

MEMORANDUM

TO: NWABSD Board of Education Members

DATE: August 30, 2023

FR: Office of the Superintendent

SUBJECT: Alaska Technical
Center & STAR of the NW

Karl Kowalski, Director of ATC/STAR, reports on the following:

Summer at the Alaska Technical Center was quite busy. We hosted several programs in June including ANSEP Stem Ready June 9-13 and the University of Alaska Upward Bound T3 program June 5-10. The Borough held its regional emergency planning meeting at ATC June 27-28.

The Alaska Technical Center began classes early this year. We held two welding workshops during the month of July with 6 participants. We also held a DOT Flaggers training course with another 7 participants.





ATC held Barista Training August 1-4 with 6 trainees. All six trainees completed and are currently working at Kuupiaqtuḡvik@ATC. We began on August 2nd with a soft opening as people began to hear we were training. We are now open full-time 7:00 am – 2:00 pm Monday – Saturday.

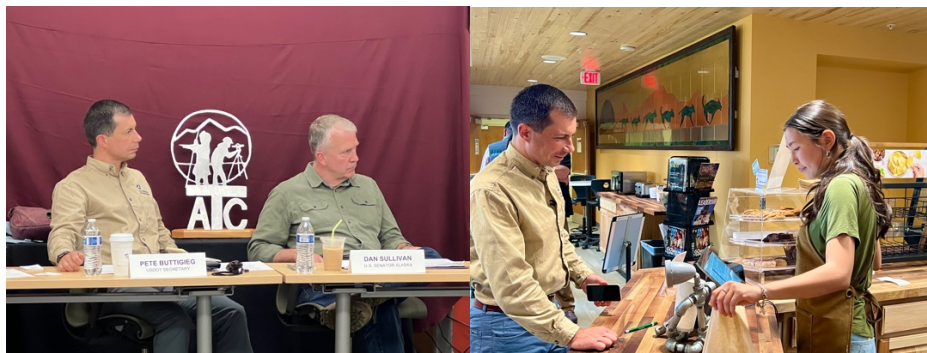


On August 14, ATC hosted regional leadership meetings with Senator Sullivan and Secretary of Transportation.

Welcome to Kotzebue & The Alaska Technical Center



Meeting Room 170



Staffing:**ATC ADMINISTRATION**

Karl Kowalski, Director
Ivy Shelton, Assistant Director
Joe Groves, Principal NW Arctic Homeschool

FACULTY AND STAFF

Lori Jorgensen, Registrar
Eugene Wilkerson, Recruiter
Matt Cooper, ATC/STAR Student Advisor
VACANT, Secretary

ADULT EDUCATION

China Kantner, Instructor

CULINARY ARTS

Chef Alejandro Vargas

CONSTRUCTION TRADES

Charles Keeter, Instructor

HEALTH OCCUPATIONS

Jay Panlilio, Instructor

PROCESS TECHNOLOGY

Merle Green

CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION/ READISTAR

Clay Beck, Instructor
Marc Tumaneng, Instructor

DORMITORY

Mary Keeter, STAR Dorm Parent
Mary Nauska, ATC Dorm Attendant
Vacant, Attendant
Varies – NMS Custodian

Grant Funding:

State labor grants are down this year. ATC did not receive STEP funding this year. In FY23, the Legislature added one-time funding to STEP for which ATC received \$300,000. The legislature did NOT add additional funding to STEP in FY24 and ATC was NOT an awardee in FY24. This reduction will impact our ability to contract with 3rd party trainers. ATC continues to seek partnerships for additional course sponsorships.

TVEP funding remained steady with an award of \$1,252,700. These funds support several positions at ATC including Registrar, Recruiter, Health Occupations Instructor, ATC Adult dorm operations, as well as contractual funding for outside training including CDL, Heavy Equipment, Toyo and Boiler repair, and supplemental welding classes.

Alaska Construction Academy Funding is down this year again due a lack of supplemental funding from the legislature. ATC received \$153,385 all of which supports salary and benefits of the full-time construction trades instructor who, in addition, teaches welding, HAZWOPER, and flagger courses.

