

February 29, 2008

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

FROM: Suzie Kendrick  
Kenai Peninsula College

**RE: Weekly Schools Column (published Tuesday, March 4, 2008)**

**Online quiz measures readiness for distance education success**

In an effort to assist current and prospective students gauge their aptitude for distance education, the I. T. staff at the Kenai River Campus has put together a quiz that if answered honestly, should help students determine if distance education is a good fit. The quiz is designed as a self-assessment tool that will give the user a measure of their skills as applied to the distance education platform. The quiz is available from the KPC home page at [kpc.alaska.edu](http://kpc.alaska.edu).

Increasing distance delivered classes has been identified as a strategic goal of the KPC system. Thanks to the efforts of faculty and I.T. support staff, distance offerings have grown over 200 percent since summer 2002 when two classes were offered. The current semester offered 29 courses in distance format.

Distance education allows KPC to reach out to locations that are off the road system or too far from a KPC campus or extension site for a reasonable commute and helps the college realize the goal of serving the entire Peninsula.

“I would like to set a goal that by fall 2009 we offer 40 distance education sections each fall and spring semester and 15 sections each summer. I anticipate that by 2010 distance education will comprise 35-40 percent of our total credit hours,” said Gary J. Turner, KPC director.

**City of Soldotna high school senior scholarships**

Parents of high school seniors, as well as the students themselves, need to be aware that this college scholarship season. There are a large number of community scholarships available, including four being offered by the city of Soldotna.

According to the city of Soldotna, these four scholarships are directed at current high school seniors attending high school within the city limits. The awards were established from a donation by a life-long resident of the Soldotna area.

They will award two vocational scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 each; \$1000 each year. They will also award another one-year, vocational scholarship in the amount of \$1500. In

addition to these vocational scholarships, one academic scholarship of \$2000 will be awarded over two years.

These scholarships are particularly attractive as they support tuition, fees, room & board and text books for post-secondary education. Other conditions include that the applicant must be a senior in high school and attend a school in Soldotna or reside in the city and must be pursuing their post-secondary education beginning no later than the fall semester of 2008. Applicants must have a cumulative grade point average of 2.0, have past history of community service activities and demonstrate a positive attitude.

Applications and instructions are available at high school counselors' offices, the KRC financial aid office and online from the KPC home page. Applications and other required documents should be returned to KPC financial aid not later than 5 p.m., April 25, 2008.

The scholarship committee will review all applications and announce the recipients on May 14 at a regularly scheduled City Council meeting.

For more information, contact the financial aid office at 262-0321 or email [incmb@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:incmb@uaa.alaska.edu).