

## 2026 proposed for SBOE Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program Recognition

### Student Engagement

**Alaska Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) State Office** – AHEC is made up of six regional centers attached to local healthcare and educational entities focused on healthcare workforce development. AHEC partners with school districts to expose students to the wide variety of health career opportunities through intensive 1-week long camps for middle and high school students with emphasis on rural districts. It also maintains and delivers a statewide CTE Program of Study based on four courses available to high school students for dual credit through the University of Alaska System. Since 2016, AHEC has had 1,247 students participate in the health camps and program of study. In 2026, AHEC also obtained funding and has taken a leadership role in the statewide CTE Student Organization - *Health Occupations Student Association (HOSA)*.

**Soldotna High School Student Broadcasting Program** – This program, led by instructor George Lastinger, with the support of Principal Tabitha Blades, is a student-run weekly school broadcast, which provides students with authentic industry experience in media production, digital storytelling, and broadcasting. Students work in production teams to take on specialized roles similar to those found in the professional broadcasting environment. During the most recent SkillsUSA Alaska State Conference, Soldotna High School broadcasting students competed in multiple events and achieved exceptional results. Students qualified for the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in several categories, including Digital Video Production, Cinema Movie Production, Job Interview, and Prepared Speech.

**Sitka High School Construction Program** – This program partners with the Sitka Community Land Trust and the Sitka Conservation Society to use regionally milled lumber from Tenakee Springs to construct storage facilities for Sitka homeowners. This partnership has allowed students to participate in the traditional construction class and learn construction trade skills while also being exposed to alternative ideas on addressing affordable housing in Southeast Alaska. Beginning in 2024 Sitka High School students produced 9 small storage sheds, one for each home the Land Trust built. In 2025 students built 14 sheds for private homes. Students are required to communicate with each other, solve problems encountered along the way, delegate work tasks and interact with the directors of the agencies supporting the project.

### Work-Based Learning & Student Engagement

**Partners for Progress** - Partners for Progress is a regional Technical and Vocational Education Program (TVEP) in Delta that plays a critical role in supporting workforce development in Interior Alaska while providing meaningful hands-on career training. It

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collaborates with regional contractors, construction companies, and industry professionals so that participants develop skills aligned with local industry expectations and workforce demands. Students complete real construction and fabrication projects such as building commercial boats and a 16-foot ATV trailer, applying skills in design, fabrication, welding, and project planning. The training facilities used by Partners for Progress are shared with the local school district. Students utilize the facilities for career and technical education programming during the school day, while Partners for Progress uses the same space during evenings for adult and community member training. This partnership maximizes the use of taxpayer-funded facilities and expands access to career training opportunities in a rural community.