



Yuut Elitnaurviat

P E O P L E ' S L E A R N I N G C E N T E R

Alaska National Guard • Association of Village Council Presidents • Association of Village Council Presidents, Regional Housing Authority
Bethel Community Services Foundation • Calista Corporation • City of Bethel • Lower Kuskokwim School District
Orutsararmuit Native Council • UAF - Kuskokwim Campus • Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation

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After six years of development, Yuut Elitnaurviat (YE) held its first Personal Care Attendant (PCA) to Certified Nurse's Aide (CNA) Bridge Class.

The class, paid for through a US Department of Labor Community



Above: PCA to CNA Bridge Class students (in blue) with workers at Prestige Care and Rehab Center of Anchorage.

Based Training Grant and supported by Yuut Elitnaurviat partners the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC) and the Uni-

versity of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), is a big step towards providing staff for the new YKHC Assisted Living Center currently under construction

Five students from local villages and five students from Bethel spent twelve full days learning material, demonstrating various CNA skills, and studying for hours every night. Classes went every day from Monday to Sunday, and not a single student complained or dropped out.

The last five days of the course, were spent in Anchorage, but the work didn't stop there. For their forty hours of clinical rotations the students were supervised and graded while working five full shifts at Prestige Care and Rehab Center of Anchorage.

Ten students started and completed the class, and our special thanks goes out not only to the students, but to UAA Instructor Mary Weiss, Liz Lee and Robert Rang of YKHC, and Prestige Care and Rehab Center of Anchorage for all the hard work that made this possible.

- Jeremy Osborne
Director of Programs



Above: The students learned all day, and studied all night - even on weekends.



From left to right: Spring RANSEP Semester students Jonica Williams, Regina Angaiak, and Megan John during a group study session in the Yuut Elitnaurviat Multi-Purpose Room.

Bethel Welcomes New RANSEP Students

The Spring RANSEP Semester began during the coldest winter on record. You would think that the weather might deter one from leaving their comfort zone, but this was not the case for the new group of RANSEP students.

Brandon Beebe of Eek, Jefferson Lincoln of Toksook Bay, Jonica Williams of Napaskiak, Megan John of Newtok, and Regina An-

gaiak of Tununak joined the program, which is being piloted in Bethel. The students come to BRHS a semester at a time, and take more advanced math and science classes than are available to them in the village. They also participate in the ANSEP Computer Build scheduled for May 5th and 6th of this year. After their semester in Bethel, four of the students are applying to the AN-

SEP Acceleration Academy, and one is applying to UAA and the ANSEP Summer Bridge Program. These young scholars are going places and RANSEP is helping them get there. We are all very proud of the work these students are doing to better their futures through education.

- Brock Hampton
College Readiness Coordinator

New Cohort of Construction Trades Certificate Students Begin Classes

A new cohort of students in Yuut Elitnaurviat's Certificate in Construction and Maintenance Program began taking classes this quarter. The classes in the program are all nationally certified by the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER), and most are also certified through the University of Alaska Fairbanks - Kuskokwim Campus.



Above: George Kameroff works on wiring a mock-up wall during Residential Electrical.

The students began in January with Construction Technology Core during the day and Construction Math in the evenings. In February they moved



Above: Students in CTT 135: Boiler Troubleshooting and Boiler Repair get to take field trips around Bethel to see commercial boiler rooms.

into Residential Electrical Level 1 in the daytime, and took University Communication at night. In March were Boiler Troubleshooting and Boiler Repair, and Residential Plumbing Level 1

during the day with Boilers, Burners, and Residential Oil Heaters taking place in the evenings.

The students will be taking Residential Carpentry Level 1 in April, and then students from this cohort will be joining up with students from the Fall 2011 cohort for Residential Carpentry Level 2 in May.

- Annie Pavilla
Apprenticeship & Programs Coord.

Right: Doghouses built by the students in Construction Technology Core for the local organization Bethel Friends of Canines.



D.A.R.E. Training Comes to Yuut Elitnaurviat

D.A.R.E., which stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education, is a police officer-led series of classroom lessons that teaches children from kindergarten through twelfth grade how to resist peer pressure and live productive drug and violence-free lives.

The training took place over fourteen back-to-back days of intensive training. A total of nine participants from the City of Bethel Police Department, the Alaska State Troopers, and the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) program, as well as trainers from the Alaska State Troopers, Arizona, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Yakutat

Police Department, and local VPSOs.

The training was a huge success, and Yuut Elitnaurviat was even given an award by Naomi Sweetman, the D.A.R.E. Alaska State Program Coordinator, for the condition of the facilities,



Above: Director of Operations Tiffany Tony receives an award on behalf of Yuut Elitnaurviat for the excellent condition of our facilities.

ties, the cleanliness of the dormitories, and the quality of the food. We at Yuut Elitnaurviat are glad they enjoyed their training, and welcome them to come back any time!

