



**Kenai Peninsula College**  
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE



# 2006 Annual Report



## Director's Message...

The purpose of the Kenai Peninsula College Annual Report is to document the accomplishments of the college over the past year and to provide perspective as we look to the future.



This report is not only intended for our stakeholders, but our faculty and staff as well. Frequently we are too busy trying to do our jobs, as we carry out the mission of the college, that we fail to take time to reflect on all the progress and great things we do over the course of a year. This perpetual motion often precludes us from taking a break to look into our rearview mirror. However, we all need to take a moment to pause, to take a breath and reflect on what we did in 2006.

To those of you not associated with KPC, I hope you enjoy reading about this fine university of Alaska community campus and learn about the great things happening in postsecondary education on the Kenai Peninsula and at our Anchorage Extension Site. To those of you who work here, take a few minutes to relive what we accomplished over the past year.

Gary J. Turner  
College Director





**Kenai Peninsula College...** is a community campus system of the University of Alaska Anchorage and was established in 1964. The college's service area ranges from Seldovia to Tyonek to Hope to Seward, encompassing the Kenai Peninsula and shoreline areas of West Cook Inlet. KPC is comprised of the following units:



**Kenai River Campus (KRC)**, located in Soldotna, provides the college-wide administrative support services to the other units. Staffing at the campus includes 25 full-time faculty, supplemented by local adjunct faculty and 37 staff members.



**Kachemak Bay Campus (KBC)**, located in Homer, is staffed by four full-time and one half-time faculty members, supplemented by local adjunct faculty and 17 staff members. The campus operates from two buildings, which are located about one mile apart in downtown Homer.



**Mining and Petroleum Training Services (MAPTS)**, was founded in 1979 and operates from a leased office building in Soldotna and the University Center in Anchorage. MAPTS is staffed by seven full-time staff in Soldotna, and one staff member and a number of part-time faculty members in Anchorage.



**Resurrection Bay Extension Site (RBES)**, located in Seward, is staffed by a half-time coordinator and 10-14 adjuncts per semester. The coordinator's office and classrooms are located in the Seward High School, and provided rent-free courtesy of an agreement between KPC and the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.



**Anchorage Extension Site (AES)**, located in Anchorage at the UAA University Center, is staffed by administrative staff and two full-time faculty members. The site offers degree programs in Process Technology, Industrial Process Instrumentation and Occupational Safety and Health.

### *Mission Statement*

**Kenai Peninsula College is committed to excellence in academic, training, and life-long learning by offering accessible opportunities in a supportive environment.**



## KPC Facts

- KPC provides UAA postsecondary education to the Kenai Peninsula Borough service area-25,000 + square miles (size of Massachusetts & New Jersey combined.)
- Even with a decreasing population due to out migration and a variety of economic factors, KPC's enrollment numbers and semester credit hour production increased in Spring and Fall 2006. Credit goes to increased focus on faculty advising, marketing and creation of niche programs.
- Spring 2006 semester credit hour production increased 1.94% while the number of students enrolled increased by 1.41% as compared to Spring 2005. Enrollment figures for Fall 2006 saw semester credit hour production increase 5.01% and number of students enrolled rose 3.50% when compared to Fall 2005.
- The KPC student body is comprised of 60.8% female, 39.2% male students and 11.8% ethnic minorities. Since 2001, minority enrollments have increased 8.3%; Alaska Native and American Indian enrollments are up 23.3%.
- The age of students attending KPC has decreased dramatically over the past five years. Since 2001, traditional age (less than age 25) student enrollments are up 66.5%; students under age 25 now comprise 49% of the student body.
- Established and received approval of new two-year degree programs in Paramedical Technology and General Business, and developed a Digital Art degree that was approved by the University of Alaska Board of Regents in February 2006.
- KPC received two of the four UAA Chancellor Awards presented for 2006. The Service Learning Team—represented by Krista Timlin, KRC Career Services Coordinator—won the award given for Exemplary Group Achievements Demonstrated in a Program or Service while the Emergency Medical Service Team—represented by Paul Perry, KRC Paramedic program Coordinator and Instructor—won the category for Exemplary Group Achievements in Internal and/or External Partnerships.
- KPC's EZ Payment Plan has made it easier for students to afford attending college by spreading out tuition payments over the course of the semester. Over the past four semesters, program participation has increased 102%, and increased 78% from Fall 04 to Fall 05:

