



# 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

## Yuut Elitnaurviat Goes Green!

Alternative Energy Edition

Volume 4, Issue 1

September 30, 2012

On September 21st, 2012 Yuut Elitnaurviat (YE) became the first Rural Training Center in the State of Alaska, and the first organization in Bethel to use both Wind and Solar Power to offset their electricity costs.

We were able to install the alternative energy systems on campus as a result of a capital projects grant from the US Department of Education, Alaska Native Education. YE designed the current system after working with the Cold Climate



Above: Workers with Bering Straits Development Company out of Nome tightening the blades on Wind Turbine #2.

Housing Research Center in Fairbanks. We worked with Bethel Utilities Corporation (BUC) from the start to make sure that the system that we created could be supported by their infrastructure. The project bid was awarded to Bering Straits Development Company out of Nome.

The wind turbines are capable of generating 10 kilowatts of power in a 26-27 mile per hour wind. The 5 solar assemblies each have 9 panels and the total 45 panel array is capable of generating 10 kilowatts. Together this should offset 5% to 8% of the annual electrical needs of the YE Campus.

YE has been very interested in supporting (through training) all of the new alternative energy systems and projects that are sprouting up in our region. In addition to making our buildings more sustainable, we can also use the systems for training on subjects such as tower climbing, generator maintenance, and electrical train-

ing on inverters and interties to a power grid.

We are excited to have these alternative energy systems in place, and we will continue looking at ways to conserve energy on our campus.

Kurt Kuhne, Executive Director



Above: The Yuut Elitnaurviat Five Stand Solar Array with two of the wind turbines visible in the background.

## Welcome New RANSEP Students!

This semester RANSEP has added ten new students to the four returning seniors participating in the program. The students are coming from the villages to take advanced math and science classes which will better prepare them for college. During their stay in Bethel, they have participated in a week-long experiential camp at Donlin Gold Mine, as well as activities ranging from recitation study groups to scavenger hunts.

Several of the students are participating in sports during their stay in Bethel. These students are able to practice with the team at BRHS but still able to compete for their schools in the village. Several of the students are receiving straight A's and maintaining their desire to attend college after high school.

This is the largest group that we have

had in the RANSEP program, and we attribute these numbers to positive referrals from both past students and from host parents.

- Brock Hampton  
College Readiness Coordinator



Above: RANSEP students don't just gain collegiate success skills while in Bethel, they also form friendships with fellow students and host families.



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# Don't Be Left Out in the Cold!

Are you tired of taking taxis everywhere? Our cold winter weather is right around the corner, but you still have time to earn your Alaska Driver's License and not be left out in the cold. Maybe you need a license in order to apply for that job you have always wanted, or maybe you can get a promotion if you get your Driver License. Whatever your situation is, the Yuut Driving Academy (the only State Certified Driving School in Western Alaska) can help you earn your Driver License now.

The Yuut Driving Academy is proud to offer for a limited time, scholarships to qualified individuals for the Driving Academy Program. The Driving Academy offers up to eight hours of private one on one professional driving instruction, including the official State of Alaska DMV Road Test. Also included in the price is up to eight hours of classroom Defensive Driving Instruction. A one hour Winter Driving lesson where the student will

learn the proper driving techniques to operate a vehicle safely during our cold winter months here in Western Alaska is included in the eight hours of lessons.

Recent Driving Academy Graduates, Magdalline John, who works at AVCP in Bethel and Ana Sebastian a student at Bethel Regional High School, earned



**Above: The Yuut Driving Academy is offering Commercial Driver License Road Skills Testing which will not be available at the Bethel Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) until the Spring of 2013.**

# D.A.R.E. Officer Training Class

This August Yuut Elitnaurviat hosted the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Officer Training which was put on by the State of Alaska Department of Public Safety. D.A.R.E. 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.



**Above: Yuut Elitnaurviat Executive Director Kurt Kuhne (left) receiving an award from AK Public Safety Commissioner Joseph Masters (middle) and D.A.R.E. Director of Training Naomi Sweetman (right).**

The training took place over twelve back-to-back days of intensive training from August 6th to the 17th. A total of thirteen participants attended from the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP), Bristol Bay Native Association, Kawerak, Inc., Kodiak Area Native Association, the Petersburg Police Department, the St. Paul Police Department, and the St. Paul Tribal Enforcement.

The trainers came from all over the nation, and included people from the Alaska State Troopers, the Arizona Police Department, the Association of Village Council Presidents, the Bethel Police Department, Wisconsin D.A.R.E., and the Yakutat Police Department.

The training was a huge success, and Yuut Elitnaurviat was even given an award by Naomi Sweetman, the Director of Training, and Joseph Masters, the Commissioner for the Alaska Department of Public Safety, in recognition of the condition of our facilities, the cleanliness of our dormitories, and the quality of our



their Alaska Driver Licenses.

Our mission is to help as many people in the YK Delta region earn their Alaska Drivers license, which is a necessity in gaining employment for most employer's, as they drive to success in Southwest Alaska.

We are also doing Commercial Driver License (CDL) Road Skills Testing for Class A, B, and C Licenses. It is smarter to take your CDL Road Skills Test now while the weather is nice, as opposed to this winter when it will be freezing.

For more information about the Yuut Driving Academy and to schedule your lessons or road test, contact Gerry Graves, Driving Instructor, at (907) 543-0978 or (907) 545-5300, or via email: [ggraves@yuut.org](mailto:ggraves@yuut.org).

Gerry Graves, Driving Instructor



food. We at Yuut Elitnaurviat are glad they enjoyed their training, and it never hurts to have a bunch of law enforcement officers staying on campus. Both the Alaska Dept. of Public Safety and the D.A.R.E. program are welcome back any time!

