



Partners for Progress in Delta, Inc

A CONSORTIUM OF EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS

Progress Report

Industry Roundtable Identifies Workforce Needs in the Region, 2009 and Beyond

More than 20 representatives from local businesses, the oil and gas line companies, the area gold mine and state and federal agencies met Oct. 15 to discuss with the board of directors the region's workforce needs and how the Partners for Progress in Delta, Inc. (PPD) and the Delta Career Advancement Center (DCAC) can be a part of meeting those needs.

Board president and meeting facilitator Dr. Rick Caulfield, the director of the University of Alaska Fairbanks Tanana Valley Campus, opened the meeting by asking several board members to share a perspective about the partnership. Board member Jon Dufendach founder of Delta Industrial Services, Inc. told the group he is involved with the Partners for Progress in Delta, Inc. because he believes Delta Junction is at the center of the future and could be one of the fastest growing communities in the state. He wants to ensure local training and education opportunities are available for the area's young people so they can get good jobs and be a part of the community's growth.

Long-time supporter of the career center, City Mayor Mary Leith Dowling said she knows how hard it was to get career and technical training—you had to leave Delta. For her, "It's been great to have a center here and local opportunities for career advancement. A career path needs to be about more than just going to college." She supported this project right from the beginning because it offered a lot for area youth and those wanting to get ahead in their jobs or improve their skills.

Randy Cheap explained that his organization, Alaska Works Partnership, has been a supporter from the beginning because there is a need to train young people and then let them know there are jobs and real opportunities. He said "It's been great to witness the success of Gary Hall's students who are getting placed directly into apprenticeships. The Trades know this is a quality program being delivered in Delta."



Denali representative Lisa Pekich listens as Pogo Mine manager Larry Davey describes his company's workforce needs.



President Rick Caulfield, center, catches up with Sen. Kookesh's Fairbanks office representative Dorothy Shockley (l) and Tanana Chiefs Conference Special Projects director Charlisa Attla (r). Board member Mary Leith-Dowling is in the background.

Recognizing that "what we have in Delta is a unique partnership," DGSD Superintendent PJ Ford Slack commented that it is significant that we are now recognized as a regional training center. She is

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The Partners

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First Board of Directors continued

nity college mission in the greater Fairbanks area and in Delta, with a special emphasis on workforce development. He earned his PhD in community development and has taught with UAF for over 20 years. In addition to his academic career, Caulfield has been a pilot, firefighter, emergency medical technician, school teacher, commercial fisherman, dog musher, and short-order cook. In Alaska for more than 30 years, he and his family have lived throughout the Great Land—from Southeast Alaska to Bristol Bay to the Arctic. He and his wife, Annie, live in Fairbanks and have three grown children.

PJ Ford Slack—Superintendent of the Delta/Greely School District since 2007, she is an expert on Alaska's indigenous peoples and their customs and an authority on language reclamation and international education. She is a member of the American Education Research Association and holds a doctorate from the University of Oregon in education, policy and management with a specialty in international and indigenous education. She credits her success to

her caring and compassion, characteristics that serve her equally well in her personal undertakings, including philanthropic activities, such as supporting Big Brothers, Big Sisters and several other charities that benefit youth and promote education. She enjoys fishing, traveling, hiking and being with her family.

Whit Hicks—Executive Director of the Delta Mine Training Center, he came to Alaska to interview for a job at the University of Alaska. Instead he and his wife stopped in Delta and never left. He created and operates Alaska's only fully functional underground mine training facility in the state. He has a PhD from Penn State in Agricultural and Extension Education with three areas of study: Environmental Resources Management, Communications, and Basic Research. He has a Masters from Middle Tennessee State University in Vocational and Technical Education. He has served on the board of the Delta Regional Economic Development Council, helping shape Delta's vision for the future. He and his wife, Judy, have three young children and they all enjoy the outdoors.

First Welding Academy Receives High Marks

At the October 2007 industry roundtable meeting we heard that welding training was essential in the area. We said we would explore how we could make training available locally. Thanks to the Rasmuson Foundation grant which allowed us to purchase and install eight portable welding machines, TVC could offer its first welding classes with local adjunct instructor Jack Morris teaching the first class in the spring of 2008. It was repeated two more times and its popularity provided the impetus to launch the first intensive introduction to welding training academy during June 2008.

