

September 21, 2007

TO: News Room: ATTN: Schools Section
Peninsula Clarion <safe:morris>

FROM: Suzie Kendrick
Kenai Peninsula College

RE: Weekly Schools Column (published Tuesday, October 9, 2007)

Kenai Peninsula College faculty embracing distance education

Last May, nine members of KPC's arts and sciences division, six full-time and three part-time faculty, participated in a week-long distance education symposium sponsored by the Alaska Educational Innovations Network. According to Dr. Barbara Christian the intensive workshop served to further faculty knowledge and skill with online delivery systems. Two popular web-based delivery methods were featured; Blackboard, an asynchronous delivery method, and Elluminate Live, a synchronous, real-time delivery method.

It is anticipated that more and more KPC classes will be delivered to students throughout the Peninsula and Alaska via the internet. KPC will be offering 23 classes using distance delivery formats next semester (spring 2008.) KPC is striving to create distance courses not currently offered by University of Alaska campuses. Offerings in the spring semester include *Creative Digital Camera*, *Survey of Chemistry including lab*, *Introduction to Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry*, *Web Design, Reporting and Writing News*, *Film as Literature*, and *Literature of Vietnam*. There are also a number of general education requirements being offered including *Methods of Written Communication*, *Technical Writing*, and *Trigonometry*.

Students living off the road system or in areas far from KPC facilities will be well served with the development of more educational opportunities delivered via cyberspace.

Student Forums scheduled

Every semester Kenai River Campus administration provides a venue for students to air concerns or get their questions answered. This semester the sessions will be held

October 9 at 2:15 p.m. and October 10 at 5:15 p.m. in the commons. The forums generally last about an hour and are intended to reinforce to the student body that faculty and staff at the college are committed to open and free exchange of information. Kenai Peninsula College is committed to listening and responding to students and the community.

Attendance at the forums has grown every semester since they were initiated. KRC students are becoming more vocal regarding subjects including tuition, student housing, campus services, textbook prices, and timing of course offerings.

18th annual Career Day at KRC

Each year more than 250 high school students from throughout the Peninsula fill the hallways of the college with the mission of exploring different career paths. This year the event is scheduled on Friday, November 9.

Career Day is unique because it gives students opportunities to gain information about career opportunities from career professionals working in the community. Students can be inspired to pursue fields they might not otherwise think they are interested in.

The event is coordinated by Krista Timlin, director of KRC's Career and Community Engagement Center. Career Day is open to non-high school members of the public who are looking to transition into another career field. Organizers ask that anyone who would like to attend any of the sessions, call 262-0337 to make arrangements in advance.