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

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 on to say, “Like the agricultural industry here, locally grown workers means they understand the community and we have a better 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 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.

“As the industry grows in Delta, I’m hoping we can continue to grow our own trained health care workers.”

Mary Kaspari, Quality Care Center Administrator

SPOTLIGHT: CNA Graduates Get Jobs at Quality Care Center

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.
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 Michele 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.

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.
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 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 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 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**
- Emergency and Safety
- Construction Related
- Computing and Information
- Communications Related
- Other
- Health Field
- Business Related
- Continuing Education

**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.
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.

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.”