

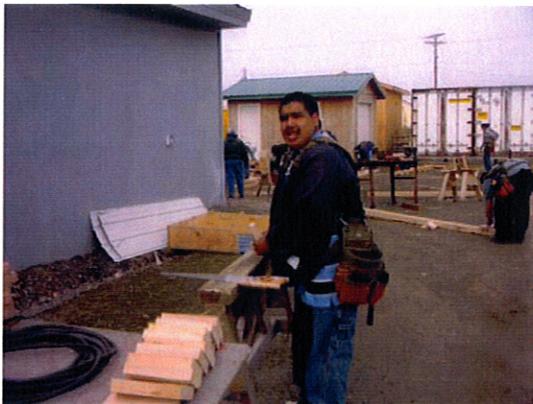
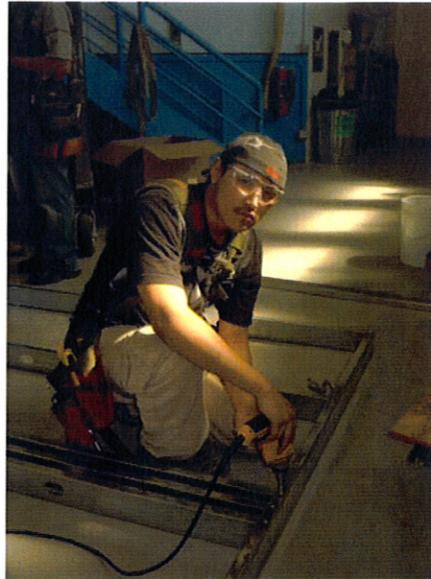
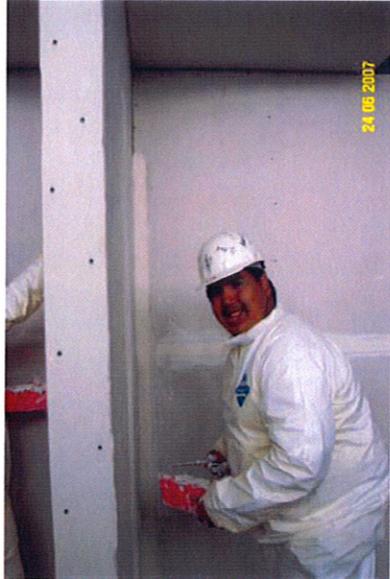
Alaska Youth First Rural Construction Academies

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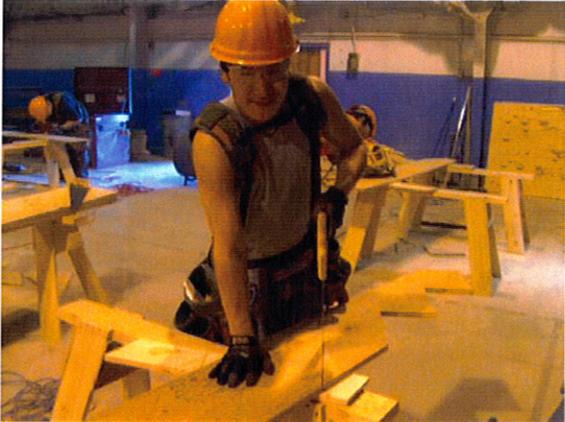
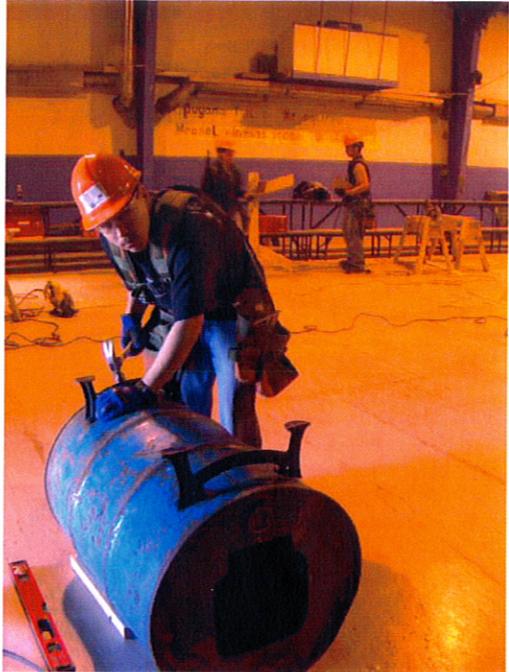
Alaska Youth First Rural Construction Academies

