

Southwest Alaska Vocational & Education Center

P.O. Box 615
King Salmon AK 99613

February 14, 2008

The Honorable Ted Stevens
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Stevens:

Thank you for allowing us to submit an Earmark Grant Request for the FY-09 budget period. Enclosed you will find a copy of our request. I would be happy to share more details concerning our project upon your request. Please note that we have sent an additional copy of this request to your Anchorage office. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,

Executive Director

Cc: Jim Egan, State Director

Info: Faxed 2-14-2008,
Original Sent by Mail



Ted Stevens

United States Senator for Alaska

Please Note:
- Fill out one request form for each request
- This form (and any attachments) can be returned via:
Fax - (202) 224-2354
Mail - The Honorable Ted Stevens
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
- Requests are due by February 15, 2008.

FISCAL YEAR 2009 PROJECT REQUEST FORM

Project Name: Vocational & Education Enhanced Services

Project Location: Southwest Alaska Vocational & Education Center, King Salmon, AK

Project Description (please attach additional pages as required):
Southwest Alaska Vocational & Education Center (SAVEC) would like to develop a comprehensive regional workforce training and development program for Southwest Alaska that would best prepare the region's workforce to enter high demand career fields that lead to sustainability, addresses worker shortages and skill gaps within the state, reduces the need to hire out-of-state employees that take Alaska resources away from communities, training that leads to recognized job certifications and portable skill sets, promotes the development of career pathways for the youth and adults for continued education, establishes soft and employability skills, establishes pre-apprenticeship programs, establishes distance education within selected village sites, lowers the 65% trend of unemployed or considered "low wage earners" that reside within our region, and provides sustainable jobs with solid career paths. The project will focus on five major strategies:

Related Appropriations Bill:

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Amount of federal funding requested for FY09: | 600,000 |
| Total funding to complete this project: | 1,200,000 |
| Number of years to fund this project: | 2 |
| Matching funds from the State of Alaska: | 228,000 |

Matching funds from local and private entities:
\$100,000.00 is provided by local contributions from Bristol Bay agencies.

If this project was funded in prior appropriations bills (within the last five years), list each bill and the amount funded:
US Department of Labor, Workforce Investment Act
Agreement #: EA 15414-06-60, Award Amount: \$496,000
CFDA #: 17.261, Performance Period: April 1, 2006 thru March 31, 2008
Accounting Code: A5-A800-LDB9-4129-SPR01-000

Amount included in the President's FY09 Budget: _____
Amount included in the State of Alaska FY09 Budget: 228,000

Check this box if state funding was sought but not provided.

List legislation that authorizes this project:
Workforce Investment Act

Additional information is necessary regarding the project, including a detailed description of the project and the specific needs to be addressed.
 The project is a continuation of a project funded in a previous fiscal year and the information requested on this form is not applicable.

- Developing and promoting distance education and career awareness opportunities.
- Increase opportunities for development of appropriate workforce development training programs in regional/state high demand career fields (i.e. oil & gas, construction, operations, mineral development, information technology, management, and other occupations related to natural resource development including the construction of a gas pipeline).
- Initiate the building of the foundation to develop a comprehensive, integrated Career and Technical Education system for Southwest Alaska that coordinates program delivery.
- Increase opportunities for registered apprenticeship in skilled occupations and expand other training opportunities.
- Increase awareness of and access to career opportunities.

Project Justification:

Many Bristol Bay communities have small populations and are scattered over large distances not connected to the urban Alaska road system and are accessible primarily by plane or boat. The lack of educational resources within these communities has resulted in above national average school drop-out rates for students in secondary education and lowest state and federal test scores. As a result, their ability to become self-sustainable and a supportive member of their community is minimized. In some cases, secondary schools within the region have one instructor teaching K-12. Text books within the schools are often old and out dated. In the state of Alaska, only 28% of Alaskans age 18 to 24 attend any type of education after high school. This is the lowest percent of any state. The establishment of career pathways in rural Alaska is limited if not almost non-existent due to the state's lack of financial resources to regional centers such as SAVEC.

Often, the state's resources are redirected to large urban centers leaving rural areas to be neglected. High poverty, unemployment, and under-employed rates are the result. At present, there is little state investment in career and technical education at the secondary and postsecondary levels. Better coordination among existing schools is essential to increasing our region's capacity to grow its own labor force.

Career and workforce development are essential to helping residents gain self-sufficiency, invigorate the local and regional economy and adjust to the changing demands for skilled workers. While in the past many residents were able to fish commercially on a seasonal basis and sustain their families year-round, now residents are more likely to pursue a variety of types of employment and to pursue employment outside of the region. New skills are needed to help workers compete in a larger labor market.

According to demographic and economic data for the region, an average of 51% of the community is not working. The percentage of people living in poverty is more than double the rate for the state as a whole, and three times the poverty rate for the largest city - Anchorage. Only 62% of Alaskan high school graduates remain in Alaska for training or employment each year, 28% of Alaskans age 18 to 24 attend any type of education after high school - the lowest % of any state, less than 60% of Alaska's 9th graders graduate high school after 4 years and many out altogether - Only 7 states perform worse.

Over 48,000 new jobs will be created in Alaska by 2014. Serious labor shortages are already predicted by the Alaska Department of Labor. One of the major sources of labor to fill this demand is focusing on rural Alaska. SAVEC and CH2M Hill just recently brought 40 new jobs to the Southwest Alaska region whereby the citizens could live in their communities while working on the North Slope - 2 week on/off or 6 week on and 2 off work schedules. The average starting salary for these new jobs is \$50,000. This equates to \$2,000,000 per year coming back to the communities of Southwest Alaska. These are full-time year round career jobs. More of these type programs are needed to help reverse the 65% trend of unemployed or considered "low wage earners" that reside within our region.