**Spring 2004- 182 students**

**Fall 04 (awareness campaign began 8/04)- 206 students**

**Spring 2005- 240 students**

**Fall 2005- 367 students**

**Spring 2006- 267 students**

**Fall 2006- 258 students**

## Collaborating with the School District

- More than 250 Kenai Peninsula High School seniors took advantage of the KPC JumpStart program. High school seniors can take up to six credits per semester and pay only \$35/credit instead of the full University tuition of \$120/credit. This program is made possible by the funding KPC receives through the Kenai Peninsula Borough.
- KPC provided 20 professional development (500 level) continuing education courses for district teachers with almost 200 taking the classes to refresh their teaching skills.
- The school district continued to provide free office space to KPC to house the Resurrection Bay Extension Site at the Seward High School. RBES Coordinator, Jackie Marshall, moved to a more centralized area next to the principal's office that provides KPC with a greater presence to high school students.

## Collaborating with the School District (cont.)

- College Director Gary J. Turner and Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Superintendent Donna Peterson hosted two "Dinner with Donna & Gary" events where they met with local community leaders to assess their perceptions of the school district and college, and how these individuals viewed the college/school district partnership.

## Improving the Community

- Janice High, KRC English Professor, and her journalism class students wrote articles, edited copy and provided photographs for the Arctic Winter Games Ulu News, the official publication and historical documentation for the games. This was the first games where "professional" journalists were not used to produce the 20-page daily newspaper. The president of the AWG International Committee was so impressed with the newspaper that he has recommended that student journalists be used to publish future Ulu News.

- KPC personnel invested more than 13,000 hours through community service and volunteerism into Peninsula communities during the year.

- Since Spring 2004, 11 KPC faculty members invested 1,575 hours implementing community service learning projects in 23 different courses involving 40 classes with 55 community partners. More than 400 students participated, committing 5,772 hours of service to these community organizations.

- KRC faculty and staff coordinated the visit and feeding of 400 Alaska student athletes at the Kenai River Campus for the Arctic Winter Games. The campus was opened to AWG participants and spectators so they could use computer labs, wireless connectivity and enjoy free internet access. The college also loaned campus furniture that was used at VIP AWG venues.

- The CAPRA grant (College Access Project for Rural Alaska) was established to provide disability support services to both KPC campuses. Each KPC campus has received \$35,554 to operate the programs.

- Krista Timlin, Career Services Coordinator, Celia Anderson, KRC Art Professor, and Sherril Miller, KRC Education Adjunct Faculty, attended the Community College National Center for Community Engagement's 15th annual national conference in Scottsdale, Arizona the last week of May. Linda Swarner, Kenai Peninsula Food Bank Director also attended as a community partner. The theme of the conference was "Enlightenment: The Evolution of Change." The conference focused on many issues surrounding service learning and civic engagement that will enable KPC to improve on their already outstanding service-learning program.

- The KRC Learning Center assisted 77 students in receiving their General Education Diploma (GED) while 20 students earned their GED through the KBC Learning Center.

- Nationally-recognized, visiting poet Barbara Ras conducted a workshop and public reading in October at KBC.

## KPC Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

- Dr. Barb Christian, KRC English Professor, presented a lecture and book signing of her book, "Belief in Dialogue" at the UAA Campus bookstore for Women's History Month in March.

- Celia Anderson, KRC Art Professor, designed the City of Kenai's town clock that was dedicated in ceremonies in July. Anderson donated the design to the city.

