
NACTEC Hosts U.S. Secretary of Education

North to Alaska ... Secretary DeVos Visits NACTEC

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Culture & Partnership Crossroads @ NACTEC

Alaska's Department of Education and Early Development's Commissioner Michael Johnson bestowed upon NACTEC the honor and privilege of hosting Secretary Betsy DeVos on August 28th. NACTEC's partners stepped forward, conveying the importance of a culturally relevant curriculum reflective of the predominant Alaska Native population served in the Bering Straits region. Nome-Beltz High School's Cultural Eskimo Dance students and teacher Phyllis Walluk led an Eskimo dancing and drumming welcome ceremony, and did an outstanding job on just their 5th day of the new school year. What a way to start the year!



Secretary DeVos Explores NACTEC Programming

During a 90 minute whirlwind campus tour, NACTEC Director Doug Walrath shared graduation and dropout data, revealing the positive influence of CTE in keeping students in school and on a path to graduation. Secretary DeVos explored Heavy Equipment Operator training on the latest state-of-the-art technology with a virtual reality, motion-based D8 advanced dozer that was being installed on the day of her visit. Traditional kayak construction, plasma cutting, welding/metal fabrication projects, designed with regional and cultural significance, highlighted NACTEC's hands-on instructional approach. NBHS 2019

graduate, Ethan Ahkvaluk, demonstrated flight training on the new Basic Aviation Training Devices of a Kawerak, Inc. Aviation Pathways grant project with NACTEC.

After the tour of NACTEC, Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation hosted a round table event with Secretary DeVos (cover picture & below). Representatives from Bering Straits Native Corporation, Bering Strait School District, City of Nome, Kawerak, Inc., Nome Public Schools, Norton Sound Health Corporation, NSEDC, NACTEC, Sitnasuak Native Corporation, and UAF-Northwest Campus joined DEED Commissioner Johnson, and Deputy Commissioner Karen Melin for a dialogue on the needs and critical educational issues of respective partner populations served. Lisa Ellanna closed out the Secretary's visit to Nome, as she shared the region's rich culture during a visit of the Katirvik Cultural Center.



NACTEC is appreciative of the many partners that have made our programming worthy of USDOE recognition. In addition to our Nome-based partners, we likewise recognize Alaska Community Foundation, Alaska National Insurance Company, ConocoPhillips, Pollock Conservation Cooperative, Saltchuk, Wells Fargo, Alaska DEED and DOLWD partners so important to NACTEC's existence and continual growth. *Special thanks to Jay Thomas, NBHS, and Dan Harrelson, NSEDC, for your warm welcomes and hospitality.*