

October 25, 2007

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

FROM: Suzie Kendrick
Kenai Peninsula College

RE: Weekly Schools Column (published Tuesday, October 30, 2007)

KPC reaching out to alumni

It has been a long time since there was a functioning KPC Alumni Association. The staff and faculty who serve on KPC's Recruitment Team feel the time is right to change that. Bill Howell, chair of the Recruitment Team and director of Student Services has announced that planning for the first organizational meeting of the Alumni Association is underway.

The meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, November 20 in the conference room of the Mining and Petroleum Training Service located at the Kenai River Campus in Soldotna.

KPC has a database of graduates dating back to the 1960's, but anyone who has taken at least one 3-credit class is welcome to attend the meeting. Invitation letters will be sent to out to all local alumni who show-up on the database.

By virtue of a commitment he made during his keynote speech at the 2007 commencement last May, Michael Beck will be serving as the first president of the newly re-formed association. Beck, who graduated with the class of 1984, served as Student Union president for 2 years while attending college at the Kenai River Campus. He used his process technology degree to land several jobs in the oil industry on the North Slope; he currently is employed in the Alpine Field by ConocoPhillips.

Beck will be addressing attendees at the meeting encouraging them to support their local college with their commitment to the alumni association.

Howell says there will be a presentation to the group about where the college is today in terms of campuses and extension sites, enrollments, current programs, challenges and goals for the future.

KRC's current Student Union president, Todd Marshall-Closson, will speak to the group about the current student population and the goals and objectives of the Student Union and how they may interact with the Alumni Association.

The goal of the organizational meeting will be to serve as a mixer for alumnus and to identify members who want to serve as volunteers for the association. Light refreshments will be provided.

For more information about the event, contact Bill Howell at 262-0314 or email inwh@uaa.alaska.edu .

JumpStart program continues to give high school seniors affordable college classes

Statistics show that 146 Kenai Peninsula Borough School District high school seniors are taking advantage of the Borough subsidized JumpStart program this semester. The program provides students a waiver that reduces their cost per credit from \$128 to \$35.

Students can take 6 credits each semester, beginning the summer after their junior year, when they have official senior status. This means that if a student takes full advantage of the program, they can take 18 credits at the discounted rate. This translates to saving \$1674 over regular tuition rates—more than the 2007 Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend.

Homer High School seniors lead the pack in taking advantage of the program with 41 Jumpstart students this semester. Seward High and SoHi tie with 23 seniors attending KPC campuses followed by the Idea Home School program at 14 seniors and the Connections Home School program with 13 seniors. Kenai Central High School has 9, Skyview has 8 and Cook Inlet Academy has 6 seniors taking JumpStart courses. Nikiski, Kenai Alternative, Ninilchik and Wings Christian Academy all have less than 3 seniors in the program this semester.

JumpStart students are taking more humanities courses, e.g. English, communications, history, foreign languages, and philosophy, than other subject areas with 89 students enrolled in these disciplines. The social sciences like anthropology, journalism, justice, psychology, sociology and political science are the second most popular with 49 students. Math and natural sciences such as biology, chemistry and physics come in third with 38 Jumpstart students.

All of the disciplines listed here contain classes that are General Education Requirements (GERs) that all college students are required to take, regardless of the degree they are seeking. Most of the courses are 3-credits and the bulk of GERs provide students with the basic college-level knowledge they require to be successful in the other college classes they take in whatever degree program they decide on. A KPB high school student who takes full advantage of JumpStart can complete six GER's towards a college degree by the time they graduate high school.