



Yuut Elitnaurviat

PEOPLE'S LEARNING CENTER

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 • Orutsarmuit Native Council • UAF - Kuskokwim Campus • Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation



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The days are getting longer, and there have been plenty of events and projects that we at Yuut Elitnaurviat have been working on over the past three months:

- In support of the 2013 Kuskokwim 300 Dogsled Race, Yuut Elitnaurviat hosted musher Cim Smyth and his dog team. Cim was a wonderful guest and ended up coming in 5th in the 2013 K300, and 15th in the 2013 Iditarod.
- Yuut Elitnaurviat is always looking for more grant opportunities so that we can continue running programs for the residents of the Yukon-Kuskokwim

Delta. We are currently applying for a Youth First Grant to fund Career Guides, as well as an AWIB Grant to fund training in Advanced Electrical Fixture installation.

- There will be a Plumbing and Electrical Fixtures class taught at Yuut Elitnaurviat in the spring. The class is funded by a Denali Training Fund grant, and will focus on current employees of our various partner organizations.
- This was the first year that Yuut Elitnaurviat participated in the Pick. Click. Give. campaign. We truly appreciate

the numerous Alaskans who donated money from their PFD's to help further our mission of putting local people into local high-wage jobs.

- After a competitive bidding process, the dormitory construction contract was awarded to Bethel Services, Inc., a subsidiary of Bethel Native Corporation. The dormitory project is on schedule, and should be completed by October 2013.

- Jeremy Osborne
Director of Programs

Structural Certificate with a Welding Focus

Thanks to a partnership with the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP), Yuut Elitnaurviat (YE) has been able to offer a Structural Certificate with a Welding Focus program that has run from November 2012 to March 2013.

The idea of the training is to develop a group of regional welders, and satisfy Rodney P. Kinney and Associates (RPKA) employment needs for constructing the Eek Community Boardwalk project scheduled for Spring of 2013.

During the first portion of the training, students focused mainly on Carpentry projects, building doghouses and handicapped accessible ramps for local organi-



Above: The students building a footbridge for the Yuut Elitnaurviat Campus. This allows them to practice techniques they will need to build boardwalks in their villages.

zations. In the second portion of the training, the students began welding in the newly completed Yuut Elitnaurviat welding shop. The students welded in shifts so that they could get as much individual attention as possible from the instructor. They were welding seven days a week, often until 7 PM every night.

During the third portion of the training, the students refined their welding skills in preparation for their Welding Certification tests. The students performed sample welds which were sent off to Anchorage



to be tested. The students whose welds pass the test will earn a American Welding Society (AWS) approved certification. The students also constructed a metal footbridge which allowed them to learn and practice the techniques they will use when they go to work building boardwalks in local villages this summer.

- YE Communications Staff



Above: Students use grinders to prepare pieces of metal for further Vertical-Up Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW).

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A Convoy's Coming to Bethel

The Yuut Driving Academy is proud to announce the unveiling of the YK Delta's first Commercial Driving School. Those with a desire to enhance their employment skills will be able to train to receive a Class A CDL, opening the doors to a successful future in the trucking industry. Holders of a Class A CDL can also drive Class B vehicles; successful completers can also drive Dump Trucks, Water and Sewer Trucks, and Fuel Trucks after passing further written requirements.

Qualified individuals must have possessed a Class D license for a minimum of one year, have never been convicted of DUI or DWI, be at least 19 years of age for intrastate licensing and 21 for interstate licensing. They must be able to read and speak the English language sufficiently to communicate with the general public. They must also be physically qualified to drive a commercial vehicle in accordance with 49 CFR (code of Federal Regulations) Part 391, Subpart E, as well

as meet admission requirements for the Yuut Driving Academy.

Prior to being admitted for enrollment, an applicant must complete a DOT (Department of Transportation) Physical and DOT drug screen as well as obtain a Class A instruction permit. CDL manuals are available at the Yuut Driving Academy as well as the DMV. Class sizes will be limited in size to ensure a high quality of instruction and a higher degree of one on one instruction between student and the instructor.



Above: The Yuut Driving Academy will be shipping a Class A vehicle like the one pictured above to Bethel on the first barge of the season.



emy as well as the DMV. Class sizes will be limited in size to ensure a high quality of instruction and a higher degree of one on one instruction between student and the instructor.

Yuut Driving Academy will begin accepting applications soon, on a first come first serve basis, as individuals qualify for enrollment, and will require a \$2,000 deposit towards the tuition.

In the meantime, the Yuut Driving Academy is continuing to offer Class D Road Testing and Behind-the-wheel lessons, Winter Driving Lessons, Learner's Permit Classes, Defensive Driving Classes and CDL Road Testing.

For more information and an application, contact Gerry Graves at 907-543-0978, email Gerry at ggraves@yuut.org or visit our website at www.yuut.org

- Gerry Graves
Driving Instructor



ing Law Enforcement Officers.

Yuut Elitnaurviat is excited about its increased role in maintaining the safety of the YK Delta and is looking forward to hosting more Public Safety Training in the future. We are excited about the development of this partnership and the opportunities it will bring to the people of the region.

- Yuut Elitnaurviat Communications Staff



Above: Students in the Yuut Elitnaurviat V.P.O./T.P.O. Academies begin every day with calisthenics.

Rural Law Enforcement Training

Even though we have not had any Public Safety training classes this quarter, there are numerous Law Enforcement training opportunities starting in April.