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*Alaska Youth First Rural
Construction Academies*

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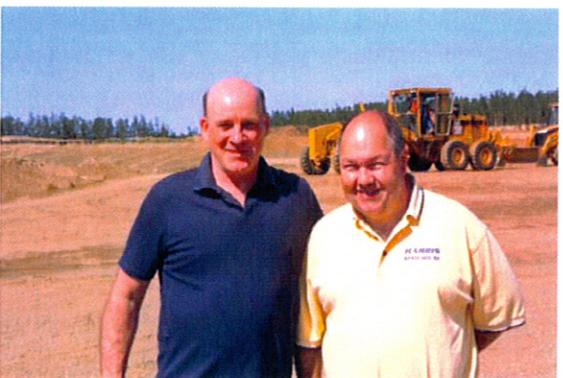
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Alaska Youth First Rural Construction Academies

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Alaska Youth First Rural Construction Academies
DELTA YOUTH CIVIL CONSTRUCTION ACADEMY





PRESS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Randy Cheap, AWP Field Representative

907-457-2597

Possible sections: Business, Alaska, Economics,
Features & Lifestyle

Photos available upon request

2007 Pipeline Training Gets Underway

It won't be long before the rumble of heavy equipment signals the beginning of a training program unlike any other in the country. Students will soon have the opportunity for hands-on experience in building the kind of pipeline that will someday transport natural gas from Alaska's North Slope. The sixth annual Pipeline Training event will be held in Fairbanks, October 22-November 1.

Along with the skills students gain in their respective trades, trainees will practice all phases of pipeline construction as a combined workforce. From fabricating support members, installing road crossings, welding, and heavy equipment operation, workers learn the teamwork it takes to build a pipeline across the Last Frontier. Thanks to past pipeline training events, hundreds of workers now have what it takes to work on pipeline projects around Alaska. Many past participants are already at work on jobs in the oil patch.

The pipeline training is hosted by Alaska Works Partnership, the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the Denali Commission, local contractors and Alaska's four pipeline unions – Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 375, Laborers Local 942, Operating Engineers Local 302, and Teamsters Local 959. The training will take place on 20 acres of Great Northwest, Inc.'s yard.

AWP will be providing training site visits Oct 25th – Oct 31st.

November 1st, 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 pm: Training site demonstration

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 pm: Graduation at Pioneer Park Civic Center

For more information contact

Randy Cheap

Alaska Works Partnership

907-457-2597

Highlights of 2006 Pipeline Academy:

- Ninety-seven apprentices and beginning pipeline workers were trained to go to work on Alaska's North Slope. Pioneer Natural Resources Oooguruk Project and the replacement of 17 miles of Trans-Alaska Pipeline were two projects that required trained workers.
- Nearly 20 percent of participants were Alaska Native.
- Rural students came from as far away as Kiana, Napakiak, Amber and Dillingham.
- Twenty percent of participants were female.
- More than 60 percent of participants were between the ages of 18-29.
- As part of the training, students constructed a 2,000 foot, 12-inch diameter pipeline.

For more information contact Randy Cheap, AWP Field Representative 1-907-457-2597.



Trainees at the Fairbanks Pipeline Training event will practice all phases of pipeline construction as a combined workforce.



Rollingers are one type of vehicle that students will learn to operate at the 6th annual pipeline training event.

