

# The Leading EDGE

Education+Delta+Greely+Excellence

Fall/Winter 2013

## Ninth Annual Industry Roundtable Generates Lively Discussion

Fred Schlutt, Vice Provost for University Outreach and Extension and a board member of Partners for Progress in Delta, told this year's attendees of the Ninth Industry Roundtable, that the Cooperative Extension Service (CES) is ramping up efforts to work with small communities to boost economies through entrepreneurial development. Schlutt shared the story of the fledgling peony industry of a few years ago, which in this past season sold every single peony produced in Alaska, even

before they were grown. Agents worked closely with the small farm businesses to help them develop a quality product that is being sold around the world.

Schlutt said mom and pop stores need help and they are the backbone for Alaska. Subsequently, CES hired an economic development

**"...mom and pop stores need help and they are the backbone for Alaska."**

**Fred Schlutt, Vice Provost for University Outreach and Extension**



*Fred Schlutt, Vice Provost for University Outreach and Extension and a board member of Partners for Progress in Delta, addresses this year's attendees of the Ninth Industry Roundtable. Roundtable held at the Delta Career Advancement Center.*

*continued inside*

## SPOTLIGHT: CNA Graduates Get Jobs at Quality Care Center

Four of the nine spring graduates of the UAF CTC Certified Nurse Aide Program were hired for positions at the newly opened Quality Care Center in Delta. The Center's Administrator, Mary Kaspari, said there is a growing need for health care professionals in the region. "As the industry grows in Delta, I'm hoping we can continue to grow our own trained health care workers," she said. She went to say, "Like the agricultural industry here, locally grown workers means they understand the community and we have a bet-

ter chance of retaining an educated and qualified professional base."

Kaspari is glad the Delta Career Advancement Center is right here and can offer a range of career

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**Mary Kaspari, Quality Care Center Administrator**

pathway programs that translate into jobs. She explained that she wanted to hire certified nurse aides to provide care at the facility because they have a base of professional training and education to serve patients best. They have the skills to offer quality service and the training to ensure the safety of patients.

*continued inside*

## Spring 2014 Activity Spans Range of Topics

The variety of classes has increased in response to requests and a second CDL driving class is possible in the coming spring.

University of Alaska Fairbanks Community and Technical College (UAF CTC) spring classes at the Delta Career Advancement Center include:

- ◆ Computer Business Applications: Microsoft Excel and Access
- ◆ Russian 1B
- ◆ English 111 and 211
- ◆ Introduction to Early Childhood Profession
- ◆ Introduction to Personal Computers
- ◆ Medical Terminology
- ◆ Personal and Business Finance
- ◆ Writing English as a Second Language
- ◆ Certified Nurse Aide

## The Partners

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

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

University of Alaska Fairbanks Community and Technical College  
[ctc.uaf.edu](http://ctc.uaf.edu)

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

**Operating the Delta Career Advancement Center**



*Racheal Padgett, recent CNA graduate.*

specialist to work with small businesses in the Interior. Kathryn Dodge is developing a series of CES classes in cooperation with UAF Community & Technical College (UAF CTC) that focus on everything from “Writing Business Plans” and “Business Retention and Expansion” to “Record Keeping and Taxes for Artists and Artisans.” Dodge is also creating a list of retired executives who are willing to help start-ups and mentor small business owners as part of a nationwide program called SCORE—

Senior Corps of Retired Executives. Schlutt also said Cooperative Extension is working to develop more radio and television content and a portal to make it easier for users searching extension topical information online to both find the information and register for classes.

As part of the annual meeting, the board asks industry and business representatives to identify needs for worker training and education in the area. Borrowing a phrase from the agricultural industry,

attendees heard the need to offer classes “to grow our own” medical professionals. (See cover story) In addition, area farmers need finance classes to help them with new forms and financial reporting requirements. UAF Community & Technical College dean and Partners’ board member, Michele Stalder, said the college can offer classes without credit and they are doing that this semester for Welding. Hiring locally is important to the companies doing business

at Fort Greely. There is a need for a minimum level of technical skill, but the familiarity with the environment is a major advantage. In addition, it was noted that Alaska has the highest workers compensation rate in the nation, so safety on the job is something that should be covered in classes. Additional identified classes included a general labor basic skills class, more non-credit and useful skill set classes, on the job training, meat-processing and classes to figure out

how to explore job openings at Fort Greely. Discussion also centered on youth and how we can help them understand what it takes to get ahead today and whether there are basic responsibility classes.

