

Yuut Elitnaurviat

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

REPORT TO THE PEOPLE—FISCAL YEAR 2024

480 Individual Students Served

744 Services given in Fiscal Year 2024
Volume 13, Issue 1



Executive Director
Michael J. Hoffman

We at Yuut Elitnaurviat are confident that we have turned a corner in workforce development since the Covid-19 issues. We have more students returning to our programs with goals in mind to improve the quality of life for themselves, their families and communities. One of the hurdles that we need to address in our region is our high school graduation rates. All of our programs require a high school diploma or GED to enroll. While we offer the GED Program here at Yuut, often times it is hard for adults to make the time commitment to the program. With the cost of living in our Region and around

the State of Alaska our people need high paying jobs to pay for their homes, health and food. So, we at Yuut would like to reach out to all of people of the Region to help encourage our young people stay in school and earn their high school diploma.

We have been under construction for about a year to complete the TESS building to ensure that we have adequate space for our classes. In August when it is completed the whole lower level will be the KLA High School and half of the 2nd floor will be home to the ANSEP Program. Not only will the TESS building be expanded but our new shop will be completed so that our students will be able to build homes out of the weather during our Construction Trades Program. We are proud of our CNA (Certified Nursing Aide) and our LPN (Licensed Practical Nursing) Programs that we partner with APU (Alaska Pacific University). Our AMT (Aviation Maintenance Technician) School is finishing up their 3rd cohort and will be starting the 4th in September. We have been busy with our Construction Trades classes along with welding. We are very close to opening back up our CDL driving classes after changes in Federal Regulations. We are very proud of our Public Safety graduates and we are now starting to partner with the State of Alaska to bring more intensive and diverse law enforcement training to the region.

Our partner organizations who serve on the board here at Yuut have worked very hard in helping us navigate through a lot of the issues to complete the construction on our campus. Our Federal Congressional Delegation along with the State Legislature has helped us clear some major road blocks that were in our way. I would also like to thank Alaska Airlines, Alaska Pacific University, USDA, BIA and the First National Bank of Alaska for all their help to ensure success for all of the Yuut programs.



KLA at Yuut— A Partnership 25 years in the Making

On November 3, 2015 the old Kilbuck Elementary School in Bethel tragically burned to the ground. Thankfully no one was injured, but the fire displaced the two schools that occupied the building; The Ayaprun Immersion School and The Kuskokwim Learning Academy (KLA).

Yuut & LKSD met before the fire was even fully extinguished to ensure the KLA students had a new home here on the Yuut Campus. Students arrived within hours in their pajamas, the only clothes they still had, and classes resumed within days. Restaurants like Snack Shack showed up with cheeseburgers for the kids, community members generously donated clothing & toiletries, GCI donated phones so that the kids could call home and assure their families they were safe.

In the subsequent years KLA has occupied 5 classrooms in one wing of Yuut's TESS building. To say it has been cramped is an understatement. A closet was turned into an office, storage has been non-existent, but the thing about KLA staff and students is that resilience is their super power. They persevered and made the best out of a less than ideal situation. What many people may not realize is that KLA was formerly known as The Bethel Alternative Boarding School (BABS). Back in 2000-2001 when Yuut Elitnaurviat was a great idea being planned by local leaders, the original vision was that BABS would move onto the Yuut Campus and be where secondary students could finish high school while working on vocational certificates. The funding to build Yuut took many more years than originally anticipated. By 2009, when our campus was ready, KLA/BABS had already moved into the Kilbuck Building and our paths diverged. The Kilbuck fire inadvertently brought KLA back to Yuut where they should have been all along.

Since 2015 Yuut and LKSD have worked tirelessly to expand the Yuut Campus to better accommodate KLA. It has been a long road, but in the summer of 2023 construction finally got underway and in August of 2024 KLA is getting the school they deserve. State of the art classrooms, a library, adequate administrative space, all of it.

Yuut Staff and our Board are thrilled to announce to the world that the Kuskokwim Learning Academy is home.





ANSEP Acceleration at Yuut– Why have one Highschool when we can have two?



In January 2024, Yuut became aware that the Alaska Natives in Engineering Program's Bethel Acceleration Academy (ANSEP Acceleration) had outgrown its space. The perk of being a small independent grassroots organization is that when a need or opportunity is identified, we can pivot and help. It is why we were created.

