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NACTEC

NEWS - Special Edition

Heavy Equipment Simulator Center Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony



THE GAME HAS CHANGED...

Let the fun begin! (L to R): Don Stiles, Martin Aukongak, Homer Hoogendorn, Loretta Bullard, and Jon Wehde cut the ribbon on the NACTEC Heavy Equipment Simulation Center.

In September of 2009, Kawerak, Inc President Loretta Bullard made an inquiry to the Northwestern Alaska Career and Technical Center about what training was taking place to prepare students for careers in heavy equipment. At the time the answer was simple, "Nothing" stated NACTEC Director Doug Walrath. The cost of equipment and liability were the two main obstacles. The demand for such training was reinforced as Nome Public Schools Superintendent, Jon Wehde, and Golovin heavy equipment operator and NACTEC Advisory Board member, Martin Aukongak stated similar needs. After the NACTEC Director visited the Anchorage King Career Center's Heavy Equipment Simulator Center in March 2010, the seed that was planted by Loretta, Jon, and Martin started to grow into a working concept.

Due in large part to affiliate business partners, Bering Straits Native Corporation (BSNC) and Siu Alaska Corporation, a subsidiary of Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation, the purchase of an eight-machine simulator center became a reality. Both BSNC and Siu Alaska Corporation have supported NACTEC through a Vocational Tax Credit program in 2009 and 2010. This program allows corporations to dedicate tax dollars that would otherwise be dispersed throughout the state to stay in the Norton Sound/Bering Strait region for vocational education purposes.

Thanks to both partners the seed that grew into a working concept became a reality. In September 2010 eight Caterpillar Heavy Equipment simulators arrived at NACTEC.



These aren't just "boys toys"
A former truck driver herself, Ruby Nassuk of Koyuk tries out a Caterpillar Mining Truck.

START YOUR ENGINES!



Industrial Trainers

(Left) Nathan Pitt guides Nome Public School Board members Barb Amarok and Marie Tozier on a Wheel Loader, while Nome City Council member Jerald Brown tries out an Excavator. (Below) Martin Aukongak of Golovin starts up the "Belly Dump" Scraper Tractor.



High Quality Training. High Demand Occupations. High Paying Jobs.

Since September 2010, over 150 students from Nome Public Schools, Bering Strait School District, and the Nome Youth Facility have received entry-level training on simulators replicating: Excavators, Small and Large Wheel Loaders, Graders, Off-highway Trucks, Mining Trucks, Bulldozers and "Belly Dump" Scraper Tractors. Each simulator comes equipped with industrial-grade pedals, levers, switches, seats, and steering wheels found on the actual Caterpillar machines.

Students enrolled in a two-week session will receive upwards of 15-20 hours of heavy equipment training per session. Utilizing an administrative computer, all eight machines will be networked.

Every action taken by a student will be recorded so that improvement over time will be recorded into a digital portfolio that students can use as they seek employment or advanced operator training at other Regional Training Centers in Alaska.

On behalf of the students from Bering Strait School District and Nome Public Schools, NACTEC Director Doug Walrath thanks the boards of both Bering Straits Native Corporation and Siu Alaska Corporation. Their commitment to Career and Technical Education through the Vocational Tax Credits program will pay dividends for years to come as students attending NACTEC continue to receive training with state-of-the-art equipment matched with dedicated instructors.



MEET THE PARTNERS: SIU ALASKA CORPORATION	BERING STRAITS NATIVE CORPORATION	KAWERAK, INC	NOME PUBLIC SCHOOLS	BERING STRAIT SCHOOL DISTRICT
 <p>Don Stiles tries out a dozer. Proud sponsor of NACTEC through state Vocational Tax Credit program in 2009 & 2010.</p>	<p>Proud sponsor of NACTEC through state Vocational Tax Credit program in 2009 and 2010.</p>	<p>Kawerak Inc. President, Loretta Bullard planted the seed for heavy equipment training in Sept 2009.</p>	<p>Shares Career and Technical Education facilities with NACTEC and sends Jr. & High School students.</p>	<p>Provides business office support and sends students from (15) villages in the Nome Census Area.</p>