

Component: Vocational Education Programs

Major Component Accomplishments in 2017

The Alaska Department of Corrections (ADOC) is providing vocational trade courses that empower incarcerated individuals for marketable employment upon release, addressing the educational criminogenic factor, reducing the barriers for returning citizens.

These foundational courses provide integrated learning skills that build a reputable resume bank for the returning citizen. Agency wide, several courses are recognized by the Alaska Commission on Post-Secondary Education. Also, Hiland Mountain Correctional Center has a Career and Technical Education partnership through Ilisagvik College for post-secondary credits.

The education division extended its programs to Furlough, Electric Monitoring, Probation and Parole Inmates.

- Inmate Vocational Budget= \$606,000
- Vocational Instructors, staff= 3=GCCC, 1=HMCC, 1=WWCC, 1=SCCC
- Department of Labor (DOL) Grant Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) =\$10,000
- DOL Grant Carl Perkins (HMCC female inmates)=\$60,000
- Northern Industrial Training (NIT) State Training Education Program (STEP) FY-17 Scholarship (PCC)= \$25,000
- Average Cost per service=\$99.78
- Lowest Cost service CPR = \$120.00
- 6073 individuals received vocational education services with 4554 individuals completing, an increase of 53%. (2016; 2431 individuals completed)
- 5 Males from Anchorage Furlough unit completed the HSET Program which was 6 weeks. One has gained employment after release and none have returned to incarceration. Made possible from Northern industrial Training partnership State Training Education Program (STEP) grant.
- 37 Females from HMCC completed Construction Trades and received college tuition from Ilisagvik College using the Carl Perkins Grant.

Vocational classes are researched for potential employment growth using the Department of Labor's Career Lattice. Classes are not funded unless the career path shows a potential growth of 6% or higher.

<http://labor.alaska.gov/research/index.htm>

The education department continued to expand its vocational opportunities building a vocational infrastructure at Wild Wood Correctional Center (WWCC) in Kenai. WWCC is capable of providing opportunities in welding certification, Industrial mechanics, heavy equipment operations and NCCER "core".

Inmates earning valuable certifications are able to transition into the seafood, oil and gas industrial career fields earning a livable wage while addressing criminogenic needs. Also noteworthy is continued support from the local community endorsing WWCC work programs and transitioning returning citizens. Currently WWCC has 10 local businesses signed on and in support of the "vocational work release" program.

ADOC vocational programs include, but are not limited to:

- Asbestos Abatement
- Welding
- Flagging
- North Slope Training Card
- Forklifting
- Weatherization
- Plumbing
- Alternative Energy

- Hazwoper
- Confined Spaces
- National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) courses:
 - CPR
 - OSHA
 - Carpentry
 - Electrical
 - HVAC
 - Core Curriculum
 - Heavy Equipment

The Alaska Department of Corrections received \$95,000 in grant funding in 2017 from the Department of Labor STEP MOS, and Carl Perkins grants.

ADOC is contributing to the state's Alaska Commission on Post-Secondary Access and Completion mission of "65 by 2025" by promoting vocational post-secondary access.

ADOC expects reduced numbers in vocational classes for 2018 due partly to SB 91.
The Education department hired a Project Assistant in Dec of 2016, to write and administer grants.