

February 15, 2008

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

FROM: Suzie Kendrick
Kenai Peninsula College

RE: Weekly Schools Column (published Tuesday, February 19, 2008)

Community Health Fair at the Kenai River Campus

The second annual Community Health Fair will be held from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Feb. 20 in room 107 of the Ward Building at the Kenai River Campus.

“There will be free health screenings and referrals, low cost blood tests, and information promoting health awareness, disease prevention and healthy lifestyles,” said Kathy Becher, Advanced Nurse Practitioner at the Kenai River Campus Health Clinic.

There will be many community-based health related organizations and agencies represented at the Health Fair. Exhibitors include Love, Inc., Peninsula Smoke-Free Partnership, Kenai Peninsula Borough Office of Disaster Preparedness, Dena’ina Health Clinic’s Nutrition Educator, Kenai Peninsula Food Bank, Planned Parenthood, Nature’s Remedies, LeeShore Center, National Caregiver Association, Hospice of the Kenai Peninsula, Red Cross, and many others.

There will be door prizes given away throughout the event including health related items such as blood pressure monitors, relaxation CD’s, fruit baskets and more.

Kenai River Campus student Health Clinic news

The KRC Health Clinic has recently joined University of Alaska Anchorage’s model of offering a limited number of routine medications to students being seen at the Clinic. Antibiotics, anti-depressants, birth control pills, Depo-Provera shots, pink-eye medications, gastritis and allergy medications are a few examples of what is currently available to students utilizing the on-campus clinic.

“These medications can be prescribed and dispensed at a discounted rate to Clinic eligible students attending Kenai Peninsula College,” said Kathy Becher, ANP. Students enrolled in six or more credits at KPC are eligible to receive acute and preventative health care in the clinic. The Kenai River Campus is the only community campus in the University of Alaska system with an on-campus student health clinic.

The State of Alaska has membership with the Minnesota Multistate Contracting Alliance for Pharmacy (MMCAP) which allows the State to purchase medications in volume directly from the manufacturer. The program greatly reduces the costs to government agencies, including the University of Alaska, and the savings are passed on to the students.

For more information about the discounted medications program, contact Kathy Becher, ANP, at 262-0347 or stop by the clinic between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Thursday, in room 106 in the Ward Building.

Community volunteer opportunity

Mary Bell, AmeriCorps volunteer in the KRC Learning Center, would like to recruit community volunteers to help students learn English as a second language and/or obtain their GED. There will be two orientation and training sessions; from noon-1 p.m. and 5-6 p.m., Tuesday, February 19 in room 153. For more information contact the Learning Center at 262-0327 or email ipmkb@uaa.alaska.edu.

Non-resident tuition waiver program continues

The pilot program that has waived non-resident tuition at Kenai Peninsula College campuses and extension sites is being continued. Gary Turner, college director, has indicated that UAA Chancellor Fran Ulmer and UA President Mark Hamilton have approved continuing the program that was implemented beginning fall semester in 2007.

The program has allowed students who are new to Alaska to begin college right away without incurring the high cost of non-resident tuition rates.