ANSEP has been around for decades helping Alaska Natives achieve success in STEM degree programs with the University of Alaska. In the early 2000s ANSEP began delivering preparatory programs to Middle and High School students to expose youth to STEM and to ensure those interested were well prepared for university rigor. In 2009 ANSEP started dual enrolment programs for high school students, but they were only available to students on the road system who could commute to campus. In the fall of 2021 ANSEP partnered with LKSD to begin a Bethel-based Acceleration Program where students in the YK Delta earn both high school and college credits simultaneously. The initial cohort was only 12 students, but its success resulted in ever increasing interest and enrollment. In the Fall of 2024 50+ students will be enrolled, making Bethel the largest site second only to Anchorage.



ANSEP
ALASKA
NATIVE
SCIENCE &
ENGINEERING
PROGRAM

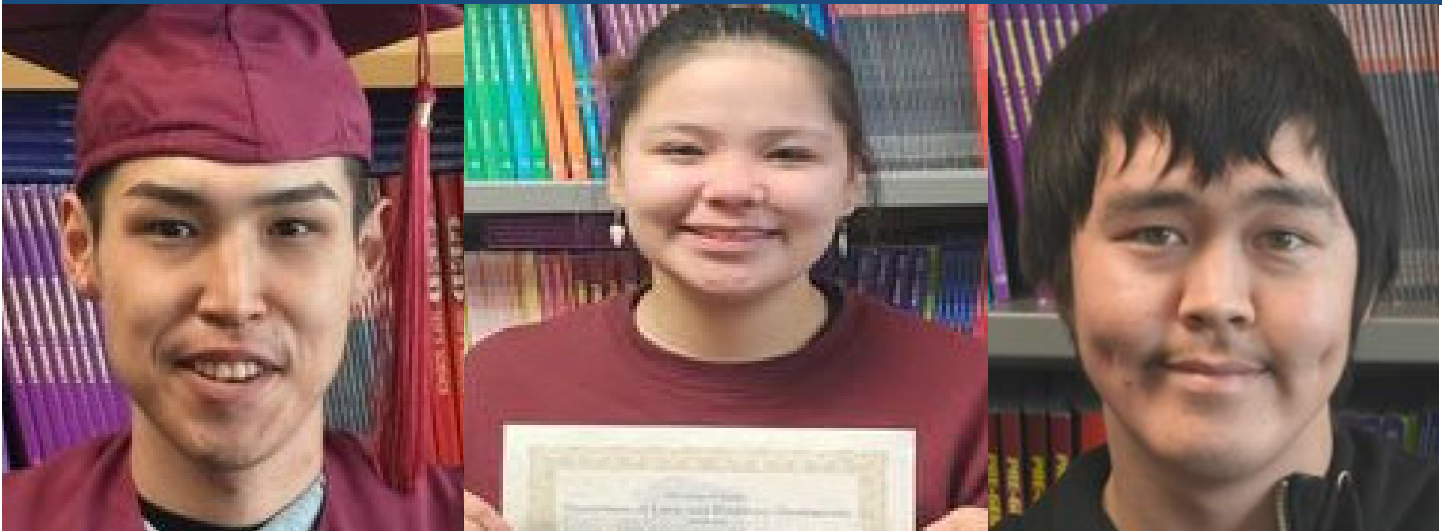
Yuut has partnered with ANSEP a few times over the years on various initiatives including the early iterations of the LKSD Ready Programs. When we spoke with ANSEP and mentioned making space on our campus maybe might be possible in January 2024, the idea was well received and just felt "right". Of course they should be here. Within days we started hearing how excited the kids & parents were at the prospect. It became obvious we needed to make it happen.

We were not sure we could make things happen on ANSEP's timeline, but sometimes the stars align and after meeting with architects, contractors, funders and leadership the decision was made to renovate space and just make it happen. ANSEP Acceleration Staff and Students will be joining us at Yuut in late August 2024 where they will have a permanent home and a dedicated wing of our TESS Building. It has been a bit of a whirlwind romance, but Yuut's Staff and Board is excited to host ANSEP here on our campus.