Ten applicants age 17-21, including two from Tok and one from Dry Creek, participated in the intensive three-week program with hands-on welding operation and work ethic instruction. Bechtel National has been a supporter of the partners since the company invested in helping construct the facility. Bechtel welding engineer Gary Goodman presented several "real world" lectures about welding on the job. Impressed with the DCAC state of the art capability, Goodman along with his boss, Mike Hayner, who is Bechtel's Ground-based Missile Defense (GMD) Project Manager at Fort Greely and the person responsible for Bechtel's interest and initial contribution to help build the facility's, were instrumental in arranging for Bechtel to purchase and place at the DCAC a Fisher Engineering Roller Guided Bend



The 2008 welding class from left: Jadon Holbrook, Nathan Holbrook, David York, Chris Jepsen, Nathan Moschell, Rebekah Lupo, Gabe Dalton, TVC Instructor Jack Morris, Academy Coordinator Gary Hall, Joe Lupo, Cody Omta, and Gen Apolo.

Who Hires Our Program Participants?

Businesses who have hired our graduates:

- Delta Industrial Services, Inc.
- AAA Fence
- Morley Electric
- Cold Regions Test Center
- Pogo Mine
- Flowline

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

- Operating Engineers, Local 302
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 1547
- Plumbers and Pipefitters
- Carpenters

First Board of Directors Seated

After incorporation last year, the partners worked toward establishing its first board and completing its Bylaws. Local residents Mary Leith-Dowling and Jon Dufendach join partner board members Richard Caulfield (TVC Campus Director), Randy Cheap (Alaska Works Partnership), PJ Ford Slack (DGSD Superintendent), Whit Hicks (DMTC) and Pete Pinney (UAF Cooperative Extension). Caulfield was elected president, Ford Slack is secretary and Dufendach is treasurer. The board of directors has been meeting monthly since July to jump start the new nonprofit, set goals, and develop its FY09-FY12 Program of Work. The board members bring a wealth of experiences and talents to the organization.

Mary Leith-Dowling—A long time resident of Delta Junction, with a passion for books and youth, she is currently serving her second term as mayor of Delta Junction. As an early supporter of the DCAC, she encouraged the City's support of the facility's construction. She is especially interested in providing area youth with training and education for career opportunities beyond the traditional college pathway. She has worked in Delta High School library since 1977 and has often heard from students that college was not in their career plan. She also serves as President of the Delta Library Association, the volunteer organization in support of the Delta Community Library. Mary holds a BA from Florida State University and a Master of Library Science from the University of British Columbia. She has two children, a daughter who lives with her husband and children in Fairbanks, and a son who attends Delta High School.

Jon Dufendach—Co-founder of Delta Industrial Services, Inc., he helped build the local business after a lengthy career in the oil industry. From steel fabrication to drinking water treatment system design/build, heavy equipment rental and sales, and industrial supplies, his business serves clients all around the world. He's committed to Alaska, believes in Delta's future and wants area youth to be competitive for the jobs that are emerg-

ing in the region. He knows first-hand Delta is a happening place and he and his wife, Carol, and five children have made it their home since they farmed on the Tanana River starting in 1967.

Randy Cheap—With 30 years with the Painter's union, he is the Fairbanks manager for Alaska Works Partnership. He is the coordinator for the annual Pipeline Training Academy held in Fairbanks and actively involved in building and promoting career pathways that bring together K-12, the university, industry and the Trades. He provides oversight for the construction academies conducted in Delta. He has been in Fairbanks since 1974, coming here to work on the Trans Alaska Pipeline and staying to raise a family. He's been married for 30 years and has two sons and a daughter all living in Fairbanks.

Pete Pinney—As interim director of the Cooperative Extension Service, he has helped CES to develop a number of partnerships and collaborations to strengthen CES's role as a resource for information on land, agriculture, energy, nutrition, horticulture and youth development across the state. Previously, Pinney served as a TVC faculty member and as the associate dean for the College of Rural Development. CES is currently seeking a permanent director and Pinney will begin transitioning back to the College of Rural and Community Development. But as he says, "That doesn't mean any sudden or drastic changes for leadership for Extension. I will still be actively involved in Extension through the end of the fiscal year, no matter when the new director comes on board."

