



Yuut Elitnaurviat

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

Message From Yuut Elitnaurviat

*Our Mission is to
prepare local people
for local high wage
jobs*

One of the comments we get most often concerning Yuut Elitnaurviat - The People's Learning Center, is that people don't always know what we're doing, and what programs and services we offer. To this end, we are attempting to better distribute copies of our newsletter to the residents of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region. If you have questions, or want to know more about us, check us out online at www.yuut.org; "Like" us on Facebook; or give us a call at (907) 543-0999. We look forward to hearing from you!

- Jeremy Osborne, Director of Programs

New Faces at the Career Corner



Above: Career Guide Val working with Keisha Steven

In August 2011, Yuut Elitnaurviat welcomed Valerie Byrnes, Brock Hampton and Orianna Reich to join the Career Guide Department. The mission of the Yuut Elitnaurviat Career Guide Department is to promote gainful and



Above: Career Guide Orrie working with Luella Igkurak

successful employment in high demand jobs by providing career guidance services and activities to unemployed and underemployed youth and adults living in Bethel and the surrounding

villages of the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta.

Valerie Byrnes: Born and raised in Nebraska, Valerie graduated from Trinity International University on Chicago's North Shore where she met her husband, Christopher. They have three children, Aidan (14), Samara (10), and Eliana (7).

Brock Hampton: Originally from Georgia,



Above: Career Guide Brock working with Kaylun Mute

Brock's main goal in life is to live, love, and grow. He loves helping others even when it is at the expense of himself. Give him a stick and a rock and he'll find a way to make it into something useful..

Orianna Reich senses that she was spawned in the Y-K Delta. No matter where she goes, there is always the pull of that tundra, and the billions of drops in the "Mother" Kuskokwim that impels her back. She thinks that life abounds with beauty, is ridden with absurdity, and always hopes to weave it all together into some sort of meaning.

- Yuut Career Guide Department

Our Partners

- Alaska National Guard
- Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP)
- AVCP Regional Housing Authority
- Bethel Community Services Foundation
- Calista Corporation
- City of Bethel
- Orutsarmuit Native Council
- Lower Kuskokwim School District
- University of Alaska Fairbanks - Kuskokwim Campus
- Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation

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Yuut Driving Academy

Driving to Success in Southwest Alaska

The Yuut Driving Academy is Western Alaska's only State-Certified Driving School. The Driving Academy program



Left: **Ronald Egoak Jr. (left) and Driving Instructor Gerry Graves (right)**

we offer comprises up to 16 hours of instruction, and includes the DMV Road Test, Winter Driving lesson, the Defensive Driving Course and eight one hour behind the wheel lessons. These lessons teach the driver the various skills required to pass the DMV road test, and to operate a motor vehicle safely. The cost of the

academy, \$425, is nearly half of a similar program in Anchorage. Scholarships help bring the cost of the Driving Academy down to \$125, which is less than a third of the regular price. The fee can be paid by the applicant, a native organization, or a similar entity. Scholarships are still available, and interested parties are encouraged to apply. Scholarships are given to applicants who are willing to have a free meeting with one of the Yuut Career Guides, and meet one of the following criteria: the applicant has to either be looking for a job that requires a Driver License, have been offered a job if they get their Driver License, need a Driver License to maintain employment, or need a Driver License to earn a promotion. Two recent scholarship recipients, Ronald Egoak Jr. and Jacquelyn Curavo are just a sample of our many

scholarship recipients who have successfully completed the Yuut Driving Academy. For those who do not meet the scholarship requirements, but still want to learn how to drive, the regular cost of the program is \$425, which is still nearly half the price one would pay in Anchorage for a similar program.

- Gerry Graves



Above: **Jacquelyn Curavo (left) and Driving Instructor Gerry Graves (right)**

News From the DHAT Program



Above: **Dr. Robert Allen and DHAT students Jana Schuerch and Shannon Hardy at the YKHC Dental Clinic.**

Through a partnership with the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC) the Yuut Elitnaurviat Dental Training Clinic Dental Health Aide Therapy (DHAT) students are at the YKHC Dental Clinic for five weeks this year. While at YKHC, the DHAT students will be available to provide dental care for walk-in/ emergency patients. This is a valuable experience for the DHAT students as they will be treating patients with urgent dental care needs after they graduate and return to their home clinics. While rotating through the YKHC Dental Clinic the students are supervised by Dr. Robert Allen. The following is how DHAT student Trisha Patton from Napakiak/ Bethel described her experience at YKHC.

