A Brief Goodbye from Executive Director
Kurt Kuhne

After 20 years of living in Bethel, and 7 years as Executive Director of YE, my family has decided to pursue a new adventure in Southeast Alaska. Starting later this summer, Dennis Dishion will be assuming the Executive Director position after me.

I want to take just a minute and thank all the people that have helped get YE to where it is today. First, our Board of Directors. They have allowed us the autonomy to get things done and provided support and expertise when needed. I also want to thank the previous Executive Directors who set the stage for future success. Last, but definitely not least, I want to thank my colleagues at YE whose tireless effort has gotten us to where we are today. In particular, Tiffany Tony, the original YE staff person and current Ops Director, and Jeremy Osborne, current Program Director. YE is in good hands moving forward with these folks at the organization.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the people of the YK Delta. It has been an honor and a privilege.
Yuut Elitnaurviat is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation dedicated to providing training and education opportunities to the people of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region of Southwest Alaska. All of our programs are open to anyone regardless of sex, race, color, gender, or creed. Certain funding streams are restrictive, but everyone is allowed to apply to any of our training programs.

In FY 2016 90% of our program participants identified as Alaska Native or American Indian. Those identifying as Caucasian were our second largest group served, accounting for 6% of our services. All other races combined made up the remaining 4%.

Yuut Elitnaurviat served an almost even number of males and females across all of our combined programs in FY16. It can be noted that certain programs lean more heavily male or female in terms of enrollment.
Of those individuals served by Yuut Elitnaurviat in FY16 who chose to report their annual household income, 68% of them fell into the $0 - 4,999 income bracket. According to the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, the 2016 Poverty Level for an Alaskan household of one is $14,840. Assuming that the respondents had only one person in their household, 75% of our students were below the 2016 Poverty Level. Since the federal poverty level is within $159 dollars of the high end of the $10,000 - 14,999 income range it would not be out of the realm of possibility that the seven percent of our students who reported an annual income in that range would also fall under the 2016 Poverty Level for Alaska.
The population we served in FY16 came from 6 different Alaska Senate Districts and 7 different Alaska House Districts. Because of our mission to serve the people of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region almost all of the people served by Yuut Elitnaurviat in FY16 came from Senate Districts S and R, and House Districts 36, 37, and 38. The people we served from other House and Senate Districts made up 3% of our student population in both cases.

Yuut Elitnaurviat offers programs within four of the National Career Clusters. 68% of our FY16 services were in the Transportation Cluster. The Construction, Health Science, and Public Safety Career Clusters each made up an average of 11% of our other services.
Yuut Elitnaurviat’s Six Program Departments

Adult Basic Education Program

The Bethel Regional ABE Program at Yuut Elitnaurviat offers free tutoring and testing for the GED Exam and houses the only Pearson Vue testing center in the YK Delta. Our GED Works grant pays for student GED testing and also can pay for Driver Education, Construction Trades classes, and CNA training.

Kuskokwim Learning Academy

The Kilbuck School fire in November 2015 moved the Kuskokwim Learning Academy (KLA) fully onto the Yuut Elitnaurviat campus. Students eat meals and take classes in the Administration Building and Yuut Elitnaurviat’s Yukon Dormitory houses all of KLA’s residential students. We have enjoyed having KLA on campus and it is looking like the relationship will continue into Fiscal Year 2017.
In FY16 Yuut Elitnaurviat held two Rural Facility Maintenance Technician (RFMT) Level 100 classes through the GED Works grant. In partnership with AVEC and the City of Bethel we held a Wind Turbine Technician Assistant training through a grant from Wells Fargo. We also held an Introduction to Welding training in partnership with Donlin Gold through a grant from the Alaska Community Foundation.

Yuut Elitnaurviat’s Driver Training Program remains one of our most popular training opportunities. Program participants use our Tractor-Trailer and Driving Van so that people who don’t own vehicles themselves can still take the State of Alaska Road Tests without having to go to Anchorage. This year our full CDL program trained nine different Class A Commercial Drivers for the region.
Yuut Elitnaurviat’s Public Safety program is successful due to our partnerships with the State of Alaska Department of Public Safety and with AVCP, Inc. Yuut Elitnaurviat hosted one VPO/TPO Academies during FY16 and we are hoping to continue this fine tradition in FY17.
Yuut Elitnaurviat’s Report to the People FY2016!

Preparing Local Workers for Local High-Wage Jobs All Year Long

How do I get involved in all this training?

724 Individual Students Served

1,082 Services given in Fiscal Year 2016

Yuut Elitnaurviat offers training programs in response to employment demand from the eleven partner organizations which make up our Board of Directors. Openings are posted on our website: www.yuut.org and on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/YuutElitnaurviat. You can also contact us by phone at (907) 543-0999 for more information.