Rick Caulfield—As Director of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Tanana Valley Campus (TVC), he has been a strong supporter of Partners for Progress in Delta, Inc. TVC fulfills UAF's commu-



The September 2008 PPD board of directors meeting, held 600 feet below ground in the new conference room at the DMTC mine off the Alaska Highway. From left are board members Randy Cheap, Jon Dufendach, Whit Hicks, Mary Leith Dowling, Rick Caulfield and PJ Ford Slack. Pete Pinney was not present.

Partners for Progress in Delta, Inc.

Board Members

Rick Caulfield
(President)

UAF Tanana Valley
Campus Director

PJ Ford Slack
(Secretary)

Delta/Greely School
District Superintendent

Jon Dufendach
(Treasurer)

Delta Industrial
Services, Inc.

Randy Cheap
Alaska Works
Partnership

Whit Hicks
Delta Mine Training
Center Director

Mary Leith-Dowling
City of Delta Junction

Pete Pinney
Cooperative Extension
Service

MISSION

Partners for Progress in Delta, Inc, 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;
- To build and nurture long-term partnerships with agencies, businesses, organizations, trades and government.

Industry Roundtable Identifies Workforce Needs from p. 1

hoping more K-12 schools will be able to access our programs and she is looking forward to the partnership delivering comprehensive offerings; and working with TVC on more tech prep classes in the high school. Caulfield noted that industry comments will shape future direction of the group and be used to update our strategic plan. Using the state's Alaska Gas Line Investment Act (AGIA) workforce training plan and industry input as a reference will help the PPD identify and offer young people career pathways to the jobs emerging as Alaska grows.

Discussion was lively. During the two hours together, the group identified a number of training needs for the region as summarized at right.

Messages received include:

- The Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development is concerned that 20% of Alaska's workforce comes from out-of-state.
- Do the outreach regionally to serve the state best.
- You can't do everything so pick the things you can do well and serve others—jobs will be all over the state so the training is more than just for Delta projects.
- BP could be a source for mentors since many 30-year folks will be retiring.

We are especially appreciative of the time taken by representatives from BP, Denali, DOL, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Chugach, Bechtel, Fort Greely Education Office, Representative John Harris' office and Senator Albert Kookesh's office, Department of Transportation, DGSD school board, local businesses and the partners' organizations.

AWP board member Randy Cheap (right) talks with BP representative John Ringstad at the close of the Oct. 15 industry roundtable.

Partners Receive IRS Tax Exempt Status

On October 24 the Partners for Progress in Delta, Inc. received official word that the organization was approved for tax exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service. That means the new nonprofit is able to solicit and accept tax deductible contributions for its activities. This is great news for us, said board president Rick Caulfield. "It allows us to share the vision for our future and legitimately ask businesses, foundations, individuals and others to help strengthen that vision with their support.

- Agriculture
 - Acreage open for Biofuels?
 - Farm safety
 - Work ethic and practical skills
- Engineering support
 - Project controls
 - Cost tracking
- Camp support
 - Field surveys
 - H₂O/wastewater operators
 - Food safety
 - Bear guards
- Drivers training for CDL
- Employability skills
 - Resumes/ interviews
 - Basic admin. skills
- Energy raters
- English as a second language
- Explosives/blasting
- Fire certification
- Health programs
 - Certified Nurse's Aide
 - EMT/Paramedic
 - First Aid/CPR
- Human resources support
- Inspectors
 - Food
 - Wastewater
 - Welding
- IT/Communications
 - Early project
 - Servicing systems
 - Basic computing
- Mechanics and maintenance
- Mentoring
- Mining
 - Mill operations
 - Mechanics
 - Maintenance: Mobile and Fixed
 - Class II water/wastewater operators
- Outreach throughout the region
 - Housing a big issue
- Pre-training in math and verbal basics
- Project management
- Renewable energy
 - New technologies
 - Water turbines
- Security
 - Surveillance technology
 - Security guards
- Surveying
- Testing and tutoring/GED



Partner Strengths Provide Program Depth and Breadth

ALASKA WORKS PARTNERSHIP (AWP)

AWP provides:

- Information about construction and maintenance registered apprenticeship programs.
- Assistance with applications to apprenticeship programs.
- Assistance with employment and training plans.
- Support services for persons entering a trade apprentice program.
- Assistance for women to prepare for construction jobs and apprenticeships.
- Assistance and support for Veterans and those leaving military services who want to work in construction.
- 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.

