



## Report of Project Activities

Department of Labor and Workforce Development  
 Division of Business Partnerships  
**DENALI TRAINING FUND**  
**PROGRESS REPORT**



**NAME OF ORGANIZATION:** St. Paul Island Tribal Government  
**NAME OF PROJECT:** Denali Youth Initiative Program Grant File No. 6-216  
**REPORT PERIOD:** December 27, 2005 - March 31, 2006

### PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

During the first month of the program (January 2006) the students and instructor undertook the building of a 12' X 8' storage shed for the school district's use. The process included the elements of design, estimating costs and materials, locating and ordering materials, as well as the more obvious elements of construction; framing, sub floor, sheathing, siding, painting, etc. A key point that was stressed to the students is that there is a "work ethic" that will be expected of them when they enter the job field. The instructor continually stresses that their level of responsibility and pay rate will inevitably reflect their level of enthusiasm for the work; showing up is not enough. As a contractor himself, the instructor has tried to show the students how the industry looks from the employer's perspective.

The construction of the first shed began with the gathering of donated materials, many found in scrap piles at various construction sites around town. A design was worked out based upon the materials found, the budget, and the intended uses of the shed by the school district. Next, the students were taught the safety section of the Contren Learning System textbook. All passed the safety test and were then schooled in the safe use of specific equipment that would be used in the shed project. Construction included framing, sub floor, sheathing, siding, painting, and trim. All students have demonstrated knowledge of reading a tape, laying out framing, determining angles with a Speed square, determining roof pitch, driving nails by hand, and making accurate cuts using various saws.

During February we saw us spending more time out in the community, making "house calls" to do minor carpentry repairs such as re-hanging a front door, patching a leaking roof, etc. This put the students in the position of speaking with customers, designing solutions, finding the necessary tools and materials, and then implementing the repair work.. Work was also continued on the shed project, and included rafter cutting and roof framing.

Field trips were taken to the PISD Teacher Housing construction project underway at this time. The contractor and carpenters on the site have been very accommodating and have provided demonstrations for us showing the students:

- 1) Interior door hanging and trim out

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- 2) Siding
- 3) HVAC design and high tech thermal construction

Work continues in the school shop and on the shed project with an emphasis on work ethic as well as skills in accurate measuring, marking and cutting. Repetition of these activities by each student taking turns is showing a big increase in the individuals' manual skills and self-confidence.

During March the class approach was divided into two groups; the younger (freshmen/sophomore) group continuing to work on various carpentry projects at the school shop and around the community, and the old (junior/senior) group taking on the "real" remodel project of the Radio Station KUHB's recording and on-air studio. The instructor continues to stress work ethic and to show students the employer/customer perspective and expectations.

Students are showing great improvement in their level of commitment to the "Job" and to completing personal projects. Both manual and decision-making skills are showing improvement in the carpentry classes.

The after school, general community classes have been going full swing and many people are involved with many varying projects. Some of the class projects are: baidarka building, drum making, bent-wood visor making, model baidarka and baidar making, and some home improvement projects.

**PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT REPORTING PERIOD:**

During the next period we plan to continue with the Radio Station remodel project and to shift the in-school classes toward more Aleut cultural type projects as we prepare for this year's Journey. The instructor will continue with the rotating "student-supervisor" approach to teaching responsibility.

The instructor plans to continue stressing and developing "work ethic" qualities in the students by providing situations in the community where they will be expected to take the role of project leaders. Ordering tools and materials will be left in the students' hands, and they will be expected to follow through on these things to keep the projects flowing. Tool care and shop cleanliness as they apply to jobsite safety and higher productivity will also be stressed.

**PROBLEMS, DELAYS OR CONCERNS EXPERIENCED:**

Early on in the grant we had some delays and frustrations, mostly related to the difficulty of getting tools and materials out to the island from the mainland, but in reality this was not unexpected. The instructor has worked on Saint Paul as the City's lead carpenter and is familiar with the challenges. Learning to deal with the

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uncertainties specific to remote locations is crucial to being successful as a builder out here. It's tough...but all's well.

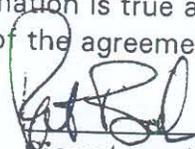
**POSSIBLE PROBLEM RESOLUTIONS AND TIMEFRAMES:**

We are dealing with things as they come along, and *that*, in itself is a major part of what the instructor hopes to build skills for. Grant activities are going as planned.

Certification: I certify that the above information is true and correct and in accordance with the terms and conditions of the agreement.

MARK DANIELS, INSTRUCTOR

Name and Title



4/20/2006

Signature *Exec Director* Date

for MARK DANIELS, INSTRUCTOR