



Partners for Progress in Delta, Inc

A CONSORTIUM OF EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS

Progress Report

Delta High School Construction Trades Teacher Recognized by Alaska Workforce Investment Board

The Alaska Workforce Investment Board recognized **Gary Hall**, Delta High School Construction Trades instructor since 2002, as its Secondary Career and Technical Education Teacher of the Year during its February board meeting in Juneau. Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development **Click Bishop** said this year's award recipients contribute significantly to "improving and promoting career and technical education." Alaska business and industry representatives nominate candidates. Representatives from Delta Industrial Services, CampWater Industries, Copper Current Electric and Bechtel, along with Alaska Works Partnership wrote letters of support for Hall. Since 2002 Hall has taken his 35 plus-years' experience in the construction trades industry and shared his work ethic and professional attitude



Alaska Workforce Investment Board president Jim Lynch, Rep. Eric Feige and Commissioner Click Bishop with Delta High School teacher Gary Hall—the AWIB Secondary Career and Technical Teacher of the Year.

with more than 100 students—many of whom have gone on to careers in the Trades or the construction industry.

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Board Member Develops "Drinking Water for Emergencies" Class



Jon Dufendach knows clean water can be hard to come by during natural and manmade disasters. He has been around the world trying to help remote and rural villages in South America and Africa to demonstrate proper techniques for making water clean enough to drink. His interests led to discussion with both the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) Community and Technical College and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation to develop a 16-hour workshop.

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From left Bill Wright, Pat McKeen, Robert Vollmer, John Lewis, Troy Burns, Benjamin Steward, Ann Hayes, Ron Magee, Louise Davison, Jon Dufendach and John Semands at the Tanana River Bridge for the field exercise demonstrating how to set up equipment and decontaminate water to make it ready for drinking. Photo by Mike Kingston

The Partners

Alaska Works
Partnership
www.alaskaworks.org
907.457.2597

Delta/Greely
School District
www.dgsd.k12.ak.us
907.895.4657

University of
Alaska Fairbanks
Community and
Technical College
www.ctc.uaf.edu
907.455.2800

University of
Alaska Fairbanks
Cooperative Extension
Service
www.uaf.edu/ces/
907.474.7246

operating the
Delta Career
Advancement Center
1696 N. Clearwater Avenue
Delta Junction, AK 99737



Seventh Annual Industry Roundtable Participants Hear from Labor Commissioner Bishop

At more than 60 attendees, Partners for Progress in Delta's annual outreach to industry was the largest roundtable to date, completely filling the space in the shop area's instructional space. Continuing and new participants exchanged ideas and listened to featured speaker Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development **Click Bishop** describe the state's commitment to career and technical education and training to

The Seventh Annual Industry Roundtable was well attended with representation from industry, government and other agencies.



increase, support and sustain Alaska's skilled workers.

During an exchange with industry and business representatives, board members and the Commissioner heard about needs for worker training and education in the area. In the agricultural industry, participants identified everything from getting a processing plant off the ground and developing the market for new barley flour mill, to providing culinary chef training using fresh vegetables and helping the red meat industry with mobile slaughtering training. Comments included, "The small family farm is not as commonplace anymore," and "Alaska is something of an island." For these reasons several folks pointed out the need "to help prepare folks to take care of themselves."

The shortage of health care providers was voiced as a concern as well, with an interest in doing more "to grow our own." Department of Transportation is having difficulty hiring operators in outlying areas and this ties in with a need for workers to receive training to secure a Commercial Driver's License (CDL). Other areas of interest for training opportunities in the region noted include waste management, energy (wind and solar training) and small business management. Mining representatives pointed out the need for millwright training and process technology skills. And, as in past years, business folks want workers who possess soft skills and sales skills and continue to ask for job readiness training as part of the regular school curriculum.



Click Bishop

teaches the Construction Trades and Welding sequences at Delta High School, but also is the coordinator for the popular June Heavy Equipment Operator Academy—a three-week intensive program provided by the Operating Engineers, Local 302 and Alaska Works Partnership in June.



UAF CTC administrative assistant Cheryl Helkenn assists participants with registration paperwork for the two-day "Drinking Water for Emergencies" workshop.

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Hall said the recognition was a total surprise and it reinforces his commitment to work with these young people. "I have seen so many young people's lives changed – they become focused, confident, and excited about their future and their opportunity to be contributing citizens to their community." Hall not only

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After appropriate review and vetting, Dufendach offered the first class in Delta in February. Topics covered included: a review of policy in Alaska, description of the range of threats from power outages and natural disasters to terrorism and equipment failure, planning, and response activities.

Of the 13 workshop participants, 10 were personnel from the Alaska State Defense Force, including members from the 3rd Battalion (Fairbanks) and the fifth Battalion (Delta) with LTC Ron Magee, senior officer in attendance. Together they worked through emergency scenarios and participated in a field exercise. These two Battalions have been asked to spearhead preparedness for water treatment emergencies.

Dufendach reported that, "Many good ideas regarding ways of dealing with drinking water emergencies came out of this interchange." Plans are being developed for an 80-hour course. Six of the students earned 1.5 Continuing Education Credits (CEU) through UAF CTC.