Basic Village Police Officer/Tribal Police Officer (VPO/TPO) Academy #26 is scheduled to run from May 25 to June 7, 2013. Applicants must be a minimum of nineteen years old and must be able to pass a limited background check. Students will learn First Aid/CPR, Defensive

Tactics, Ethics, Use of Force, Fire Response, and other law enforcement subjects. Interested parties should contact the Alaska State Troopers by calling 907-269-5511 (main) or 907-334-2528 (direct).



Above: Defensive Tactics are an important part of a Law Enforcement Officer's Training.

Starting in April, the State of Alaska will be moving eight weeks of its Rural Law Enforcement Training (RLET) from the Public Safety Training Academy in Sitka, Alaska to the Yuut Elitnaurviat training facility in Bethel, Alaska. There will be RLET training going on both in April and in May, and participation is restricted to VPSO or exist-



Above: Students at the Yuut Elitnaurviat V.P.O./T.P.O. Academies are trained in Rural Fire Protection techniques.

The Career Guide News

The holiday season has come and gone in the a blink of an eye. Since January, our Career Guides have been traveling to multiple villages to deliver presentations, and hopefully help folks receive their Alaska Learner's Permits. In Bethel, they have been putting on Resume/Interview workshops, and helping people look for employment opportunities close to home. Our two career guides Nick



Above: Career Guide Eric Castellano travelled up to Akiachak by snowmachine in order to deliver a presentation to people in the village.

Kwiek, and Eric Castellano are our boots on the ground when it comes to working in the villages. Over this quarter they traveled to Aniak, Akiachak, Kalskag, Hooper Bay, Mountain Village, Napakiak, Nunam Iqua, and Pilot Station. Be sure to keep an eye out for Nick and Eric in your village, and be sure to sign up for the Learner's Permit class.

Our Career Guides and other Yuut staff were invited to set up a table display at the YK-Delta Job Fair on March 15. The event took place in Bethel at the Cultural Center, and was a great opportunity to pull people and organizations together with mutual goal of gainful employment. The event was very successful, and many potential students came by the Yuut Elitnaurviat table to inquire about both current and upcoming training opportunities.

We encourage you to come to Yuut Elitnaurviat and visit us here in the Career Guide office. We can sit down together



and see if we can help you find the career you're looking for. You can also set up an appointment by calling 907-543-0999 and asking to speak to a career guide Monday through Friday from 8AM to 5PM. You can also email one of the Career Guides at ecastellano@yuut.org or nkwiek@yuut.org

Thanks and we hope to see you soon.
- Eric Castellano
Career Guide



Above: Career Guide Nick Kwiek giving a presentation to students during a trip to Aniak and Kalskag

Certified Nurse's Aide (CNA)

With the new Skilled Nursing Center scheduled to open in the fall, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC) is going to have a need for numerous Certified Nurse's Aides (CNAs).

As part of our efforts to get local people local jobs, Yuut Elitnaurviat hosted another CNA training this spring. CNAs are an important part of the medical profession. They typically assist patients in tasks such as bathing, eating, or dressing. All



Above: CNA Students Tiffany Beaver (left) and Beatrice Sosa (right) practice measuring each other's blood pressure.



The CNA students from Left to Right: Cheryl Miller, Alice Tobeluk-Kiunya, Debbie Rushing, Tiffany Beaver, Beatrice Sosa, and Cynthia Pete.

six students were from Bethel and are being trained to work at the new YKHC Assisted Living Center. The class schedule consisted of an intense six day week, Monday through Saturday from 8am-5pm. After a final exam, class concluded with a small graduation on March 30th.

Two instructors came from partner organization AVTEC to teach the students. The first few weeks consisted of classroom study, and the second half focused on clinical rotations at YKHC. During rota-



tions, the CNA students had an opportunity to practice and hone the skills they had learned in the classroom.

Even though their training is complete, the students now have to take an Alaska Board of Nursing exam. After they pass this exam, they will be certified nursing assistants and ready to serve the patients at the YK Assisted Living Center. Yuut Elitnaurviat is happy to have partnered with AVTEC and YKHC in putting on this training, and the hope is to do it again this summer, if not sooner.

- Charlotte Gruber
Apprenticeship & Programs Coordinator



Above: AVTEC CNA instructor Lisa Wilke instructing students on proper practice.



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Preparing Local Workers for Local High-Wage Jobs For the Past Ten Years

Intensive Math/Writing Workshops



The Adult Basic Education (ABE) Center has resumed its GED Intensive Workshops in Writing and Math, targeted at students in Bethel and the villages who need special help preparing for their Writing and Math GED tests.

In the first week of February, Career Guide/ABE Facilitator Nick Kwiek taught a Math Intensive for fifteen students. Eleven passed the test and four of those graduated. The students who did not pass were invited back for another intensive which took place later on in the year.

Former Career Guide Orrie Reich returned in the first week of March to teach a Writing Intensive for eleven students; ten passed and two students graduated. Two weeks later, Nick taught another Math Intensive for eleven students. Six passed, one of whom graduated, and five will return in the first week of April for another week of practice before they are ready to pass the test.

April will see two Math Intensives and one Writing Intensive; there are more in the works for May and on into the summer and fall. Orrie, Nick, and the staff of the ABE Center have expressed their commitment to helping as many students as possible to graduate before the big

changes scheduled for the end of 2013. Starting January 2, 2014, the current GED test used in the State of Alaska will be updated, and all previous scores will be lost. Anyone who did not complete the current tests will have to start over with the newer curriculum. If you are working on your GED and are missing your Writing or Math test, contact the Bethel ABE Center and see if a GED Intensive Workshop is the right option for you.

- Nick Kwiek
Career Guide/ABE Facilitator



Above: Students in the GED Math and Writing Intensives were brought into Bethel from various villages around the YK Delta for the sole aim of passing the math and writing portions of the test.

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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.