## KPC Faculty and Staff Accomplishments (cont.)

- Sara Reinert, KBC Math Professor, co-organized the first KPBSD-wide Middle School Math Meet at KBC in March. Seventy-seven 7th and 8th grade advanced math students from 11 schools participated in the meet's four rounds featuring timed problem-solving.
- David Spann, KRC Process Technology Instructor, received the inaugural "Outstanding Process Technology Instructor of the Year" award from the Center for the Advancement of Process Technology. This national award recognized David as being the top instructor in the country.
- Dr. Alan Boraas, KRC Anthropology Professor, gave a talk at the University of California Santa Barbara's Indigenous Languages Program in the Linguistics Department in November. He also made a presentation on the history of the Dena'ina language and the web-based language program that he has been working on.
- Celia Anderson, KRC Art Professor, had a painting accepted into the Statewide "All Alaska Juried Exhibition." The show travels to different venues around the State (including the Kenai Visitor's Center) for an entire year. Anderson also had a solo exhibition of her paintings at Alaska Pacific University in the Carr Gottstein Building Gallery opening on Friday, March 3.
- Jayne Jones, KRC Art and Photography Professor, had two photographs accepted into the Statewide Traveling Photography Exhibition "Rarefied Light."
- Celia Anderson, KRC Art Professor, and Jayne Jones, KRC Art and Photography Professor, exhibited their artwork in the Kenai Visitor & Cultural Center's Summer Exhibition, "The Kenai Experience."
- Dr. Alan Boraas, KRC Anthropology Professor, was awarded \$23,600 from the "UAA Chancellor's Fund" for his "Kahtnuht'ana Qenaga, Kenai People's Language" proposal. Boraas and research assistant Michael Christian, created a web site that combines audio recordings of Dena'ina elders speaking the language and photos of the objects and places they are speaking about. The project is attracting national attention.
- The FY07 University of Alaska Anchorage Chancellor's Fund Competition committee selected KRC History professor Cathy Pearce's proposal, "Lured by False Lights: Cornish Wrecking and Victorian Myth," for \$10,000 in funding. Pearce will spend the 2007 summer in London and Cornwall doing research for this project. The committee evaluated 33 proposals submitted in open competition; 18 were selected for funding.
- Suzie Kendrick, KPC marketing and communications Coordinator, and College Director Gary Turner were invited to participate in the formulation of the UA statewide marketing strategies plan in Fairbanks. KPC's presence at these meetings allowed a "community campus" perspective to be heard at the statewide level.
- Cathy Pearce, KRC History Professor, presented a paper titled, "'The grim hell-hounds prowling round the shore...' Cornwall and the Communal Practice of Wrecking in the Long Eighteenth Century," at a conference in May, sponsored by Nottingham Trent University that was held at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, London, UK. Papers from the conference will be published.
- Dr. Shelley Theno, KRC Psychology Professor, and 10 students participated in the Behavioral Science Conference of the North in April. This statewide conference attracts national speakers in psychology and showcases student research in psychology. Two KRC student groups presented their research at the conference.