- Yuut Elitnaurviat Program Staff



**Above: Members of the D.A.R.E. Officer Training Class of August 6-17 pose for pictures with their instructors, and their Daren the Lion stuffed animals. The training includes solo presentations before groups of children at local schools.**

# The Career Guide News

The Career Guides have taken to the land, river, and air this quarter to make contact with the various villages in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta (YK Delta).

Information regarding programs at Yuut Elitnaurviat was left in both the Tribal, and City Offices in various YK Delta Villages. The Yuut Elitnaurviat Employability Skills presentation, which includes the Yuut Driving Academy's Permit Class and the State of Alaska's written test were administered all over the YK Delta. This



Above: Students in Tununak attending Career Guide Ori Reich's presentation on Employability Skills

quarter, the three Career Guides traveled to Hooper Bay, Kongiganak, Sleetmute and Tununak on their own, and Career Guide Eric Castellano traveled to Aniak, Upper Kalskag, Lower Kalskag, and Red Devil in partnership with the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation's Office of Environmental Health.

Our goal of employment is further enhanced with a pilot course in: "soft skills on the job" or people skills. The course is currently being piloted for the Adult Basic Education students right here at Yuut Elitnaurviat, and utilizes Dr. Steve Parese's "Workin' it Out" curriculum.

It is one thing to come up with a resume and do an interview, but oftentimes the real challenge can be working daily as a member of a team. Workplace conflict often leads to unemployment because people have not learned how to communicate effectively within the workplace. We would like to eventually offer this training to local employers to help with local turnover. Many times, people with



very advanced skill sets are ineffective in their careers and workplaces because of their inability to work with other people. Stay tuned for our assessment of the pilot program.

- The Yuut Elitnaurviat Career Guide Staff



Above: Career Guide Eric Castellano (left) and YKHC employee Ryan Autenrieth (right) standing with a "Kids Don't Float" station being delivered along with Career Guide Services to a YK Delta Village.

# New DHAT Students Arrive

In July 2012, the fifth class of Dental Health Aide Therapy (DHAT) students started working at the Yuut Elitnaurviat Dental Training Clinic (YEDTC). The students are Melanie Kerschner from Bernville, Pennsylvania, sponsored by the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation; Elsie Pelowook from Savoonga, sponsored by the Norton Sound Health Corporation; Cora Roberts from Hoonah and Savannah Bonorden from Sitka, both



Above: The Fifth Class of Dental Health Aide Therapy (DHAT) Students. From left to right: Cora Roberts, Melanie Kerschner, Savannah Bonorden, and Elsie Pelowook.

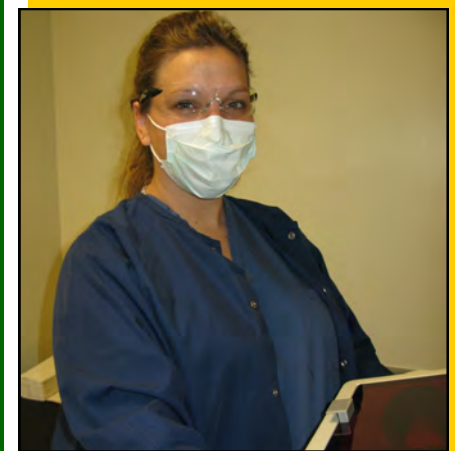
sponsored by the SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium.

During their time at the YEDTC, students will focus on participating in a variety of community prevention activities and clinical experiences. After completing their first quarter at the YEDTC the students have been able to reflect on their experiences. In September, two of the students, Melanie and Cora, traveled to the community of Pilot Station to provide dental services. Melanie Kerschner stated, "Village trips are challenging because of the long hours and leaving your family, but they are also rewarding. Sometimes it is hard to say goodbye at the end of the week. It touches my heart to see everyone rushing to the clinic when the dental team arrives and I know I am the one who can help." Elsie Pelowook enjoys "being able to provide dental care to the friendly, welcoming community of Bethel." Savannah said, "My experience in Bethel has been great so far. I am proud to call myself a Dental Health Aide Therapist."



The Yuut Elitnaurviat Dental Training Clinic is currently accepting new patients. The clinic is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM. If you would like to schedule an appointment, please call 543-0987.

- DHAT Program



Above: DHAT Student Melanie Kerschner developing X-Rays in the Yuut Elitnaurviat Dental Training Clinic.

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

### YK Delta Apprenticeships



The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Apprenticeship Program is the only Federally registered Apprenticeship program in our region. It is jointly owned by the Association of Village Council Presidents, Regional Housing Association (AVCP, RHA) and the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC) and is coordinated by Yuut Elitnaurviat (YE).



Above: George Kameroff received his Yuut Elitnaurviat Certificate in Construction and Maintenance back in May 2012, and is now working as an Electrical Apprentice for Chulista up at the Donlin Gold Mine Site.

According to the State of Alaska Website, Apprenticeship programs allow participants to “earn while they learn” with a paycheck and benefits. As apprentice skill levels increase, by learning a trade in both a classroom and on a job site, wages increase progressively. After completing an apprenticeship, journey-level status and certificate are recognized nationally. Apprenticeship connects job seekers looking to obtain new skills and employers looking for trained and qualified workers.

Out of the nine students receiving the Yuut Elitnaurviat Certificate in Construction and Maintenance this May, four have entered into Federal Construction Trades Apprenticeships. George Kameroff is an Electrical Apprentice with Chulista; Travis Manchuak is an Electrical Apprentice with YKHC; George Mark is an Plumbing Apprentice with YKHC, and Eddie Stanley Jr. is an Electrical Apprentice with Eddie’s Electric.

We are glad that we could not only train these students for high wage local jobs, but that we could also provide qualified workers to our partner organizations.

Jeremy Osborne, Director of Programs

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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.**