Adult Basic Education. ATC's Adult education grant increased slightly providing funding for a full-time instructor as well as funds for travel and supplies. ATC received \$153,970

Fall Schedule:

ATC Fulltime Programs

Construction Trades	Begins Aug 22
Culinary Arts	Begins Aug 22
Certified Nursing Assistant	Begins Aug 22

2023-2024 ATC Short Course Schedule

Women-Only Welding	Jul 10 – Jul 14
Intro to Welding for Anyone	Jul 17 – Jul 21
Flagger Class	Jul 24 – Jul 25
Intro to Hydroponics	Aug 7-Aug 11
Heavy Equipment Operator	Sep 11-22 Kotzebue
Heavy Equipment Operator Practicum, Testing, Certification	Sep 25- Oct 13 Palmer
Toyo Stove Repair	Oct 2 – 6
Boiler and Furnace Repair	Oct 2 – 6
CDL Training	Oct 2 – 13 Kotzebue
Toyo Stove Repair	Oct 9 – 13
Boiler and Furnace Repair	Oct 9 – 13
CDL Practicum, Testing, Certification	Oct 16-27 Palmer
HAZWOPER 40 hour	Nov 6-10

STAR of the Northwest Magnet School:

We are currently at an enrollment of 28 full-time students with 2 coming from Russian Mission in the Bethel region. We are excited to start the year with Dorm parents. Mary Keeter, who began last spring as dorm parent, will continue this year. Mary brings a warm caring personality to the dorm with consistency in expectations.

23-24 ReadiSTAR schedule:



Buckland/Deering	08/28 – 09/08
Noatak	09/11 – 09/22
Kivalina	09/25 -10/06
Noorvik/Kiana	10/09 – 10/20
Ambler/Shungnak/Kobuk	10/23 – 11/03
Selawik	11/06 – 11/17
OPEN	11/27 – 10/08
Kotzebue	01/08 – 01/19
Noatak	01/22 – 02/02
Kivalina	02/05 – 02/16
Noorvik/Kiana	02/19 – 03/01
Kotzebue Exploratory	03/04 – 03/08
Ambler/Shungnak/Kobuk	03/18 – 03/29
Buckland/Deering	04/01 – 04/12
Selawik	04/15 – 04/26
Driver's Testing	04/29- 05/10



Driver's Education Training



Drivers Education

The Alaska Technical Center is committed to quality driver's education training. We have been in business in Kotzebue since 1981. We have found that a majority of employers in our region and the state require potential employees to have a valid driver's license. In an effort to meet that work force demand, ATC offers driver's education training.

Designed to teach a new driver the skills needed to successfully pass a Class D road exam.

Length of Program: 8 Weeks

Format of Program:

- Classroom/Theory
- Defensive Driving - 30 Hours - taught over 5, 6-hour days or a semester depending on option chosen.
- ALIVE@25 - 4 Hours
- Practical Instruction - Behind the wheel training scheduled to fit student and instructor availability

Enrollment Requirements:

- 14 years or older - however, a student cannot test unless he/she is over the age of 16 and has held a permit for more than 6 months
- Parental Consent
- State Photo ID
- Certifications & Qualifications:
 - Class D Driving Test (if a student is over the age of 16 and has held a permit for more than 6 months)
 - Alive@25
 - Certificate of Completion

Program Description:

This program is designed for novice drivers, and provides the knowledge and skills necessary to become a defensive driver and successfully pass a Class D road exam. This course includes both 30 hours of classroom defensive driving instruction and 12 hours of behind the wheel instruction.

Students must also log a minimum of 32 hours of practice driving time with a licensed driver outside of scheduled class time including 15 hours of observation time, be 16 years of age or older, and have held their class D permit for a minimum of 6 months. Students that meet these requirements are eligible to take their class D road exam at the end of the program.

Breakdown

- Triple A Student Manual
- Alive@25 Student Manual
- DMV Driver's Manual
- Classroom and road instruction

Modules Trained

- Basic Vehicle Controls
- Rules of the Road
- Personal Factors Influencing Operator Performance
- Defensive Driving
- Managing Space
- Driving at Night
- Vehicle Readiness
- Risk Reducing Strategies
- Alive@25
- Vision and Perception
- Basic Maneuvering
- Vehicle Functions and Malfunctions, and Collision Reporting

Total Cost: \$900

Defensive Driving: Educate and Defend Yourself

It is a good idea to educate yourself with new technology; ABS brakes, airbags, and proper use of seat belts. Educating also means being aware of changing laws and becoming knowledgeable of current laws. We will educate and teach you the tools to defend yourself. Many auto insurance companies grant discounts to individuals who have completed defensive driving.

