

November 28, 2007

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

FROM: Suzie Kendrick  
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**RE: Weekly Schools Column (published Tuesday, December 11, 2007)**

**Kenai River Campus hosts luncheon for state legislators, Peninsula mayors**

In an effort to keep key decision makers informed about Kenai Peninsula College, Peninsula legislators and mayors, UAA Chancellor Fran Ulmer and Provost Michael Driscoll attended an information luncheon on Dec. 10. The purpose of the event was to provide an overview of current campus topics, highlights of the UA budget requests and demonstrate the importance of training the workforce for the local economy. The dignitaries interacted with the KPC Leadership Team, College Council and Student Union members.

Besides the luncheon, the legislators accompanied Student Union members to a few classes to observe the learning process. They sat in on a chemistry lab, paramedic course and a basic physics lecture.

The agenda of the luncheon included Chancellor Ulmer speaking about the UAA/KPC relationship and a "State of the College" address by KPC director Gary Turner. Also in attendance was Pete Kelly, University of Alaska director of state relations, who provided highlights of the UA budget request to the legislature.

Legislators Rep. Mike Chenault, Rep. Kurt Olson, and Senator Tom Wagoner each spoke briefly allowing for comments and questions from the luncheon attendees.

**New process technology instructor hired**

The Kenai River Campus has hired Henry Haney, formerly a senior process operator with Agrium, to teach in the popular process technology program. According to Scott Kraxberger, business and industry division chairman, "We are very lucky to bring Henry onboard. He will be a good fit in the department."

Haney brings over 25 years of experience in the process industry, serving in many capacities including instrument technician, supervisor, and manager.

“Henry is very well regarded in industry circles. He has provided training to many employees over the years so he should be able to really be effective in his classes,” Kraxberger said.

### **College director reports on Kenai River Guide Academy**

“The Kenai River Guide Academy, a state-required course offered at KRC, continues to train Kenai River fishing guides. Since the first class was held in 2006, 171 guides have completed the 40-hour course. Another four courses (two have already been offered in Oct. and Nov.) will be held from Dec.-May that will increase the total number trained to more than 250. I have been asked to do a 10-minute presentation on the KRGGA at the triennial Board of Fish meeting to be held Feb. 1-13 in Anchorage,” said Gary Turner, KPC director.

### **College emergency notification system**

In light of the growing number of college campus emergencies, KPC has purchased the MIR3 Intelligent Notification™ System.

According to the company website, the system is built with products on a geo-dispersed, scalable telephony and application server platform that directs the dissemination of time-urgent information to and from any communications device.

MIR3's customer base for Notification Services includes 82 of the Fortune 100, over 100 colleges and universities, and numerous local, state and federal agencies.

“This system will only be used for actual emergencies and the rare test. Currently we plan to test the system during the first week of classes in January,” said Bill Howell, KRC director of Student Services.