## KPC Faculty and Staff Accomplishments (cont.)

- Dr. Chris Gehrett, KRC Education Professor, participated in a roundtable discussion in Philosophy for Children at an international conference in Chiapas, Mexico. She spent 11 days in theoretical morning sessions with practical afternoon sessions discussing the concept of Caring Thinking as an important aspect of the philosophical community of inquiry. She is now working with a professor of Philosophy at Montclair State University on a research paper focused on "caring thinking and Buddhist thought."
- Jayne Jones, KRC Art and Photography Professor; Bill Heath, KRC Digital Photography Adjunct Instructor and Todd Marshall-Closson, Digital Art student had photos accepted into the Alaska Positive, 2006 Fine Art Photography Show. This juried exhibition received 231 photographs from 65 photographers and of these, 49 photographs by 35 photographers were selected for the show. Heath received a special honorable mention and Jones an honorable mention.
- Dr. Alan Boraas, KRC Anthropology Professor, was mentioned on National Public Radio's "Science Friday" moderated by Ira Flatow along with Dr. James Kari (Professor Emeritus, University of Alaska Fairbanks) concerning their work with Peter Kalifornsky. The nationally broadcast program was titled "Documenting Endangered Languages." A portion of Peter Kalifornsky telling "The Beaver Story" was used on the segment that can be heard at [www.sciencefriday.com](http://www.sciencefriday.com)
- Peter Kalifornsky's "Dena'ina Legacy" book, edited by Dr. Alan Boraas, KRC Anthropology Professor and Dr. James Kari, UAF Professor Emeritus, is being used as the primary textbook for a folklore class during the fall semester at the University of Southern California.
- In summer 2006, the Collections Committee at Anchorage Museum of History and Art purchased two large paintings from KRC Art Professor Celia Anderson's solo exhibition at Alaska Pacific University. These will be added to their permanent collection.
- Sherril Miller, KRC Education Adjunct Professor was appointed to serve on the statewide planning committee for the professional development symposium: "A Statewide Dialogue on High Quality Professional Development for Highly Effective Educators." The purpose of the symposium was to develop shared understanding of high quality professional development and foster professional development partnerships and collaborations among educators.
- College Director Gary Turner organized and directed a statewide 2-day conference for University of Alaska campus directors and UA statewide executives addressing community campus challenges and performance metrics. Turner arranged for nationally known community college expert, Dr. Kay McClenney, to be the speaker and facilitator for the conference attended by more than 80 UA leaders. Turner received a \$15,000 grant from President Hamilton's BP/ConocoPhillips foundation funds to host the conference.
- More than 100 people-faculty, staff, students, adjuncts and college council members-attended a two day strategic planning session held August 16-17 at the Kenai River Campus. A new mission statement was approved and seven vision statements (goals) were created. The KPC Strategic Plan will be complete in March 2007.

## Students Making a Difference

- The first cohort of 12 Paramedic students at KRC graduated with AAS degrees in December after completing their 480-hour paramedic internships at emergency services and fire departments across the country. All the graduates received job offers with most now working in Southcentral Alaska.

## Students Making a Difference (cont.)

- Three KPC Art students had work accepted into the national self-portrait show "No Big Heads" held at the UAA Campus. KPC Art student Pat Lytle won the Juror's Choice Award at the show.
- The UAA Nursing program at the Kenai River Campus graduated its first cohort of 10 students with Associates degrees in Nursing in December 2006. KRC student, Cindy Miller, received both University of Alaska Nursing statewide awards for having the highest grade point average and the most "nursing spirit" of all students that graduated from the UA-wide program.
- Eight students completed their first year in UAA's AAS Nursing program offered at KBC.
- KRC student Robert Bell was selected as the New Century Scholar for the State of Alaska (only one per state is chosen) and was one of only 60 students nationwide named to the All-USA Academic Team for Community and Junior Colleges. Appointed by former Governor Frank Murkowski, Bell serves as the sole student commissioner to the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education. Bell graduated from KPC in May with an Associates of Arts degree, cum laude, and was awarded a full tuition scholarship by University of Alaska Anchorage Chancellor Elaine Maimon to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in Medical Technology.
- Dr. Beth Graber, KBC English Professor's students taking ENG 341, an advanced composition course presented, "Women and Islam: Ancient Traditions in Modern Iran," to Homer High School students and the public. The 40-minute multi-media presentation profiled the lives of three young Iranian women living under Islamic law in modern-day Iran.

## College Improvements

- The Kachemak Bay Campus 6-month remodel project of the East Campus was completed in December. The new area includes an art studio classroom and additional office space.
- Construction of the \$3 million Mining and Petroleum Training Service building at the Kenai River Campus began in June. The 7,000 square foot building will contain classrooms and office space, and will be completed in March 2007.
- More than 1,200 feet of the Kenai River Campus riverbank was revegetated, spruce trees cabled into the river's edge, dangerous trees felled and a new trail installed during the summer. College Director Gary Turner received a \$193,000 grant from the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds to restore and rehabilitate the Kenai riverbank, which has been eroding at an alarming rate at KRC.