Cooperative Extension Service Partner Offers a Range of Outreach in Delta

From workshops on solar energy and pesticide application to assisting a thriving 4-H youth group, Cooperative Extension Service (CES) agents make good on the institution's mission to "educate, engage and support the people of Alaska by connecting them and their university." With more than 80 years experience of providing factual and practical information to Alaskans, CES has been an active participant in ensuring the success of Partners for Progress in Delta, Inc. CES agents have been involved in developing recipes using Delta grown and processed barley flour, planting at the Sullivan Roadhouse garden, organizing the annual Delta Farm Forum and Harvest Wrap-up, and offering a range of workshops and classes on gardening, food preservation and nutrition.

CES director and Partners for Progress in Delta board member **Fred Schlutt** believes the CES/Delta

Partners for Progress is a clear example of how the University of Alaska Fairbanks can partner to deliver direct credit and noncredit education to Alaska residents. "It is also Extension's opportunity to work with communities to create a continuing education program that meets their residents' needs," he said. "This is a new direction for Cooperative Extension, allowing Alaska CES to be a model for the Lower 48 programs."

Since spring 2011, local 4-H clubs (DJ Saddle Tramps and Healing Hoofbeats) have been holding meetings at the Career Center. According to **Eric Stewart**, a Partners' board member and active parent involved with 4-H, the move to the center has been a "good thing." He said, "Over the past 12 months we've watched the club triple in size. Due to the sheer size of these ever growing clubs, utilization of the Career Center couldn't have come at a better time."

Always popular, the CES workshop on Cold Climate Homebuilding Techniques attracted 20 participants in February. CES community sustainability coordinator **Rich Seifert** and energy specialist **Art Nash** teamed up to deliver the most recent workshop in Delta. Topics covered included ventilation, cold climate options, retrofit, indoor air quality, roofs and foundations. They also taught the Home Retrofit Workshop to residents.

Delta agent **Phil Kaspari** is Extension's expert on pesticide management and later this spring will teach the pesticide applicators course from the Career Center to sites around the state using the center's videoconferencing capability.



Top: Delta Saddle Tramps 4-H club members Hailey Williams (left) and Hayleigh Lantz make fleece dog beds for a 4-H fundraiser.

Center: 4-H President Dani Markham cuts fabric for the dog beds.

Above: Cloverbud (K-2 4-H program) member J. D. Lyons makes a cat bed. Behind him, Kristy Schenk (left) and Priscilla Joslin team up on a bed while adults Debbie Joslin and Amy Lantz look on. Vel Wager is right front helping cut fabric. The 4-H group meets twice a month at the Delta Career Advancement Center on Thursday evenings. This project included making dog beds and pet toys. Proceeds raised as a result of this project support the DJ Saddle Tramps 4-H club. Photos by Eileen Williams.



Rich Seifert and Art Nash

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.



Partners for Progress in Delta Inc.
PO Box 956
Delta Junction, AK 99737

(907) 895-4605

www.partnersforprogressindelta.org

Non-Profit
Organization

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

Coming Academies to Focus on Heavy Equipment and Residential Weatherization

June 2012 will again see a Construction Trades Heavy Equipment Operator academy along with a new program focus. Operating Engineers Local 302 through its Training Trust will again provide instruction in heavy equipment operation. The three-week intensive academy continues to be popular and results oriented with annual placements into additional training or job apprenticeships. Based on the growing need for increased efficiencies in home windows, doors and insulation to reduce energy costs, Partners for Progress partner Alaska Works Partnership kicked off delivery of a weeklong Introductory Weatherization academy in March. Plans include another week-long session in late spring or early summer.

Call 895-4605 for more information and check our website, www.partnersforprogressindelta.org. We will post an application online for you to print and return to us.

Spring 2012 Activity Spans Range of Topics and Headcount Increases

University of Alaska Fairbanks Community and Technical College (UAF CTC) spring classes at the Delta Career Advancement Center include Beginning AutoCAD, Digital Photography, Elementary Algebra, Computer Business Applications: Word and Excel, Elementary Russian, and a distance delivered computing networking class. Late start classes include Digital Photography Part II and Certified Nurse Aide. Fundamentals of Oral Communication—Public Context will be offered this summer.

We reported a total of 115 served through December; however, between January 1 and the end of February this year we have 50 enrolled in University classes, 44 who have been served through Cooperative Extension workshops in January and February—cold climate techniques for building and pesticide application—and a special topics workshop on drinking water for emergencies. In addition, during this same period 30 people have used the Center for testing services for either placement or course work completion.

With late start classes and at least two more workshops on the horizon before the end of FY12, as well as the popular Heavy Equipment Operator Academy set for June, this spring promises a record head count.

Thank You for Your Support

- ALYESKA PIPELINE COMPANY gave Partners for Progress in Delta \$1000 in support of our workforce development programs.
- BOEING COMPANY made possible our Pizza Night for 10th and 11th graders and their parents. Plans are underway to continue these evenings to share information about options for career pathways through classes offered by our partners at the Delta Career Advancement Center.