

**To: Members of the State Board of
Education & Early Development**

June 5, 2024

From: Deena Bishop ED. D., Commissioner

Agenda Item: 9

◆ ISSUE

The board is being asked to approve five Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program Recognition awards forwarded by the State Board's Culturally Relevant Career and Technical Education (CRCTE) Committee. The attached five nominees were selected for CTE Program Recognition.

◆ BACKGROUND

- On April 29, 2024, the CRCTE Committee met to select the CTE Program Recognition awardees from among nine (9) nominations received from the public and Department of Education and Early Development staff. Nominations were considered in one of two categories: Effective Student Engagement and Work-Based Learning.
- The attached five nominees are being forwarded by the CRCTE Committee for endorsement by the whole State Board of Education.
- The list of the five nominees by category can be found behind this cover page.

◆ OPTIONS

This is a work session item. Action will take place under Agenda Item 16.

Alaska State Board of Education proposed Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program Recognition

Effective Student Engagement

Kusilvak Career Academy, Lower Yukon School District – KCA is an urban residential program for 11th and 12th grade students from the district designed to address equity gaps in access to career development opportunities between rural and urban students. It works to intentionally tailor experiences to each student's education and career goals, and expose them to different trades and career options to be better prepared for life after high school. KCA students have access to rigorous programs of study at King Career High School in addition to other workforce development partners and focuses on developing student life skills.

Engineering Pathway, Lower Kuskokwim School District, Paul Salzman – The engineering pathway for high school students is built around two engineering courses and includes a drone building and use class added in response to student interest. An online donation platform has allowed the program to obtain 3-D printers, production equipment and consumable supplies for student use. Students maintain a Bethel Regional HS Maker Space email and afterschool club and respond to “client” product requests. The teacher is flexible, curious and willing to learn and provide new content students are interested in, and is a great example of community connected entrepreneurial learning for students.

Work-Based Learning

Youth To Work Program, Coastal Village Region Fund CDQ Group, Madeline Tulik & Nathaniel Betz – YTW recruits 14-19 year old youth to work during the summertime. Applicants go through the full job cycle: applying online, meeting expectations for coming to work on time every day, performing their job duties and earning a paycheck. The program intentionally highlights the importance of investing in a community by doing a service project and job shadowing at a variety of organizations. Local experts are hired as instructors to teach the young employees relevant, traditionally inspired crafts and tools.

Effective Student Engagement & Work-Based Learning

Alaska Transition Outcomes Project, SERRC – ATOP facilitates several programs designed to expose students with disabilities to careers in a variety of pathways. Transition camps explore post-secondary life encompassing education, independent living, and employment prospects. Through engaging activities and speakers from businesses and unions representing many career fields students learn about high-demand occupations in Alaska. These camps are offered at no cost to participating school districts and youth facilities and virtually statewide twice a year. Additionally, virtual career spotlights bring career exploration activities to rural and remote schools across the state.

Welding Program, Yukon Koyukuk School District, Anthony Cavan – Anthony has developed a welding program that fosters exceptional student engagement through a curriculum that integrates cultural relevance, hands-on projects, and industry-recognized certifications. Student interest is ignited through a starting project of building rocket stoves. The program is designed to equip students for success beyond the classroom through vital industry connections: union partnerships, SkillsUSA club participation, and career readiness skills through the SkillsUSA national curriculum. Anthony's commitment to project-based learning, safety, industry partnerships, and career preparation fosters an engaging and empowering learning environment.