Finally, several attendees suggested that a mechanism to try and match potential employees with employers locally would be beneficial. And, as in past years, business folks want workers who possess soft skills and continue to ask for job readiness training as part of the regular school curriculum.

## Partners Board of Directors Visits UAF CTC

The board of directors of Partners for Progress in Delta, Inc. held its October meeting at the University of Alaska Fairbanks Community & Technical College facility on 6th and Barnette in Fairbanks. The board generally meets in the fall in Fairbanks to hear the presentation of the organization’s financial statement. UAF CTC dean Mi-

chele Stalder invited the board so she could show them the Allied Health Department’s space on the fourth floor. The Certified Nurse Aide program has been one of the most popular courses offered in Delta. In addition to the range of health related courses leading to an Associate degree, there is a fully certified dental hygienist program

whose graduates get jobs in the area.

*Below: Mary Leith, board president, gets a kick out of the dummy used by dental hygienist students.*

*Michele Stalder discusses the Allied Health Program with Randy Cheap, Mary Leith and Jon Dufendach as the board toured the department’s space at CTC.*



*From left: Fred Schlutt (UAF Vice Provost for Outreach and Extension), Randy Cheap, vice president and secretary of the board (Alaska Works Partnership), Duncan Ware (Delta/Greely School District Superintendent), Eric Stewart (Copper Current Electric), Jon Dufendach, treasurer of the board (CampWater Industries) and seated in front are Michele Stalder (UAF CTC dean) and Mary Leith, president of the board.*



Racheal Padgett was glad to see the assisted living facility built. She received her certification in May and says, "I'm thankful the facility opened and thankful for the job. It's an expensive class so I was glad it paid off for me and others."

Padgett said she has two children which made the final two weeks she had to spend in Fairbanks a challenge. "All the instructors were great and they really wanted us to finish," she said. Padgett has spent 15 years in the health industry, and she was in Utah before coming to Alaska. She said she loves the industry. "My grandmother was a nurse and an administrator for a senior care

to help people," he said, and "that's why the best part of my training was the time spent actually helping the people at the Pioneer Home and Denali Center during the time in Fairbanks." He also likes his job because "the people I work with and the people staying here are great."

Kaspari sees a community health care center co-located with the current senior care center and she believes there is a real need for an educated base of health care professional in the area who can get the jobs that will emerge. She's been in conversations about Delta serving as a place for residencies

**"I'm thankful the facility opened and thankful for the job."**

**Rachael Padgett, recent graduate**

facility and I used to volunteer there." She aims to earn her RN degree and is currently working towards the degree through the University of Alaska Anchorage. She said she would "love to see more classes offered locally to help me get that degree." "I love my job here and am glad to be back working in the field. Being an emergency room nurse is my dream," she added.

Kinch White is another CNA graduate who has been around Delta since 2005. He also has volunteered to help seniors throughout his life. "I want

for doctors. She added, "Let's get some classes going here and grow our own!"

UAF's Community & Technical College delivers the Certified Nurse Aide program each spring thanks to the efforts of faculty member Cathleen Winfree. Partners for Progress in Delta, Inc.'s board of directors is exploring how UAF CTC can offer more health related classes that lead to occupational endorsements, certifications and degrees.

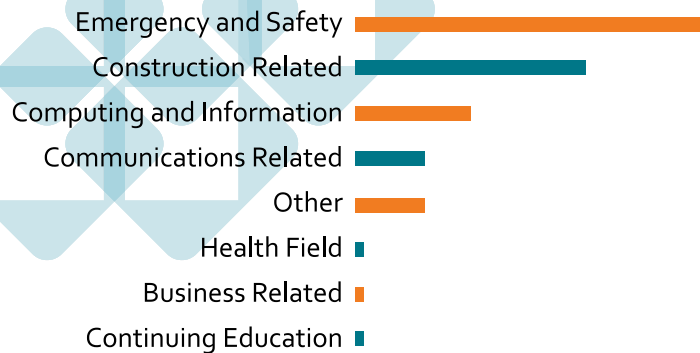


## What Employers Want

Sharon Gherman, CEO of the Alaska Funding Exchange, highlighted the need for employer feedback as part of Partners for Progress in Delta's responsibility to conduct an annual employer survey. She told the Industry Roundtable participants that Alaska Funding Exchange is the contractor hired by Partners for Progress to complete a required survey of known employers and provide analysis. The goal is to improve the response rate among employers.

