

**C-TAC Advisory Meeting**  
**Workforce Development Center**  
**February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010**  
**11:30-1:30 pm**

**Members Present:** Tim Vlasak, Walt Ward, Doug Grzybowski, Allan Gee, Dan Bohrsen, Michael Bernard, Bob Hammer, Leanne Abendroth, Sal Mattero and Wally Ward

**Guests Present:** Loretta Spalding- KPBSD Career Guide Liaison, Bruce Gabriel-Big G Electric, Sheryl Cook-Big G Electric, Thomas Sloan-KPEDD

After welcome and introductions Dan Bohrsen CTE Coordinator for the Kenai Peninsula School District gave a run down on the Federal Stimulus equipment/supply orders. Most CTE shops within the KPBSD have been updated with new equipment. The Home Economics departments have also received funds to upgrade their existing program.

Leanne Abendroth told of the construction and medical academies that have completed or will start for the remainder of the year. Homer, Nikiski, Soldotna, Kenai, Skyview, Nanwalek, Seldovia, Seward, Nikolaevsk and Voznesenka have participated or will in the 60 hour long academies at their high schools. Students from Voznesenka, Port Graham, Kachemak-Selo, Connections and Kenai Alternative traveled to one of those locations to participate. A total of 24 of these classes will be offered this school year. The CEF grant provides funding for Construction/carpentry, welding, weatherization and drafting/blueprint reading Youth First provides funding for Medical and Human Service academies offered. The Carl Perkins grant is utilized for medical and construction academies. A new class-Introduction to Criminal Justice Career Pathways will start on February 15<sup>th</sup> at the Workforce Development Center. The class is at full capacity. A complete listing of the start dates and locations for each academy can be found on the KPBSD web-site under One Stop Portal.

Bob Hammer of the Adult Construction Academies said this year is going well. They will offer 5 classes in welding, carpentry, plumbing, electrical and weatherization. The applicants and the application process have improved this year. He noticed too that the average person applying is older than in past years. They had 44 applicants and placed 33 in one of the offered classes. The welding class is being offered again this year at the Workforce Development Center. The other four are at the Economic Development building. That is working out good for them. Bob would like to team with the Student program and set up an unmanned booth at the Home Show to spotlight the academies and provide handouts and other informational materials. A playground project is under way in Soldotna and the adult and student program will volunteer their services.

Dan Bohrsen talked about the District CTSO Competition to be held on February 18<sup>th</sup> at Kenai Central High School. Volunteers are still needed to judge or help out with the event. Two of the “Ice Road Truckers” will be helping out with the heavy equipment competitions. Workers from the City of Kenai have also volunteered to help with that. A welding simulator, borrowed from the Alaska Works Partnership will be set up for students to get a realistic feel of welding. Dan handed out information on the different competitions scheduled for that day.

Doug Grzybowski from the Department of Labor brought each member a folder with a lot of valuable information on employment opportunities in Alaska. A list was provided detailing the occupations with the most hiring down to the least. Doug explained that unemployment benefits in the Oil and gas category rose dramatically in 2009, with food and lodging coming in second. An additional 37,640 weeks were paid out in unemployment in 2009. A list of Alaska’s Hot Jobs 2009-2016 lists occupations available in Alaska in order of most desired/needed to fill by the employer. This information is available to view on the DOL web-site at <http://labor.state.ak.us/>

Bruce Gabriel and Cheryl Cook from Big G Electric and Engineering talked about the employment opportunities and Apprenticeship programs they have available. Bruce stated that he sees a change in the employment demographics and qualifications of the applicants for the Apprenticeship program and potential employees. He’s seeing more applicants with secondary education, therefore the potential for promotions to supervisory positions are happening at a much younger age (30-40 yr. olds). Bruce said that they are noticing more retirement aged workers are coming back into the work force to fill apprenticeship level positions.