My experience at YKHC was very beneficial. During my first days there I felt very welcome by the staff and the dental environment was friendly. I started off very slow as I was getting familiar with everything, such as computer charting, the operatories, and the clinic format, but my speed and comfort level increased throughout the week. The pace at the clinic made me feel independent as a provider and it was nice having my own dental assistant. My experience allowed me to get a better idea of what working at YKHC is going to be like after graduation.

This is the third year that the DHAT students have rotated through the YKHC Dental Clinic and as in years past both the YKHC Dental Clinic and the DHAT students benefit from this collaboration.

- DHAT

ABE Center Welcomes New Students

People are flocking to the Bethel ABE Center this fall. Perhaps they're encouraged and energized by the seventy-one individuals who earned their high school diplomas through the GED program last year. The graduates came from 22 villages and Bethel.

Located at Yuut Elitnaurviat, the Bethel ABE Center re-opened in early September. Kathy Hanson, Regional Director, said she's pleased to see a large number of returning students, along with many new faces. Kathy and Betsy Taguchi, Instructor, are teaching Math, Social Studies, and Writing this fall. The popular Distance Math class is being offered again on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

Most students are studying for an accredited high school diploma by examination through the GED program. Others seek academic assessment (TABE testing) and/or basic academic skill building for employment or training needs.



Above: Recent Graduate Nikki Worm and others at a graduation ceremony.

An open enrollment policy allows students to start the adult education program at any time during the September–May school year; however, Kathy urges starting early in the year to ensure goals are met. Starting later, say, in March and April means less time to make progress before the summer closure. The program is funded for nine months a year and operates on the same schedule as Kuskokwim Campus, with a semester break at Christmas and a Spring Break in March.

The Center is open Monday through



Above: Joe and Carey Atchak and son during Graduation in May, 2011

Thursday from 9 AM to 4 PM and on Friday from 9 AM to noon.

Outreach for adult education service beyond Bethel got a surprising and welcome boost when a federal Alaska Native Education (ANE) grant was awarded to Yuut Elitnaurviat in August, 2011. The three year grant will pay for adult basic education /GED programs at 12 sites for three years. Several of these sites are already in operation, funded in the past solely by our partner organization AVCP. However, a number of them will now continue with financial support from the new ANE grant. AVCP will continue their commitment to adult basic education with service

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to four compact villages.

The sites selected for service are:

*Akiachak, Chevak, Emmonak, *Hooper Bay, Kalskag (by AVCP)*Kasigluk, *Kwethluk, *Napakiak, *Quinhagak, Saint Marys, Scammon Bay (by AVCP), Toksook Bay, Tuluksak (by AVCP), Tundra Center in Bethel, *Tuntutuliak. (*denotes former AVCP now ANE site.)

Start up activity for the new program sites is underway. The goal is to have them operating as early as November.

Kathy Hanson is the Project Director for the ANE grant. She was speechless when she learned of the award and says it will maintain, and even increase, service as partner agency AVCP and other organizations are seeing a decrease in federal funds. Hanson declared the ANE award to Yuut Elitnaurviat for adult basic education is very well timed.

- Janet Kaiser, ABE Village Coordinator

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Yuut Elitnaurviat - The People's Learning Center

Certificate in Construction and Maintenance Graduates

On August 31st, 2011 Yuut Elitnaurviat held a ceremony to celebrate the achievements of the three students who received the Yuut Elitnaurviat Certificate in Construction and Maintenance: Clarisse Jensen, Max Kohl, and James Martz.

Max Kohl is an Electrical Apprentice at Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC), Clarisse Jensen is a Plumbing Apprentice at YKHC, and James Martz is employed as a Facilities Technician at Yuut Elitnaurviat.

Ryan Samson received his certificate on October 7th, 2011 and is currently employed by YKHC as a carpenter on the new assisted living center that is being built.

Our Construction classes utilize the National Center for Construction Education and Research's curriculum. Our current Certificate program requires a total of 845 hours of construction related training and two university humanities classes. Interested students should check the detailed program requirements on www.yuut.org or call us at (907) 543-0999 for more information.

- Apprenticeship and Programs Coordinator



From Left to Right: *Jeremy Osborne, James Martz, Dennis Dishon, Clarisse Jensen, Kurt Kuhne, Max Kohl*



Above: *Certificate recipient Ryan Samson*



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.