- Yuut Elitnaurviat Staff

Below: Some of the new D.A.R.E. officers pose for a picture with members of the community.



Yuut Driving Academy Begins CDL Testing

The Yuut Driving Academy (YDA) is now certified by the State of Alaska Division of Motor Vehicles as a Commercial Driver License (CDL) Third Party test and training facility. Until recently, drivers could hold a CDL license with an "off-highway" restriction, allowing them to obtain and utilize a Class A, B or C CDL without having to take the skills test. This off-highway license is now being phased out and those who hold a CDL with a #7 off-highway restriction are now required to pass the CDL Skills Test as outlined in the State of Alaska CDL manual.

The YDA is currently in the planning stages of offering a full CDL training course for those wishing to obtain their CDL. We hope to be able to offer these courses sometime this

year. The length and cost of the course is still to be determined, will tentatively be in the 4-6 week range. The course will include classroom instruction, hands on training, and behind the wheel experience.



Above: A Class B School Bus CDL applicant performs the pre-trip inspection portion of the CDL Skills Test under the eye of an examiner.

For more information regarding refresher training to prepare for your skills test or to schedule your CDL Skills

Test, contact Gerry Graves at (907) 543-0978 or (907) 545-5300. You may also reach Gerry via email at ggraves@yuut.org.

- Gerry Graves
YDA Driving Instructor

Below: A third of the CDL Skills Test involves performing various maneuvers, such as parallel parking, with a commercial vehicle.

Applicants also must perform a comprehensive pre-trip inspection and safely navigate a graded driving route around Bethel.



Career Guides Help Organize Career and Science Fairs in the Villages

Earlier in the year, Yuut Elitnaurviat partnered with Pilot Station High School for their 2012 Career Fair. The Fair introduced students and parents to post high school educational, and training programs. A highlight of the occasion was a presentation by Julie Clark, whose roots are from that area.



Left: Guest Speaker Environmental Scientist Julie Clark.

Julie is an environmental scientist with Bristol Bay Native Corporation.

She urged students to continue to learn and take advantage of the many opportunities. Pilot High School Counselor Chuck McNeilly orchestrated the event. His efforts were enhanced by Don Kelly and his gourmet approach to feeding people. Career Guides Val Byrnes and Orrie Reich shared the possible career path trainings offered by Yuut Elitnaurviat.

The Kwigillingok School Science Fair was another place of partnership. Career Guide, Orrie Reich, was invited to participate as a Science Fair judge, and to present careers and training opportunities for those interested in

science fields. This was the first Science Fair in a number of years for the school. There are many fledgling engineers, doctors, nurses, environmental lawyers, marine biologists, and turbine mechanics out there on the tundra.

- Career Guide Orrie Reich

Below: Career Guide Val Byrnes stands by the Yuut Elitnaurviat presentation table at Pilot Station HS.



Yuut Elitnaurviat - The People's Learning Center

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Sweeping Changes to GED Tests in 2014

Major changes to the tests of General Educational Development (GED) have been announced by the GED Testing Service. The changes will drastically alter the way a high school diploma by examination is earned. The all new program becomes effective in 2014 and applies to every state in the union.

The sweeping scope of the revisions means not everything is known or worked out yet says Kathy Hanson, Regional Director of the Bethel ABE program. What is known:

1) The current GED test series will be retired in 2014. Anyone

who has GED tested since 2002, and not finished, must complete testing before January 1, 2014. Incomplete examinees will lose the tests they've taken and will have to start over, Hanson said.

2) The new GED tests will be more difficult based on revised national standards called the Common Core State Standards. The standards require high school students, whether in a K-12 setting, or earning a diploma by examination through the GED program, to perform at a higher level in math, writing, science, social studies and reading. For example, math will include trigonometry and writ-

ing will require complex thinking skills;

3) There will be a total shift from pen and paper testing to computer based testing only at secure test centers. None currently operate in the Y-K Delta;

4) GED tests will cost \$40 each;

Hanson said the upcoming changes in the test series, content difficulty, access and cost means that K-12 and adult education programs will be more important than ever to prepare students for graduation after 2014.

- Janet Kaiser
Village ABE Coordinator

Yuut Elitnaurviat is a 501(c)(3) Corporation dedicated to providing training and education opportunities for the people of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Region. Yuut offers culturally relevant and regionally responsive training programs, in response to the suffering regional economy and high unemployment rate.

Building programs that combine intensive academics and on-the-job training, Yuut is the first regional vocational center to grace the tundra of Western Alaska.