



# **Working Together for Workforce Development**

Arth Brown III, Dean of Vocational Ed. & Workforce Dev.

Regions IX & X OAF Tribal TANF Conference

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Suquamish, WA

*Alaska's Only Tribal College*



# Our Mission

## THE ILISAGVIK COLLEGE MISSION

- Iļisagvik College provides **quality** post-secondary academic, vocational and technical education in a learning environment that **perpetuates and strengthens Iñupiat culture, language, values and traditions**. It is dedicated to serving its students and developing a **well-educated and trained workforce** who meet the human resource needs of **North Slope employers and the state of Alaska**.

*Alaska's Only Tribal College*



# 2 Titles – 1 Mission

## Vocational Education

- Educational training that provides practical experience in a particular occupational field.
- The goal is to train workers to be masters of their trade.
- Longer term outlook

## Workforce Development

- prepares workers with needed skills, emphasizes the value of workplace learning and addresses the hiring demands of employers from the outset
- The goal is to place workers in jobs where there are career development opportunities.
- Short or immediate need trainings

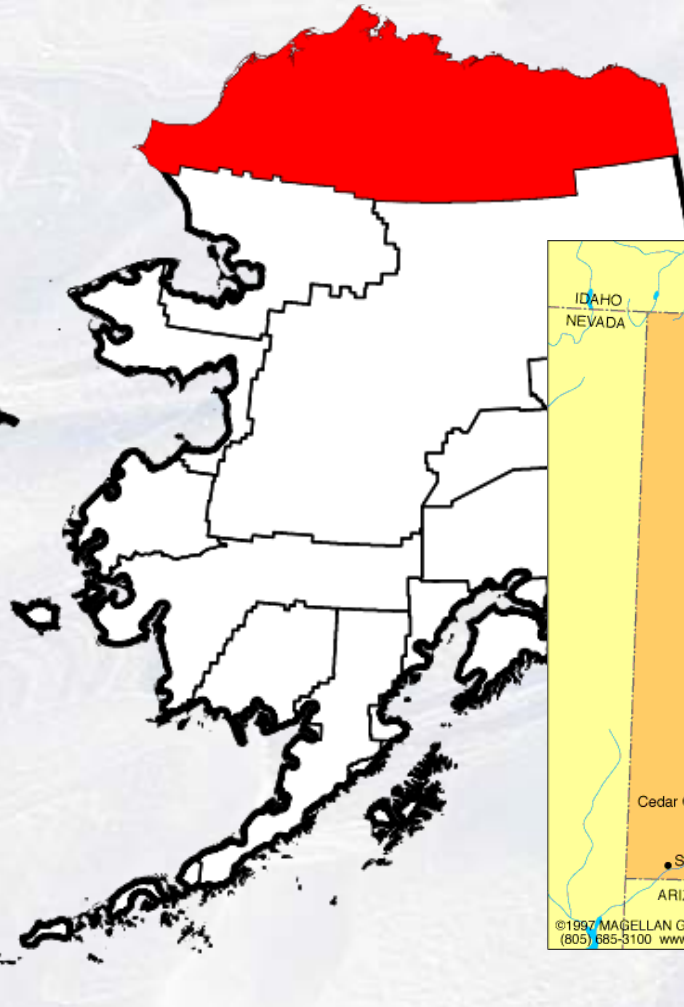


# Barriers to Our Mission

- Long term trainings
  - Remove people from the active labor pool
  - Remove people from their community and family responsibilities
  - Fail to respect the seasonal timing of subsistence activities
- Geography
  - Not every job or training can happen in every village
- Industry Demanded Standards

# Our Geographic Barriers

- 94,796 square miles
- Larger than the State of Utah (84,896 sq mi)
- 8 (+1) communities
- 1 community connected seasonally by ice roads
- 7,385 residents in the Borough (does not include non-resident workers)
- 5 (+1) communities connected to fiber communication lines; 3 use satellite relay





# Achieving that Mission

- ~~Long~~ term trainings
  - Everything is a 1-2 week module (or full length)
  - Flexible scheduling
- Geography
  - Travel assistance from our villages
  - Instructors go to EVERY village each year
  - Distance delivery is growing
- Increasing standards based instruction
  - Local Class B AND Class A CDL options in Utqiagvik

# Educational Support

- Short Term Workforce Trainings
  - Industry credentials
  - Tailored to your needs and requests
  - All classes are registered CEU credits
    - Each class is transcribed and can be easily tracked
  - Flexible scheduling
  - Village delivery – all fees waived



# Educational Support

- Longer Term Career Trainings
  - Vocational trades are based on NCCER curriculum
    - Credits are cross-listed with NCCER Modules
  - Flexible modular scheduling
- Apprenticeship Sponsorship
  - Carpenter
  - Electrician
  - Plumber
  - Construction Laborer
  - Weatherization Tech (Building Energy Retrofit Tech)
  - \*Building Maintenance Technician
  - \*\*Heavy Equipment Operator



# Making Connections

- Arctic Slope Regional Corporation – Paananaq Project
- Arctic Education Foundation
  - \$4,500 per calendar year for short term training
- Each native corporation has shareholder support services
- Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope – Vocational Rehabilitation
- North Slope Borough departments and resources



# Industry Advisement & Coordination

- Communicate & Advise
  - Quarterly roundtable advisement panels
  - Training needs, locations, instructors, etc.
  - Mailing and marketing campaigns
- Student connections
  - Apprenticeships, internships, job openings
  - Public support resources
- Training opportunities
  - The workplace becomes a classroom
  - Courses can be tailored to a specific employer/position
- We Listen!!!



# Rooted in our Iñupiat Values

- Alaska's only Tribal College
- Our communities rely on subsistence activities
- Fall – whaling, caribou/moose hunting, winter preparations
- Winter/Spring – celebrations, whaling, trapping, ice roads open
- Our schedule must be culturally sensitive.



# Flexible & Supportive

- Industry demands come as the projects or needs arise.
  - If we are not flexible in meeting demands, that's when we lose the opportunity to connect our local people to the jobs.
    - Subcontracting becomes the alternative solution.
- Students are not accustomed to pre-registering for classes.



# How Can YOU Support Iḷisagvik College?

Help us grow and be a circumpolar beacon of education.

A regional training center that is designed to fulfill our mission of a well-educated workforce.

Spread the word and support.

Iḷisagvik College New Campus  
Preliminary Concept  
Design Competition

LEARN MORE

1 2 3 4 5

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# Quayanaq!

- We are here because of you!

## Arth Brown III

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