KPC College Council

From: Joseph Thornton, KPC Workforce Development & Training Coordinator

Date: June 4, 2015

Re: Report for June COLLEGE COUNCIL MEETING

Attended the Kenai Chamber luncheon meeting on May 20th; topic addressed the Workforce Youth Development and roundtable discussions centered on what tools are necessary for today’s youth to plan for their future and do they recognize the options available to them. This focus stemmed from a survey that in Alaska, of the 66% of high school students that enter college, the completion/graduation rate is only 25% and the forecast is that by 2018, 33% of jobs will require a four year degree.

Visited Prince William Sound Community College and Alaska Pacific University for an overview of their workforce and conferencing programs. While their programs are quite different, each perspective was insightful and the information gleaned will help as I begin to prepare for meetings with local chambers to help define necessary information for survey preparation of local economic workforce needs and training.

Completed a proposal for Alaska Business Week (ABW) 2016. ABW is a one-week summer program teaching Alaskan high school students the basics of business, leadership and entrepreneurship. Participants live on a college campus, and work as teams in a dynamic business simulation with the guidance of a mentor from the business community. Although the Alaska Chamber board is interested in expanding the program, they stated that at this time (2016) it would not be a viable option for them although in future years this may be somewhere they would like to expand.

Presently working to finish the marketing brochure for the Oil and Gas Training program scheduled at KPC for January 3-13, 2016. This training which is also scheduled for July 15-24, 2015 and currently posted on our website, will have the same content but different add-on packages. While this summer program was not a successful offering, a different marketing strategy shall be utilized for the winter session.

Summer visits are being scheduled for several local businesses and recruitment centers to share and obtain information for current available education and training options/needs.