



Northwestern Alaska Career and Technical Center



NACTEC PARTNER'S ROUNDTABLE MEETING

Representatives of Kawerak, Inc., City of Nome, Nome Public Schools, UAF-Northwest Campus, Sitnasuak Native Corporation (SNC), Nome Youth Facility, Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation, Nome Job Center, and Graphite One Resources joined in NACTEC's roundtable with DOLWD Commissioner Heidi Drygas and DEED Commissioner Dr. Michael Johnson on May 23rd. The importance of **culture** within the Bering Straits region was

emphasized by SNC Vice-President Ukallaysaq Okleasik as an overarching theme for the conversation to follow on Education and Workforce Development Training.

Topics discussed included **Maritime**: Nome deep draft port, shoreside support operations, boat hoist, boat mechanics, **Transportation**: heavy equipment operators, CDIs with endorsements, and **Natural Resource Development**. Prior to the roundtable, Commissioner Drygas discussed a future graphite mine, with Dave Hembree Graphite One Resource's General Manager of Operations with the potential to bring over 200 jobs to the Nome region.



“Skin in the game” was an appropriate talking point as Nome government, business, industry and Alaska Native-represented organizations asked questions of Commissioners Drygas and Johnson about the State’s fiscal challenge, and with regard to budget cuts impacting NACTEC the past two years.

Whether it be State of Alaska partners in Nome’s: Youth Facility, DMV office, Job Center, or Bering Strait School District, Nome Public Schools and UAF-Northwest Campus partners or our many business, industry, and Native Corporation partners it truly “takes a village” to build and support NACTEC. We thank you all for stepping forward in this dialogue, so important to our region’s future direction.

Douglas J. Walrath, Ph.D.





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NATIVE ARTS - BUSINESS/MARKETING/ENTREPRENEURSHIP STRAND

With nearly 95% of NACTEC's students of Alaska Native heritage, the culturally relevant Native Arts strand was highlighted with the fabrication of a 20' traditional Inupiaq Umiag project (left). Ten time Greenland kayaking champion Maligiaq Padilla, who leads NACTEC's kayak fabrication, showed his handicraft to Commissioner Drygas and Commissioner Johnson. The **Business, Marketing, and Entrepreneurship** strand is infused with skin sewing, bone/ivory carving, or traditional kayak/umiag fabrication.



This strand capitalizes on the region's talented Native Artists, who mentor students at home, combined with 21st century information

technology tools used to market to a global audience. Pictured to right, Maligiaq Padilla teamed up with the late Vince Pikonganna, a King Island elder, to fabricate the first King Island style kayak made in over 70 years at NACTEC in June, 2016.



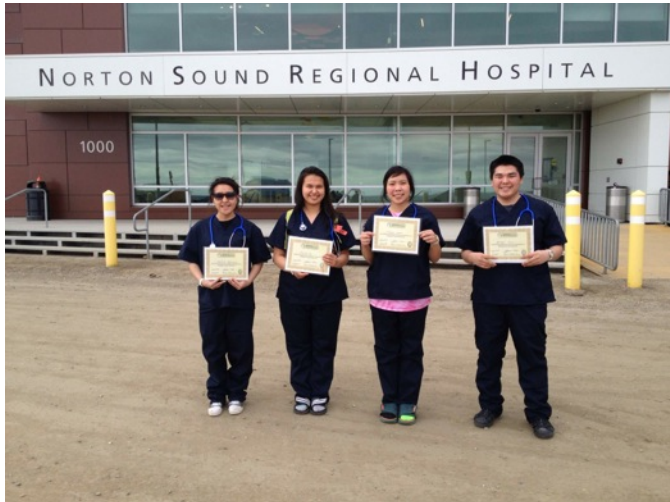
KATIRVIK CULTURAL CENTER

Commissioner Drygas met briefly with **Katirvik Cultural Center** Director, Lisa Ellanna in the new Foster Building. NACTEC's importance working with regional youth, preserving culture while developing their vocational training skills, was emphasized as critically important. The beautiful craftsmanship of the King Island style kayak, proudly displayed above the Katirvik Cultural Center's entrance, preserves a lasting legacy of the late Vince Pikonganna. It will continue to impact future generations, just as with these students from a 2016-17 NACTEC training



program (above).

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REGIONAL PRIORITIES

NPS Superintendent, Shawn Arnold, led Commissioner Johnson through Nome Public Schools and met with the Bering Straits Leadership Team, noting regional education priorities: **Cultural Relevancy, Early Childhood & Elementary Education, Growing Our Own Teachers, and Post-secondary Preparation and Transitioning Success** which emerged for the 2015 Norton Sound Education Summit.