## College Improvements (cont.)

- The KRC Student Health Clinic opened its doors in January and is the only such clinic at a University of Alaska community campus.
- KBC received the "Judge's Choice Award" from the Homer Chamber of Commerce's Community Beautification Program for the landscaping and gardens installed at the newly renovated campus.
- The on-campus information system at the KRC dubbed kpCNN (Kenai Peninsula College News Network) received a significant upgrade going from three, 19-inch standard TV screens, to four, state-of-the-art wide-screen, high definition monitors.

## Reaching Out to Alaska Natives

- KRC continued to collaborate with neighboring Alaska Christian College with 21 of their Alaska Native students attending KRC while living at the ACC campus.
- Krista Timlin, KRC Career Services Coordinator and one of her student assistants, Randy Ashford, represented KPC at the Alaska Native Professional Association event at the AFN convention. More than 100 people visited the KPC booth to learn more about the college with many expressing sincere interest in either attending KPC or talking to others who might want to attend KPC. Three secondary school educators took catalogs and information back to their villages for middle and high school students to view. Timlin also connected with nine business and Native corporation representatives who expressed interest in either hiring KPC students or learning more about what KPC offers so they could connect corporation members with the college.

## Summer Programs

- The Kachemak Bay Writers Conference was held June 9-13 and was a huge success, receiving considerable statewide and national recognition. KBC was awarded \$20,000 from President Hamilton's BP/ConocoPhillips foundation funds to support the conference, and bring keynote presenter Jeffrey Eugenides, to Homer. Nationally known author, Amy Tan, will be the keynote presenter at the 2007 conference.
- KRC once again offered four Kenai Fishing Academy one-week programs, where people learn to become better anglers. Students spend mornings in the classroom learning fishing techniques, wildlife and boating safety, river biology and how to care for their catch. Afternoons are spent on the water with Alaskan fishing guides practicing what they learned in the classroom.
- KBC hosted three Elderhostel and Osher Lifelong Learning sessions in May.
- KBC hosted the two-week Project Grad Summer Institute in June. High school students from the area's Russian villages, Nanwalek, Port Graham and Ninilchik attended.

## Collaborating with Industry

- The KPC Mining and Petroleum Training Service taught more than 1,000 students in 100+ workforce training classes involving more than 20,000 contact hours.
- In March, a dozen KPC industrial instrumentation and process technology students, with KPC faculty guides, traveled to Conoco-Phillips Alpine, one of the most modern production facilities /oilfields in the world. Each year, Conoco-Phillips graciously transports KPC students to the North Slope, hosts them for an overnight stay and leads them on tours of all major operating functions of the facility.

## Collaborating with Industry (cont.)

- In April, Lt. Governor Loren Leman approved the KPC Kenai River Guide Academy program as part of a number of regulation changes pertaining to Kenai River fishing guides. Successful completion of this 5-day course will be required of all Kenai River fishing guides beginning in 2007.
- KPC received \$176,450 in Workforce Development Funds from the University of Alaska in November to support many of its programs. KPC received the second largest funding amount of any community campus and third most of any campus in UA statewide. These funds have been used to purchase new equipment for the training programs below so we can provide students with current technology similar to what they will see in industry.

**KRC Emergency Medical Service program \$72,750    KBC Nursing program \$37,850**  
**KRC Process Technology program \$16,500                    KRC Welding program \$49,350**

