Panel Discussion: Workforce & Education

Cory J. Ortiz, PhD
Dean, University of Alaska Southeast, School of Career Education
Cory Ortiz, Dean

Education
• B.S. & M.S. Technology and Engineering Education
• Ph.D. Career and Technical Education

Professional Experience
• K-12 & Postsecondary Career and Technical Education
• 4-year degree program partnered with K-12 & higher education

Personal
• First-generation college graduate
• Son of a second-generation copper miner
University of Alaska Southeast
Center for Mine Training

Provide workforce training in occupational fields leading to employment in the mining industry, with a special emphasis on expanding an Alaskan workforce for underground Mine Mechanics.
Current Mining Career Pathways

Occupational Endorsement (OE)
Mine Mechanic Emphasis
This Occupational Endorsement (OE)
29 credits in the Power Technology Department.
Emphasis on the types equipment used in underground mining.

Associate of Applied Science (AAS)
Mine Mechanic Emphasis
61 credits hour degree the student should be able to obtain an entry level position as a mechanic
Emphasis on the types equipment used in underground mining

Dual Enrollment (High School)
Introduction to Mining Occupations & Operations
University and industry sponsored course offered to High School students
Introduction to careers available in Alaska’s mining industry, the importance of mining in the 21st century, and to provide an overview of the life of a mine.
Current Projects

- Development of a new mine safety class, in consultation with input from local mines
- Development of new advisory committee to advise program development
- Hiring of new (local) staff
- Specialized training classes (short term, non credit)
- Exploration of new training opportunities
Current Industry Partners

- Hecla Greens Creek
- Coeur Alaska Kensington
- Tyler Rental
- Alaska Miners Association
- Juneau Economic Development Council
Hecla Greens Creek Pathway to Mining Careers

- Mission: Train local mechanics for employment in Alaska’s minerals industry.
  - Introduction to Mining Careers and Occupations course
  - Apply to UAS Diesel/Mine Mechanic Program and apply for Hecla Scholarship support
  - Interview for Summer Internship Experience
  - Interview for Job Opportunity
Intro to Mining Occupations and Operations

- Course built for High school students, who earn 3 UAS college credits upon completion.
- Scholarship support from Hecla Greens Creek and Coeur Alaska Kensington ensure no cost for students interested.
  - Mining partners present various topics to the class
  - Course finishes up with mine site tour
Hecla-Greens Creek Scholarship Program

- $105,000 Annual Donation
  - Six (6) selected students receive funding for the cost of tuition up to 16 credits in their first semester.
  - If pursuing an A.A.S., tuition, and fees for classes in their second year.
- 20 High Students provided the opportunity to attend the IMOO course
Coeur Alaska Custom Tailored Classes

- Hydraulics & Welding
  - Pilot program
  - Operators who needed / wanted additional training
Vision for the Future

- Assess programs - ensure relevance
- Update and expand programs as needed
  - (e.g., advanced welding, NDT, Machining, fixed plant)
- Modernize labs and training spaces
Faculty & Support Staff

Tom Dolan
Assistant Professor
Power Technology

Adam Zenger
Instructor
Mine Training

Catherine Pusich
Administrative Manager

Ashley Morehouse
Academic Advisor
Thanks!
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