

Alaska Association for
Career & Technical Education
<http://www.actealaska.org>

Inside This Issue

- CTE Makes a Difference!
- PDC—October 11-14, 2006
- Regional Tech Prep Work Sessions Report
- ACTE Region V Conference
- Non-Traditional Occupations Curriculum
- APICC News
- CTSOs Hold State Conference
- VTEP Member News
- Dates to Remember

Ellen Long, President

*Professional Development Conference,
Legislative Affairs*
Ellen.long@matsuk12.us
(907) 746-9546

Kathy Frost, President Elect & Awards Chair

*Professional Development Conference
AACTE Awards*
Kathlynn.Frost@matsuk12.us
(907) 746-9281

Patricia Zugg, Secretary

Agenda Items, Minutes
zugg@mtaonline.net
(907) 746-1925

Karen Martinsen, Treasurer

Financial Affairs
martinsenk@mail.ssd.k12.ak.us
(907) 747-5262

Kristen Forrester, Past-President

Officer Nominations/Elections
Kristen.forrester@matsuk12.us
(907) 746-9238

Marcia Olson, Membership Chair

Membership Information, Newsletter
marcia_olson@eed.state.ak.us
(907)-465-8704

Regional Council Members

Jeanette Hayden, Dale Staley, Jon Wehde

*Editor's Note: Articles have been proof-read
but not necessarily edited.*

CTE Makes a Difference!

*By R.C. Fisher, Education Coordinator
Hiland Mountain Correctional Center, Eagle River*

Before I put a close on this day, I want to share something with you. I do not normally share the personal side of my statistical data however; I have to share this e-mail from a former inmate. I need to set the stage first.

This inmate caught my eye because his yellow uniform was a little bit brighter than the other inmates. The reason for the bright color was due to his three-time felony status. He had been down for a long time and his DOC passport was full. I think he had been to Arizona twice. He was a picture perfect criminal. In other words, open population was not his normal residence during his DOC stay.

When we first met, our meeting was a notch below friendly terms because I restricted his use of the library for recreational use. He was a guitar picker and he realized I was not being paid to win any popularity contest especially with guitar pickers.

He caught me one day outside adjusting the CLN satellite and as I approached, I said to myself, oh no it is the guitar picker. He asked me a simple question. What do you really do? How do you get one of those computer shirts? The tone of his voice was more of an exploratory question, and I gave him an answer—the rest is history.

CTE . . . continued on next page

Professional Development Conference— October 11-14, 2006

By Kathlynn Frost, President-Elect

The executive committee and planning committee for the Fall 2006 PDC have begun work with the hiring of Chambers Management as the meeting organizer. Tentative dates are October 11-14, 2006, at the Anchorage Downtown Hilton. Please note these dates so that you can begin to plan for professional development for the next school year.

Please forward your ideas for sectionals or strand content to kathlynn.frost@matsuk12.us. We want to continue with the highly successful teacher strands, the latest updates on Tech Prep, assessment & certification, distance learning, and other promising programs in Alaska, and start an AACTE leadership training program.

We look forward to seeing you at this year's PDC!

CTE (continued from page 1)

This man went from a “0” in computer literacy to achieving his Master Certification in the Microsoft Office Systems and beyond. The day he was released, he was working on his computer repair certification. He acquired the ability to successfully troubleshoot any computer problems I threw at him. I removed a critical computer part from his training computer and he detected it immediately. That was fine; however, I had the part in my pocket, and I forgot to give it back to him. This man made that part from scraps in the lab. I tested the computer and it passed all the specifications.

He taught me a few things and I began to view guitar pickers in a different light.

I helped him with his employment and release portfolio. We removed those bars and barbwire from his resume and had excellent eye contact during his practice interview sessions. He may have left Hiland with a few property boxes but he also left with about \$8,000.00 worth of computer training and certifications.

At the end of the year, he will just be a single number on my Microsoft Office Specialist statistics. All of those numbers could be related to success stories. I just wanted to share just one.

By the way, this person was a superior guitar player.

Editor’s Note: Below is the email from the former inmate to R.C. Names and personally identifying information have been omitted. Thank you, R.C., for allowing us to share this story!

Hello RC,

I just wanted to let you know that all your encouragement and teaching hasn’t gone to waste and that I am still doing great! I am still at the same Administrative Assistant job I got with my Master Certification. I am married now and have a family. I wanted you to know that people like you in the DOC really do make a difference, and I am that proof. Please encourage the others with this information; if a 3 time felon can get out and live the life I now have, then surely everyone there can do it. Microsoft really does make a difference!

God Bless You, RC.