Loretta Spalding visited Central Peninsula Hospital and spoke with a Human Resources representative. She stated that the hospital now has 670 employees, up from 380 and they’re still actively hiring. They are in need of Physicians and all jobs related as well as office workers, etc. The most difficult positions to fill are Physical Therapists, Pharmacists, Specialty Nurses as well as others.

Wally Ward from Marathon Oil and Gas explained how the company in its 50<sup>th</sup> year of operation has changed their outlook/format to sustainable assets. They are more focused on cost reduction measures and developing proven reserves. They have a Cost-Control-Focus approach and it seems to be working. Forty percent of employees are in the age range of 25-38 as well as 50-60 year olds. Only ten percent are between the ages of 38-50 with another ten percent over the age of 50.

Sal Matero gave a recap of the Industry Outlook Forum Summary “Looking Forward to the Next decade” conference that was held at the Challenger Learning center January 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> and hosted by the Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District and the Kenai Chapter of the Alliance. The industry as a whole seems to be holding on to their purse strings tighter.

Thomas Sloan of the KPEDD updated the committee on growth projects that are going on and in what communities. He mentioned that the local industry leaders are not doing many new explorations instead focusing on existing wells. Tyonek is slated for 18 billion (yes billion) dollars worth of projects. Tyonek has 200,000 of underdeveloped acreage. It is predicted that the population will rise to around 10,000 up from 500 in four year's time. 800 shareholders will be given 1 ½ acres of land to develop a community complete with community center. Construction jobs will rise. 12 billion dollars will go to developing a Coal to Liquid plant. Other projects will be a Hydro Power plant, Geothermal Plant and a road system on the western side of the inlet.

Dan Bohrnsen attended the 20<sup>th</sup> annual CTE Coordinators conference on February 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> in Anchorage. He talked about the Alaska Process Industry Careers Consortium (APICC). Their goals are to:

**1. Build** a broad sustainable coalition of the process industry and educational institutions.

*Industry:* Oil, gas, mining, complex food processing, power generation, forest products, water treatment and waste water treatment

*Education:* K-12 systems, private and public post-secondary systems, apprenticeship programs and the UA system.

**2. Create** an effective communications network to build understanding and promote engagement among the process industry, education, labor organizations, government agencies, and Native organizations using targeted messages and a variety of media.

**3. Continuously** assess the current and future workforce needs of the process industry.

**4. Assure** appropriate standards based training and education opportunities exist to meet the process industry's employment needs.

**5. Increase** awareness of process industry careers and provide guidance along industry career paths, in both rural and urban Alaska.

**6. Provide** for the organizational development of APICC.

More information is available at <http://www.apicc.org/servlet/content/home.html>.

Bob Hammer talked about the future of construction jobs. He sees a trickle down affect on the building industry. Loans are not as easy to get. He thinks the economy hinges on the "oil patch" and its condition.

Michael Bernard of the Kenaitze Indian Organization said the busses used during the Arctic Winter games were transferred to the Tribe in an agreement with the School District. They are having trouble finding trained drivers or a place for them to get the training.

Dan Bohrnsen supplied a handout with the Career Clusters to share the information on where the school district is focusing on with improvements and upgrades to existing facilities based on the

committee's suggestions and information and statistics on what careers are predicted to be in high demand.

Summer Externship locations and creating two sub-committees will be first on the agenda for the next meeting.

### **Discussion Topics:**

- **Sal Matero would like to see a survey created and sent to reach the age groups that are moving away. Questions about why they leave the community and why they don't return as well as what would bring them back should be included. A more family friendly community should be looked into and developed based on the answers.**
- **Walt Ward said there is a five year survey in use at Kenai High School this year and it could possibly be rewritten.**
- **Time Vlasak said one of the focuses of the KPBSD is maximizing the quality of the programs offered to students and the programs resources.**

The next meeting is scheduled for April 20th, 2010 at the KPBSD Workforce Development Center.