NACTEC Director, Doug Walrath, led Commissioner Drygas on a partner's tour including Nome One Stop Job Center, UAF-Northwest Campus, and Norton Sound Health Corporation. A locally delivered **CNA to RN** program was highlighted. While touring Quyanna Care Center, NSHC's Megan Mackiernan (left) noted 40% of current CNA's are locally grown, with a goal of 100% in the next two years. Commissioner Drygas identified the role apprenticeship training could serve in future training. *With 650 employees, NSHC is the largest Bering Straits regional employer.*

UAF-Northwest Campus Director, Bob Metcalf, discussed the importance of **Healthcare** training underway on campus with **CNA** training, as well as **Health Aide** Pre-session training at NACTEC. Pictured above (top) recent high school graduates display their completion of training certificates to enter the Health Aide training field.

While at UAF-NWC Commissioner Drygas met with High Latitude Range Management students and Bering Strait School District classroom aides, working

toward **teacher certification**, all thankful for opportunities to further their **Education**.

Another topic of significant interest was **Maritime**-related needs. Pictured to right a Shaktoolik student assists Commissioner Johnson on a Boating Skills Virtual Trainer. The morning began with an observation of NACTEC students involved in morning swimming, similar to immersion suit training (right). Apprenticeship training, as is occurring with Calista Corporation, was noted in the Maritime sector.



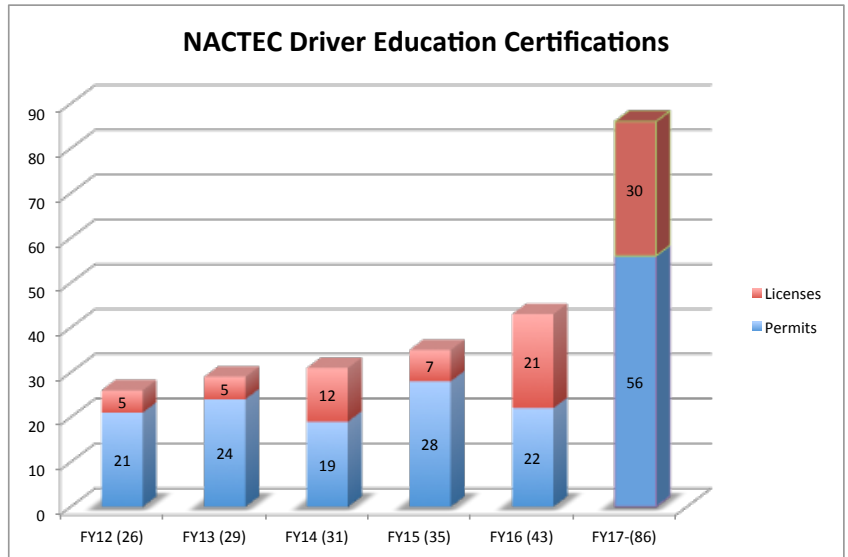
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DRIVER EDUCATION

Aviation and Driver Education highlighted **Transportation**-related priorities. Airframe and Powerplant Mechanics, rebuilding a 1962 Piper Colt, were featured in Aviation.

Driver Education training remains the highest rated workforce development training program annually. As NACTEC become a DMV-approved third party examiner, Class D driver's licenses have reached all-time highs the past two years. *88% of NACTEC trainees successfully passed their FY17 road examinations.*

Adult training partners at Kawerak, Inc, and Nome Eskimo Community have requested adult D.E. training during breaks from high school residential programming. VPSO and Health Aides are the focus of current D.E. training for employment purposes. Pictured to right Blake Bogart with three adults who earned Driver's Licenses in an April, 2017 training program.



THE ROAD AHEAD

As highlighted by NACTEC's industry partners, Class D licenses become step #1 toward CDL licensure and the need for locally grown heavy

equipment operators to address future regional growth in **Maritime, Construction, and Natural Resource Development** sectors.

Commissioner Drygas and Commissioner Johnson work alongside a White Mountain freshmen (left), operating motion-based heavy equipment simulators. Bering Straits Native Corporation, Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation, Shell Exploration, ConocoPhillips, and the Pollock Conservation Cooperative partners utilized Education Tax Credits, and corporate contributions to build this eight-machine training center; alongside boating, aviation, and welding simulators, bringing workforce development training tools into the student dorm.