Name withheld to maintain privacy

Regional Tech Prep Work Sessions a Success

By Deanna Schultz, Statewide Tech Prep Coordinator

Debbie Mills from CORD spoke to nearly 120 Alaskan educators and business/industry representatives at the Tech Prep Work Sessions held April 17, 19 and 20 in Anchorage, Fairbanks,

and Juneau, which were sponsored by the Alaska Tech Prep Consortium. By engaging the participants through contextual teaching and through startling global economic data, Debbie shared the message that we all must do what we can in our sphere of influence to raise the bar in education and prepare students to compete in a global economy. She shared insights as to how labor market information, career pathways, Tech Prep and partnerships can work together to prepare students for this kind of future. These concepts are also presented in the book by Dan Hull, *Career Pathways: Education with a Purpose*, and each work session participant received a copy.

At each work session, local partners shared information about their programs and their successful partnerships. Mini-grant recipients—Anchorage School District, Fairbanks North Star Borough School District, Sitka Education Consortium and Klawock City Schools—shared their experiences in meeting goals set out in grants written to improve Tech Prep programs in their districts. Participants spent the last part of the day sorting through the information presented and developing action plans that would move their programs forward.

The response from the work session participants was very positive. One participant summed it up well: “Thank you for administering such a successful conference yesterday; it was beneficial to learn about the statewide initiatives, best practices, and to share collaboration ideas with area professionals.”

Hopefully the enthusiasm generated by these work sessions will continue and foster more partnerships that allow students to gain skills needed to transition from high school into postsecondary education, training, or the workforce.

ACTE Region V Conference

By Ellen Long, President

CONGRATULATIONS to Marcia Olson and the State of Alaska. We were awarded Region V first place in Website Development. What an honor to pick up the certificate of achievement for the state.

While attending the conference, I was able to network with fellow instructors and administrators from the 13 states comprising Region V. We are affiliated with an awesome group of folks. I found many commonalities—funding support, NCLB, Perkins reauthorization, high school reform, increased graduation requirements—and was encouraged by other programs we offer in our state. We have progressed in the Professional Development Conference and are offering many areas of instruction and professional development that other states are just talking about starting. The

rapport we have with our state department is great and has enabled us to progress to this point. Our strands and hands on learning for instructors is leading the way in Region V.

We were also fortunate to have Trish Zugg named as Region V Fellow. She was able to attend the conference and will be bringing leadership information to the state and her fellow instructors. The conference was filled with opportunities for her to learn about the organization nationally and to understand the structure of that organization. She too was very busy and engaged at the conference.

If you have the opportunity to attend a Region V Conference, do so. It is an experience you will enjoy and derive great benefit from. Mark your calendars for the April 2007 conference in Prescott, Arizona!

Pilot Nearly Complete on NTO Curriculum!!!!

By Karen Martinsen, Alaska EdVentures

Alaska EdVentures, and the Alaska Department of Educational and Early Childhood Development completed a web-based curriculum last fall - "Don't Flounder, Get Off the Hook: Consider a NTO". The project aims to encourage youth to consider non-traditional occupations. These include any occupation where 25% or less of the workers are a minority gender such as women in construction and men in nursing.

A series of NTO pilot trainings have occurred in a variety of school settings, in different formats. Workshops have been presented to CTE teachers, CSTO students, and about a dozen high schools throughout Alaska. Some of the presentations were 60-120 minutes, while others were up to one full school day. On one end of the spectrum students were introduced to the concept and given a taste of the materials. At the full-day workshop most students ended the day with a full menu of NTO activities, along with a career pathways plan and postsecondary ideas for training.

Evaluators have yet to compile the final data and full report, but one thing seems apparent to the trainers: the curriculum is well received when taught in context with CTE and other career-based activities. The report will be at EED in June, 2006.

Curriculum is now available to teachers, with more than 20 hours of potential class activities including games, role plays, a web quest, links, assessments and teacher-led instruction. It is FREE at www.ntoalaska.org and should be linked to the EED web site this summer! Students can also use the web program to develop clubs and activities.

For more information please contact Karen Martinsen wildlife@ak.net.

APICC Offers Externships for Teachers and Career Awareness Week for Girls

By Kathleen Castle and Ky Holland, APICC

The Alaska Process Industry Careers Consortium (APICC) received a High Growth Job Training Initiative Grant from the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. Together with other organizations working in the areas of mining, oil and gas, APICC will offer externships for 12 educators from around the state, working with students in grades 7 through 12 to connect business and education.