Alaska Adult Education Program



The Yuut ABE Program served over 300 students working on improving their skills to earn their diploma through GED Testing, skills improvement to enter training programs across the state and 125+ students had the Tests of Adult Basic Education (TABE) scored for scholarship and entrance requirements for secondary training programs.

Remote studies and testing available!

Individuals pursuing their GED can study and test from their communities outside of Bethel.

Email ged@yuut.org or call (907) 543-0951 to get started!

Over 400 Services given in FY24
92% of our Adult Education students were Alaska Native or American Indian



The Bethel Regional ABE Program at Yuut Elitnaurviat offers free tutoring and testing for the GED exam and houses the only PearsonVue testing center in the YK Delta. This year, 6 students earned their GED!



Construction Trades Program



39 Services given in FY24
100% of our Construction
Trades Students were Alaska
Native or American Indian

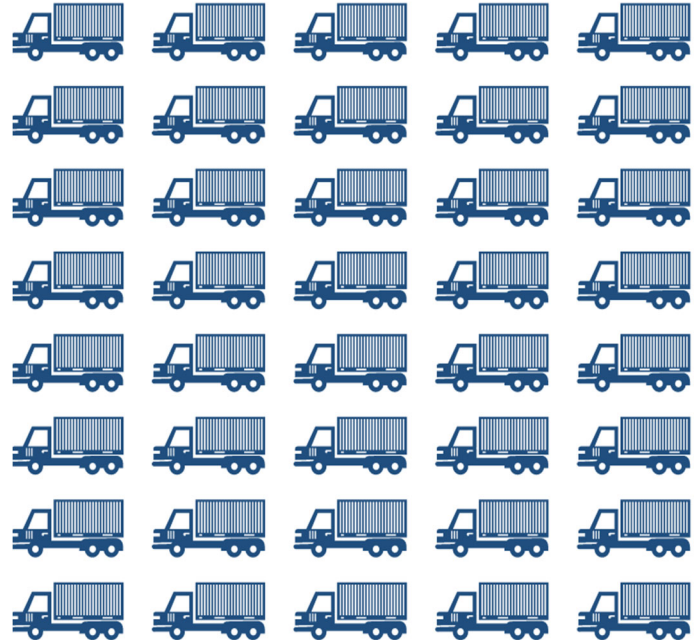


In partnership with AVCP, Yuut was able to host several construction trades trainings including two welding certification trainings, a toy-stove trouble shooting class and a construction trades class.



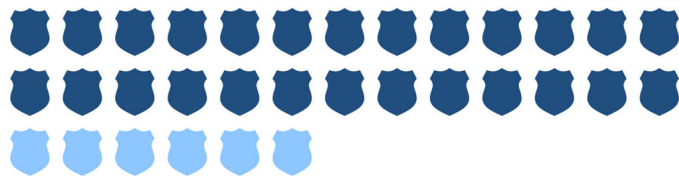
Driver Education Program

Yuut's Driver Education program served 39 participants in FY24, of which 91% were Alaska Native or American Indian. Program participants have the option to use a Yuut vehicle, so anyone with or without a vehicle can take their road test locally.



Public Safety Program

Yuut Elitnaurviat's Public Safety program is successful due to our partnerships with AVCP, the Bethel Police Department, the Alaska Police Standards Council, and the State of Alaska Department of Public Safety.



■ AN/AI (81.25%) ■ All other races (18.75%)

12 Services given in FY24
92% of our Public Safety students were Alaska Native or American Indian



Healthcare Training Program

Yuut Elitnaurviat's Healthcare Training program is successful due to our partnerships with YKHC and the State of Alaska Board of Nursing. Yuut was able to facilitate two Certified Nurse Aide Trainings in FY24, with another class set to start in September 2024. All of the students were Alaska Native.



Aviation Maintenance Program



4 Services given in FY24

100% of our Aviation Maintenance Technician students are Alaska Native

Yuut Elitnaurviat's first cohort of Aviation Maintenance Technicians is set to graduate in August 2024, all 4 students are expected to complete their FAA written, oral, and practical exams. This is the third cohort of A&P Mechanics trained in rural Alaska.



■ AN/AI (100%)



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Preparing Local Workers for Local High-Wage Jobs

How do I get involved in all this training?



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