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

FROM: Suzie Kendrick
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RE: Weekly Schools Column (published Wednesday, January 24, 2007)

Spring semester enrollments up at Kenai Peninsula College

More and more people are discovering Kenai Peninsula College. System enrollment at KPC is up 5.6 percent over the same time last year. With campuses in Soldotna and Homer and extension sites in Seward and in Anchorage, the college continues to grow both in student population and course offerings.

New degree programs in nursing, paramedic technology, and digital art have attracted students to KPC. In addition, because students can earn a number of four-year degrees locally, getting a bachelor's degree at KPC is becoming more popular. Many people don't realize that the college does not limit students to one-year certificates and two-year associate degrees. KPC offers courses that lead to completion or near completion of several four-year degrees offered by other campuses of the University of Alaska. As a community campus of UAA, KPC is able to support these program offerings based on student interest and adequate enrollment. Because of these variables, anyone wishing to pursue or complete a four-year degree is encouraged to meet with an advisor or counselor to plan their program.

The bachelor's degrees that are supported locally include anthropology, art, business administration, elementary education, liberal studies and psychology. In addition, a master's of public administration degree is supported via satellite and web access from University of Alaska Southeast.

For more information about completing a 4-year degree at KPC, contact Campus Services at 262-0300 and make an appointment to meet with an advisor or counselor. Potential students are reminded that past college degrees and credits may transfer into a four-year program cutting down on the time and cost of pursuing a more advanced degree.

Important to check spring schedule for class changes, cancellations

The good news is there are twice as many full classes this semester as there are classes that had to be cancelled due to low enrollments. One of the toughest jobs that KPC administration has to do is cancel classes. Because the tuition students pay for courses support all aspects of class delivery, including compensating the instructor and maintaining the facility, the bottom line is strictly dependent on enrollments in the course. The administration is charged with managing the business of the college to ensure classes are self-supporting.

At press time, KPC's Kenai River Campus had cancelled 18 classes due to low enrollment and closed 37 classes because of maximum enrollment. It is critical that students enrolled in courses this semester check the "short version" of the spring semester schedule, accessible on the home page of the KPC website (kpc.alaska.edu), to determine if there are changes to the classes they registered for. Changes can range from complete cancellation to changes to the day, time, location or instructor. If a class has experienced a change, the information on the web spreadsheet will appear with red highlighting.

Even though the college does everything possible to minimize changes to the course schedule, because the printed document is prepared months in advance of the beginning of the semester, inevitably changes do occur. It is critical that students be aware of this and practice due diligence to become aware of any changes to classes they have registered for.

This brief analysis of the dynamics of how a class at KPC either comes to pass or is cancelled serves as a reminder that registering early for a class really can matter. To avoid any inconvenience to students and instructors, under-subscribed courses can be cancelled prior to the end of late registration.

Calling all talent to the first Open Mic Night of the New Year

The Kenai River Campus Student Union kicks off the semester with another installment of Open Mic Night, 7-10 p.m., Friday, January 26 in the commons.

All types of performers are welcome. Anyone who wants to perform is asked to sign-up for a time slot either at the Student Union office or call 262-0339 or email iysgov@uaa.alaska.edu .

The public is invited to cheer on the performers at the free event. Materials presented are suitable for mature audiences only.

New electronics instructor makes his way to KPC

The Kenai River Campus welcomes Richard L. Kochis to the college as the newest instructor in the Business and Industry division. Kochis comes to KPC from Fort Collins, Colorado. His past experiences include teaching at New Mexico State University and working as an electrical engineer for several companies, included Hewlett-Packard.

Kochis has a master's of science degree in electrical engineering from Colorado State University. Assistant professor Kochis will be teaching electronics and physics courses at KPC.