- Two summer institutes for Process Technology educators from the U.S. were coordinated by David Spann, KRC Process Technology Instructor. Conducted under the auspices of the U.S. Center for the Advancement of Process Technology, two 12-person cohorts participated in seminars and field trips to Prudhoe Bay and Cook Inlet. The purpose of the institutes was to improve these instructors' curriculum and instructional techniques.
- Ray Zagorski, KRC Business professor, and Mark Gregory, Kenai Peninsula Small Business Development Center director, hosted a number of small business workshops at the KRC.
- David Spann, KRC Process Technology Instructor taught the course, "Oil and Gas Exploration and Production" for the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources Oil and Gas Division. The course provided the fundamentals of oil and gas E&P techniques and equipment to incoming DNR employees.
- KRC Career Day 2006 was held in November where more than 60 presenters spoke about their occupations and careers to more than 250 high school age students from across the Kenai Peninsula.
- Allen Houtz, KRC Instrumentation and Chemistry Professor, presented KPC education and training programs to students at the Aniak Career Fair in March. More than 50 students participated.
- Liz Downing, KBC Student Services Coordinator, organized the Bi-Annual Homer College, Career and Job Fair in March for high school students from the south peninsula, and college students and community members. More than 600 people attended and local organizations played a more active role than any previous fair. Presentations from 37 career fields were represented in 55 sessions presented by 60 community volunteers. Seventeen educational workshops were presented by experts in their fields.
- Recruitment of KPC graduates by Alaska-based companies is greatly increasing with hiring teams from BP, Shell, Conoco-Phillips, Enstar and Schlumberger, visiting KRC and the Anchorage Extension Site each semester to interview our students.
- MAPTS Director Dennis Steffy and College Director Gary Turner, continued to serve on the "Putting Alaska's Resources to Work" (PARW) executive committee, meeting monthly with industry representatives in the oil, gas and mining industries, to determine how the State will meet industry training demands now and into the future. Turner and Steffy founded PARW in 2004.

## Notable Grants and Donations Received

### ● New Grant Awards

- \$346,111 - Federal Economic Development Administration for a distance delivered Professional Miner certificate program and course conversion of other MAPTS courses.
- \$176,450 - UA Workforce Development funding for new and upgraded career and technical education equipment.
- \$97,859 - AK Dept of Labor - Mine Safety Training.
- \$60,000 - MAPTS DOL additional MSHA training - Nome
- \$37,859 - AK Dept. of Labor for additional Mine Safety Training.
- \$20,000 - UA Foundation-President's Fund-BP Funding for Kachemak Bay Writers Conference.
- \$20,000- UA Statewide Academic Council & UAA - Developmental Math Success Initiative
- \$15,000 - Community College National Center for Community Engagement to continue the Service Learning program.
- \$10,000 - UAA Chancellor's Research Fund awarded to Associate Professor Cathy Pearce.
- \$9,000 - Arts Midwest "The Big Read" grant to Kachemak Bay Campus.
- \$5,000 - Alaska Humanities Forum for Writer's Conference
- \$5,000 - AK Department of Natural Resources for Surface Coal Mine Blaster Training.
- \$3,800 - Homer Foundation for art classroom equipment at Kachemak Bay Campus.
- \$3,050 - Private donations to the Kenai River Guide Academy and Kenai Fishing Academy.
- \$2,000 - Alaska State Council for the Arts for Kachemak Bay Writers Conference.
- \$1,250 - Private donations for Kachemak Bay Writers Conference.
- \$1,000 donation from the Usibelli Foundation for the FY07 Writer's Conference.

**TOTAL New grant funds: \$715,520**

### ● Continuing Grant Awards:

- \$530,800 - Kenai Peninsula Borough funding for financial aid and program support through 1/10th mill rate levy on property.
- \$170,673 - AK Dept of Labor & Workforce Development for Adult Basic Education.
- \$97,371 - AK Dept of Education, Carol Perkins Funding for Vocational Education.
- \$78,000 - AK Dept of Labor & Workforce Development for Workforce Investment Youth Programs.
- \$74,600 partnered with UAA for the Federal CAPRA "College Access Program for Rural Alaska" program at KRC & KBC.
- \$30,000 partnered with UAA for the Federal "Alaska Educational Innovations Network" grant.
- \$21,040 - Project Grad funding for Adult Basic Education.

**TOTAL Continuing grant funds: \$1,002,484**

**TOTAL GRANT FUNDING: \$1,718,004**

- KBC's 10-year grant-funded Evenstart family literacy project, a component of the ABE program ended due to federal funding cuts. The project's Family Learning Center, a leased facility, was closed.



UNIVERSITY  
*of* ALASKA  

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*Many Traditions One Alaska*

University of Alaska is an AA/EEO employer and educational institution.