Pipeline Training Program

Working with AWP the past six years, Alaska's four "pipeline" unions—the Operating Engineers Local 302, Laborers Local 942, Plumbers, Pipefitters Local 375 and Teamsters Local 959—have offered annual pipeline-training. The program 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 in 2007 and 2008 included Delta. The 2008 Pipeline Training Program included two DGHS graduates who also completed the 2008 Summer Welding Academy.

UAF COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE (CES)

CES joined the Partners for Progress in Delta, Inc. 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.

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, 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.

DELTA HIGH SCHOOL DELTA/GREELY SCHOOL DISTRICT (DGSD)

Construction Trades (CT) Program

A National Center for Construction, Education and Research (NCCER) certified instructor teaches a sequence of six specific

Rebekah Lupo of Delta (left) and Chris Jepsen of Dry Creek at the 2008 Pipeline Training Academy held in Fairbanks Oct. 28–Nov. 7. Both Jepsen and Lupo are now on a list to be hired as welder's helpers. According to DGSD Construction Trades Program instructor Gary Hall, "getting two of our students into the pipeline academy is a real plus."

topics that are part of the Construction Trades (CT) core curriculum covering everything from basic math to use of tools, safety and essential residential construction skills.

The Delta High School Construction Trades has established a successful mock interview program for high school seniors selected for interviews with industry and/or the Trades. Construction Trades instructor Gary Hall and several local businessmen have made this a meaningful activity. The program and the summer academies have resulted in 13 direct placements with apprenticeship programs; many others have been hired by local and state construction-related businesses.

The Construction Trades program constructed a library storage shed for the City of Delta Junction, and students designed and constructed outdoor concrete tables and benches for the city's park.

The DGSD is introducing middle school students to the Construction Trades program through visits to the DCAC facility and the high school program was expanded in the fall of 2008 to include 10th grade in addition to 11th and 12th grades.

The program is strengthened through:

- A 2003 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which formalized a "School-to-Apprenticeship" program whereby successful completion of the DGSD Construction Trades Program can lead to a job and/or an apprenticeship.
- Collaboration with the Alaska Building Science Network (ABSN) to help develop a building science curriculum for cold climates. ABSN is a network of international scientists and contractors interested in cold climate building design.

TANANA VALLEY CAMPUS (TVC) UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

From Certificates to Degrees

UAF's Tanana Valley Campus provides a broad range of career advancement 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 at

For information about coming classes, June 2009 three-week custom academies, and other planned training opportunities, please call 895-4605.

the Delta Career Advancement Center. TVC 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, American Sign Language and since spring 2008 Welding. 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 made it possible to offer the first adult welding classes in 2008—a need identified by the community through TVC's Perkins grant application and survey process.

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. Since 2003 new articulations have been developed and offered.

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 U.S. Dept. of Labor grant helped TVC develop and deliver six high demand programs. They are: automotive, diesel/heavy equipment, drafting/AutoCAD, power generation, instrumentation, and safety, health and environmental awareness.

HB 2 Recognizes Delta as a Regional Training Center

The PPD's Delta Career Advancement Center was named among the state's regional training centers for career and technical training in last session's HB2. Providing five-year funding to those centers named in the bill, the appropriation means centers can concentrate on building responsive skilled workforce development and career pathway programs knowing there is some operational stability. Previously, the Partners for Progress in Delta, Inc. received community impact funding through a Department of Defense (DOD) federal grant to the City of Delta Junction, and

after 2006 vocational education funds through the University of Alaska. President Rick Caulfield notes "this is a real achievement and reaffirms that our vision and efforts to date have been on the right track." The funds come through the state's Technical and Vocational Education Program (TVEP) managed by the DOL. Performance outcomes and participant success rates will be reported annually. Delta will receive 3% of the funds available or approximately \$283,000 per year during the five-year period.