PRESS RELEASE



Media Contact:

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907-376-0465
Mike Andrews, Director 907-569-4711
Randy Cheap, Field Representative
907-457-2597

Possible sections: Business, Alaska,
Economics, Features & Lifestyle

Building Alaska's Future

Delta Youth Civil Construction Grads Ready to Work

A parade of heavy equipment recently rumbled to a stop in military-like formation under sunny skies in Delta Junction. Youth from Fairbanks to Glennallen emerged from the cabs of loaders, dozers, blades and backhoes as students took a break from their training to meet with dignitaries from around the state. Visitors had come to see for themselves the success of the second annual Delta Youth Civil Construction Academy, an innovative training program sponsored by Alaska Works Partnership and Partners for Progress in Delta Junction.

This summer's Academy trained 10 students, ages 17-24, offering hands-on experience in operating the kind of heavy equipment that will someday help build a gas pipeline. Meanwhile mining, military construction, and plans for expansion of the Alaska Railroad in the area has created a rising demand for skilled workers in the construction trades.

"Students experience here what they'll find on the jobsite," said Gary Hall coordinator of the Delta Career Advancement Center where the training took place. "I run this program like a job site. These guys know how to conduct themselves."

The Delta Career Advancement Center is centrally located within the Interior to serve the region in helping meet state workforce demand. More than 500 students have attended the wide range of courses offered at the Center since 2003.

A Denali Commission Youth Grant helped fund the Delta Youth Civil Construction Academy which took place June 4-22. Delta Industrial Services supported the Academy by renting the machinery and providing a gravel pit in which students could operate the equipment. Alaska Operating Engineers/Employers Training Trust provided instructors and helped develop the curriculum.

Rusty Smith, 24, a Ft. Greeley soldier, is already a war-seasoned veteran who served a tour in Afghanistan before coming to Alaska. He is looking forward to life as a civilian and received time off from his current job as a weapons operator to attend the Academy.

“I’ve had great training in the military, but this is better than any training I’ve ever done,” Smith said. “We totally look up to our instructors Russ [Penrod] and Ken [Assyd].”

Classmate Dmitriy Gayvoronskiy, 20, had attended construction trade classes before graduating from Delta High School. After three weeks of Academy training he’s now enthusiastic about a career as an operator.

“The training was awesome,” Gayvoronskiy said. “I didn’t know anything about this equipment and now we can operate it efficiently.”

Representative John Harris, Speaker of the House, congratulated students on their graduation from the program.

“If we’re going to have a large project like the gas pipeline, we want as many Alaskans as possible trained and ready for those jobs,” Harris said. He sees Governor Palin’s support for vocational education as crucial in developing Alaska’s workforce. “We’re running out of skilled professional trades people.”

Partners for Progress in Delta is a consortium comprised of Delta Greeley School District, University of Alaska Tanana Valley Campus, Delta Mining Training Center, the Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and Alaska Works Partnership.

“The Delta Youth Civil Construction Academy provides a premier opportunity for youth to explore an interest in heavy equipment, giving them a real life experience under the tutelage of master instructors,” said Randy Cheap, Field Representative for Alaska Works Partnership. “These Alaskans will be building our future.”

Photos:



Representative John Harris congratulates Mark Lambert at the June 21 graduation.



L to R: Local 302 Instructor Russ Penrod, Vitaly Malyk, Max Sprott, Director Alaska Workforce Investment Board Greg Cashin, Dmitriy Gayvoronskiy, Pavel Ionashku, Dmitriy Chayka, Representative John Harris, Morgan Hartman, Mark Lambert, Daniel Becker, Russell Smith, George Pursey IV, Alaska Works Fairbanks Field Director Randy Cheap, Local 302 Instructor Ken Assyd.



Students demonstrate their skills on heavy equipment at the Delta Industrial Services rock crusher gravel pit.

[Additional photos available upon request.](#)