Instructional Permit Prep Training – up to 35 hours (tuition is \$450.00, DMV testing fees are extra)

ATC's Instructional Permit training covers all the information you need to know from the Alaska Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) manual. In addition to covering the rules and regulations involved with driving in Alaska, the course helps you identify and understand road signs, signals, and traffic management that you may encounter on roads outside the region. With small class sizes, group learning, and numerous practice tests to help you prepare, our permit class can help you whether you've never taken the DMV Written test before or had challenges in the past.

Hands-on Behind-the-Wheel Training– up to 35 hours (tuition is \$450.00, DMV fees are extra)

Instruction is provided in our dual controlled vehicle, one-on-one with a State-certified instructor.

Our behind the wheel training will teach you the necessary skills not only to drive in a rural area, but to feel confident in high-traffic urban areas as well. Our training covers defensive traffic maneuvers, teaching the student how to drive from point A to point B smoothly and efficiently while assuring that they have a space-cushion around them and an escape route at all times.

- Introduction to vehicle
- Starting and stopping, fast and slow
- Right turns, left turns
- Changing Lanes
- Parallel Parking
- Backing straight, around corner
- Emergency Stops
- Hill Starts
- Three-point turns

Introduction to Hydroponics

Time: 1 weeks. Date:TBD

Teacher: VH Hydroponics

Growing hydroponically (or in other words “without soil”) is an incredibly productive modern farming technique. By using a substrate and a nutrient enriched solution, you’re able to produce healthy, flavorful plants, in a highly controlled way and with much less water than traditional agriculture. As concern over water availability and sustainability grow, hydroponics has become an increasingly popular growing technique for new farmers (urban and rural)!

Just about anything can grow hydroponically if you know what you’re doing. The goal of this course is to teach you exactly how to start and run a successful hydroponic farm. In order to grow hydroponically, you must learn to monitor and control system factors like EC, pH, source water quality, temperature, filtration, sanitation, sterilization, and plant needs – all of which will be covered in this course!

In this course, students will:

- Discover the origins of hydroponics
- Learn about all hydroponic system types
- Hydroponic nutrient management
- Hydroponic system layouts and plumbing
- The best crops for hydroponics

After completing this course, students should be able to:

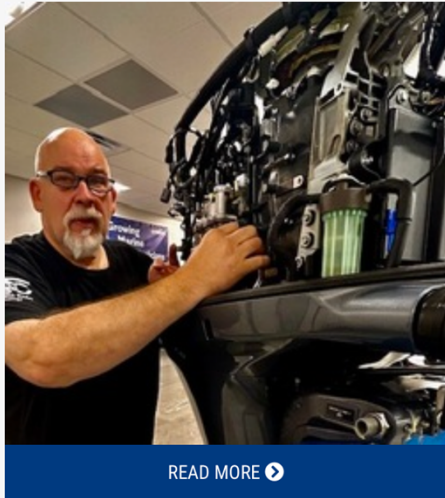
1. Describe the basic processes of hydroponic crop growth.
2. Explain similarities and differences between soil-based and soilless plant production.
3. Identify the major features of different styles of hydroponic production systems.
4. Evaluate the effectiveness of different methods of pursuing hydroponic crop production.
5. Assemble small, experimental hydroponic systems for use in school lunch program.

Project:

As part of this class, students will assemble and plant a small-scale indoor hydroponics unit and grow vegetables for school consumption.



Spotlight:



[READ MORE](#) ▶

Student spotlight: Charles Keeter

🕒 August 15, 2023 | 👤 Vicki Heisser

This summer, Charles Keeter participated in the PWSC's Small Engines for Teachers program, which led to his current endeavor: the Yamaha and AMEC train-the-trainer course. These classes ignited his enthusiasm as they focused on the AMEC program, designed to equip people with the essential skills for shipbuilding, vessel repair, maintenance, port operations, and vessel maneuvers. The ultimate aim is to prepare Alaskans for careers in these critical fields.

Charles recently completed his train-the-trainer certification for outboard motor repair. ATC looks forward to being able to add outboard service and repair to our list of possible courses.