options was so helpful," she said. She said Delta is really surprising

because you can do so much. She was able to take American Sign Language classes at the Career Center through Tanana Valley Campus and earn college credit. She's considering it as a possible minor.

Both Helkenn and Byam agree that there are plenty of opportunities in the area. Helkenn believes people are wrong when they think there is nothing to do in Delta. "There is so much going on and so much that is possible for young people right here," she said.

GOALS

To deliver quality and custom programs to accelerate rural Alaska's workforce development, the goals of the Partners for Progress Consortium are:

- 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
- 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.

Together Partners Offer Program Breadth and Strength

ALASKA WORKS PARTNERSHIP (AWP)

AWP provides customized programs to help a wide range of workers.

Apprentice Outreach

AWP provides information about construction- and maintenance-registered apprenticeship programs and assistance. AWP provides support services for persons entering trade apprentice programs.

- Assistance with applications to apprenticeship programs
- Assistance with employment and training plans
- Support services for persons entering trade apprentice program

Helmets to Hardhats (H2H) for Veterans

- Assistance and support for Veterans and those leaving military services who want to work in construction.
- Statewide program providing assistance and support, including short-term certificate training and apprentice training.

Pipeline Training Program

- Links with Alaska's four "pipeline" unions—the Operating Engineers Local 302, Laborers Local 942, Plumbers, Pipefitters Local 375 and Teamsters Local 959—lead to an annual pipeline-training program in Fairbanks.

Women in the Trades

- On-going assistance for women to prepare for construction jobs and apprenticeships.
- Award-winning program assists women.

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



(Left to right) Ken Assyd, one of the academy instructors, AWP Executive Director Mike Andrews and Chad Hutchinson, Local 302 apprenticeship coordinator, relax over lunch during the 2007 graduation day activities.

UAF COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE (CES)

CES joined the Partners for Progress in 2006 to strengthen the university's educational capacity in the area and increase collaborative efforts for program delivery. As an important gateway to its university system, Extension serves some 60,000 Alaskans annually, interpreting and extending relevant university, research-based knowledge in an understandable and usable form to Alaska's diverse people and communities. UAF's Extension is a part of the largest informal education system in the world, connecting Extension programs at land-grant colleges and universities in every U.S. territory and state.

Extension has educators, faculty, and staff located in Anchorage, Bethel, Delta Junction, Fairbanks, Glennallen, Juneau, Kodiak, Nome, Palmer, Sitka and Soldotna, and in affiliate offices with the Tanana Chiefs Conference, Eielson Air Force Base, Thorne Bay and the Delta Mine Training Center.

Extension 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.

Delta is the site of an active pest management program and high interest and participation in the Cold Climate construction classes. CES has been a partner with TVC in offering classes for Catholic Social Services clients through a USDA Risk Management grant.



Fairbanks-based CES agent Roxie Dinstel came to Delta to teach a meat butchering class as part of a series of classes offered through Catholic Social Services and funded by a USDA Risk Management grant. During the class visit to Delta Meat & Sausage, owner Jeanie Pinkelman instructs the class on the best way to safely wrap game meat for storage in a freezer. Behind Pinkelman are butcher Robbie Young, Ruvim Vorobyev, interpreter Sergey Morozov and Svetlana Kosmin. Inset: (R to L) Agent Dinstel, interpreter Morozov and student Yevgeniy Yelenskiy watch Young cut moose steaks and roasts.