

December 12, 2006

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

FROM: Suzie Kendrick  
Kenai Peninsula College

RE: Weekly Schools Column (published Wednesday, January 17, 2007)

**KPC to collaborate with the Peninsula Clarion on college newspaper**

Beginning next month, the college's newsletter, the KPC Connection, will elevate to a newspaper and will be distributed as an 8-page insert, tabloid style, in both the Peninsula Clarion and the Homer News. Current plans have the college newspaper being distributed at the end of the month in Monday editions with a total circulation of 6500 in the Clarion and 4000 in the Homer News.

The project was proposed to college director, Gary Turner, by Peninsula Clarion publisher Stan Pitlow. "Stan called me one day and asked if we could have lunch. He got the idea for this project from a colleague at a conference he attended. He saw it as a very positive collaboration; good for the Clarion, the college and the community" Turner said.

The Clarion staff will design the template for the paper layout and the college will provide all the content for the publication. Plans for the paper include showcases of student writing and photography, editorials by administration, columns by staff and faculty, movie, video game, and music reviews, as well as informative pieces from Campus Services regarding upcoming classes and events. Faculty participation in the project is voluntary, but it is anticipated that many will view the paper as a vehicle to promote their classes or the degree programs that they serve as advisors for.

All segments of Kenai Peninsula College will have the opportunity to take part in the project. The new KPC Connection represents an opportunity for the college to fully engage Peninsula communities on a regular basis. It is expected that the newspaper will be a bridge to a segment of the population who otherwise would not be exposed to what KPC has to offer.

At the present time, seven editions are planned for publication in 2007, with the first edition being printed the last week in February. Editions are planned for March, April,

and then a summer edition covering May, June, July, and August. The fall 2007 semester will have three editions; September, October, and November.

The entire college system is anticipating the release of the next generation of KPC generated media. Communication is vital in education and having a bona fide college-generated newspaper will move Kenai Peninsula College, a community campus of the University of Alaska Anchorage, in the right direction.

### **Kenai River Campus Student Health Clinic serving more students**

Staying healthy in a college environment, with large crowds, common study areas, and plenty of caffeine and stress can be challenging. Recognizing that health insurance is out of reach for most college students, when space became available with the Ward Building addition, KPC collaborated with Central Peninsula General Hospital to create the Kenai River Campus Student Health Clinic.

The facility is the only on-campus health clinic at any community campus in the University of Alaska system.

All students at the Kenai River Campus taking 6 or more credits are eligible to be seen in the clinic at no charge for office visits. Lab testing, immunizations and other necessary testing are offered at reduced cost and every effort is made to try to minimize costs to students.

The collaboration with CPGH allowed for part-time Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Jennifer Henry, to be the attending health professional staffing the clinic. Henry says, “We are seeing the pattern of clinic usage steadily increase. Last semester student visits were about 7 percent of the total eligible student population; that number has climbed to 19 percent this semester.”

Currently the clinic provides wellness check-ups and screenings, treatment and prescriptions for minor injuries and illnesses, annual women’s exams and birth control prescriptions, nutrition and dietary counseling, depression screening, immunizations, blood pressure checks and treatment, lab work, blood titers, and other basic medical care.

Henry said, “We are continually trying to expand our services and provide high quality, low cost care for KPC students. We accept both appointment and walk-in visits, but appointments take priority. If we are unable to provide a specific service, we will make the appropriate referral. We believe that knowledge is empowerment and that it is

our responsibility to provide patient education and learning opportunities whenever possible.”