These business externships will provide educators with opportunities to: upgrade their knowledge, discover ways of making their instruction more relevant for students, and learn more about careers in these high growth industries. Educator externs will work with a business mentor for up to 2 weeks (80 hours) to complete a project for the business and to participate in a valuable professional growth experience.

APICC staff are currently working to connect educators with an industry partner. Participating industry partners include Northern Dynasty, Fort Knox, Alyeska, BP, Schlumberger and Conoco/Phillips.

For more information about industry hosts, educators and externship projects please check the APICC website at: www.apicc.org and click the Teacher Industry Externships (TIE) website. Or for more information you may call the TIE coordinator, Kathleen Castle by calling (907) 345-7977 or via e-mail at: lei@ak.net.

Also coming will be our Science and Technology Preview (STeP) for Jr. and Sr. High School girls. This is another NSF sponsored week long career awareness work shop that focuses on process industries while providing skills, information and fun that can be used for any future career planning. It is scheduled for June 12-16. For more info, see http://www.captech.org/students/stu_wksp.htm. Again we are going to try to accommodate some rural participants and may offer sessions in Kenai or Fairbanks.

CTSOs Hold State Conference

By Melissa Reese, Valdez CTE Director

Over 300 students and advisors participated in the Career and Technical Student Organizations Performance Based Assessment Conference last month in Anchorage. Students participated in a variety of leadership activities as well as rigorous technical competitive events. Technical competitive events range from Cabinet Making, to Interview Skills, Accounting, Entrepreneurship and Child Development. Participating in these events help

students prepare to be productive citizens with employability skills.

State BPA President, Yvette Morales, stays, "BPA has helped me in many ways. I have improved public speaking and leadership skills. Because of BPA, I plan to be a business major in college". Alaska CTSO are Business Professionals of America; DECA, An Association of Marketing Students; Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America; FFA, Agricultural Education; and SkillsUSA. Next year's CTSO Performance Based Assessment Conference is tentatively scheduled for March 26-28, 2007.

VTEP Member NEWS!!!!

By Karen Martinsen, VTEP Co-Chair

VTEP at-large met April 12 and the next meeting is planned for June 14 in Anchorage. Please contact Co-Chairs Rick Rios rios_rick@asdk12.org or Karen Martinsen at martinsenk@mail.ssd.k12.ak.us. The last meeting included updates from members and organizational strategy development. See highlights.

Articulation Agreements: Many (new) high school and postsecondary articulation agreements are underway across the state. Such courses allow high school students to earn college credit when enrolled in an articulated course. For more info on how your district can get their courses approved go to <http://www.alaska.edu/techprep/>

Summer Camps Abound! The Anchorage School district and King Career Center will be offering CTE summer school, while Sitka Education Consortium will offer a Girl's Summer Camp (NTO). Tanana Valley Campus will offer summer career exploration camps for rural students and APICC will have a camp for students as well as a science and math camp for teachers. APICC will also offer a technology workshop for Jr./Sr. women.

Putting Alaska's Resources to Work (PARW) has received funding to develop a workforce development plan for the oil, gas and mining industries. To learn more go to <http://www.parwconference.org>

Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education has an outreach program that targets 5th and 6th graders for career exploration.

Vocational Certification: A VTEP committee has completed a survey of vocational educators in regards to their certification needs. The data will be compiled for our next meeting. The issue being addressed is whether we need, and how to put in place a way for highly qualified technical educator to get their teaching certification.

Statewide Clearinghouse: VTEP members are being asked to review AKCIS and determine how well it fits the needs for students in planning career and technical education. Please let us know if you have ideas to share.

Advocacy Committee working on plan for 2007. A group is working to review our mission and goal statement, and update our strategic plan and how to work to develop and strengthen CTE across Alaska. The group's plan should be available in June. Stay tuned!

Dates to Remember

June 12 – 16 & 19 – 23, 2006

Academy for the Construction Trades, A Welding Emphasis, Palmer.

Contact Barb Shogren: 907-746-9282 or Barbara.Shogren@matsuk12.us,

June 12 – 16, 2006

Science and Technology Preview (STeP)— Career Awareness Week for Jr. and Sr. High Girls, Anchorage.

http://www.capttech.org/students/stu_wksp.htm

October 11-14, 2006

Professional Development Conference, Anchorage Hilton, co-sponsored by AACTE and AKSCA. <http://www.actealaska.org>

Nov. 30 – Dec. 2, 2006

ACTE National Conference, Atlanta, Georgia.

<http://acteonline.org/convention/index.cfm>

April, 2007

ACTE Region V Conference, Prescott, Arizona.

http://www.acteonline.org/about/regions/regV_conference.cfm

Have a great summer!!