Employer survey results from this past year addressing the types of education and training that employers would like to see offered at the Delta Career Advancement Center are detailed below. The category "others" included specific requests for Serve Safe classes and alcohol professionals training.

### Training Desired



## Adjunct Instructors Wanted

Interested in working in a learning and teaching environment? Want to share your knowledge with students? UAF Community & Technical College is looking for part-time instructors to join our team and teach at the Delta Career Advancement Center. Call 895-4605 for more information.

Our adjuncts are important to offering a wide range of course offerings right here in Delta.

Lindsay Ohlert is a Delta/Greely School District language teacher and is an approved adjunct for UAF CTC classes in Russian and English as a Second Language. Because of the large Slavic and Hispanic population in the area, English as Second Language has become an important way for many to become more involved in their community.

Ohlert says she enjoys teaching at the Delta Career Advancement Center because the students are enthusiastic, the classes are tailored to the needs and interests of the local community, and it is rewarding to see learners growing in confidence and skill.

She will be teaching Introductory Russian and Writing English as a Second Language in the spring.

*Idania Santiago presents a report to the class.*



*Maria Colon and Anabel Santiago lead a vocabulary game.*





## We Are Located Here

You have called to ask, "Where are you located? Where is the Delta Career Advancement Center?" Then we explain we are across the street from the high school, but it still isn't always easy to find the building. We listened and have added new signs to help you get in the correct door. Located at

1696 North Clearwater, the Career Center now has a sign above the door on the Clearwater Avenue side and a new sign at the main entrance off the parking lot. In the photo at top, Construction Trades high school teacher Gary Hall secures the new building sign. Above right, Stacy Petersen, UAF CTC coordinator, assists in hanging the new Entrance arrow.



## Partners for Progress in Delta Inc.

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

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

**MISSION** Partners for Progress in Delta, Inc., (PPD), an educational consortium in Delta Junction, Alaska, serves as a gateway for learning and training to help build and maintain Alaska's workforce.

## GOALS

- Help Alaskans be competitive for jobs emerging from new developments and existing workforce opportunities in the area;
- Be a focal point for Alaskans who seek career advancement education and training, academic degrees and continuing education credit;
- Help prepare secondary students for career options;
- Identify area needs for education and training for long-term employment; and
- Create and nurture long-term partnerships with agencies, businesses, organizations, the trades and government.

## TOP PRIORITIES

- Create solid pre-training opportunities to help the success rate of future skilled workers.
- Customize intensive training academies to ready prospective workers for real-world opportunities.
- Deliver core and essential academic courses for those seeking university degrees.
- Develop a cadre of qualified local instructors.
- Identify options for encouraging and helping regional students participate in training.
- Build a stand-alone expansion to meet the needs of the community.

Partners for Progress in Delta, Inc. supports career pathway programs to help build Alaska's workforce. Partners for Progress helps operate the Delta Career Advancement Center and is a state-recognized Regional Training Center (RTC). Regional Training Centers deliver career and technical education and training to create a skilled workforce, and as such, it receives funding through the Technical and Vocational Education Program of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Business Partnerships.

## Photography Class Goes Out After Dark

Steve DuBois retired two years ago as the Alaska Department of Fish and Game wildlife biologist for the Delta Junction area. After retiring, he expanded his long-time interest in photography to teach the basic of quality digital photography, aurora photography, and photo processing in Photoshop. This



photo of the aurora photography class was taken November 2 at Quartz Lake. DuBois said, "Watching the students advance through the basic digital photography class and then to aurora photography, it's great seeing how excited they got when they started taking quality images of the aurora borealis."

Delta Career Advancement Center located at 1696 N. Clearwater Avenue