



## Report of Project Activities

Department of Labor and Workforce Development  
Division of Business Partnerships



DENALI TRAINING FUND

## PROGRESS REPORT

<p><b>NAME OF ORGANIZATION:</b> University of Alaska <b>NAME OF PROJECT:</b> Allied Health Training <b>Phase II</b> <b>REPORT PERIOD:</b> January 1, 2006-March 31, 2006</p>
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### PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Briefly describe the grant activities undertaken during the period and any accomplishments achieved.

Community Health Aide/Practitioner (CHAP) Program\_Medical\_Standing Orders-MSO:  
Utilize a CHAP trainer to write a new Medical Standing Order (MSO) based on the new CHAM. A standing order is when a CHA/P can treat a patient without calling the referral doctor. These are granted by her/his doctor after training and evaluation of their clinical competency.

#### Update:

There are 3 MSO tests for the CHAP Program. One after Sessions II, III and IV. The numbers of standing orders are: after Session II = 51; after Session III = 18; after Session IV an additional 9. The CHA takes this test in their village clinic administered by their field supervisor.

The tests are completed and currently being "piloted".

The tests are clinical scenarios where the student uses the CHAM to complete fill in the blank and multiple choice questions.

Test length: Session II = 150 questions

Session III = 63 questions

Session IV = 27 questions

A Community Health Practitioner being re-certified must take all 3 tests (approximately 8-10 hours).

The tests will be completed by March 28<sup>th</sup> when we will start using them.

#### Medical Office-Health Care reimbursement (HCR)

A trip was taken with the new Allied Health Coordinator to discuss Bethel needs for future training.

#### Trainee Success at UAF:

Two new staff were hired from other funds to help with this initiative, in addition the trainee Success Coordinator was reopened after an initial search and interviews are under way with the four applicants. Work continues with Galena as 7 students completed their CAN coursework and have sat for the exam. They await the final National results. Meanwhile plans are shaping up for the Summer Academy as the Director there begins recruitment efforts. Our team is trying to line up faculty for this event as well as help in recruitment.

#### Trainee Success at UAA:

The coordinator traveled to Bethel for an initial onsite visit and began the plans for supporting students interested in the Rad Tech AAS program. A second trip was made to Bethel to provide health career options at the community job fair, roughly 300 people attended the fair 150 information packets were distributed. While in Bethel the coordinator met with UAF Kuskokwim Campus staff to plan future visits and to begin establishing a set of goals for the coming months. The coordinator traveled to Kotzebue to meet with Middle school students and elders at the Gear Up program. Over 150 community members attended Gear up. While in Kotzebue meetings were held with High School Counselors, high school students (roughly 120) and teachers to discuss possible health career options. The coordinator also met with community members, Maniilaq staff, and UAF Chukchi campus representatives. The coordinator is meeting with faculty, staff, students, and community members to assess the support needs for students, best practices, and to identify existing infrastructure that may be utilized to ensure program success and job placement.

Pharmacy Careers: This quarter 3 courses were offered in the pharmacy technician series. The number of students exploring this program continues to grow. Spring semester registration was 50 students. 6 students completed the series and will receive a UAA Occupational Endorsement as a pharmacy technician.

The faculty began the UAA curriculum review process so this series can become a transcribed Occupational Endorsement. The Pharm Tech Advisory Committee was formed and met, which aides in program planning and getting the word out to the pharmacy profession. One additional credit will be added to make this a 16 credit Endorsement. The Advisory Committee has reviewed and recommended that 1 credit to be a “virtual” practice class.

Medical Laboratory Careers: This quarter 4 Clinical Lab Assistant courses and 1 phlebotomy course were offered with a total of 20 students registered for these online classes. We will continue to offer the Phlebotomy Procedures 101 and Specimen Processing 194D in distance form. The faculty member added more interactive, synchronous learning through new web conferencing software at UAA called Elluminate Live. The Mentoring Handbook for health industry preceptors who mentor student placements was completed and ready for distribution/training next quarter.

Radiographic Careers: The first cohort of 9 Limited Radiography students from YKHC completed the last class in the 3-series course this semester. Two students work at the Bethel hospital while the other 7 work in sub regional clinics: Emmonak, Aniak, St. Mary’s. The final class in the series, Limited Radiography Practicum II, requires continued work with clinic-based mentors. This mentoring requires Memorandum of Agreements to be in place with the health care agencies, as was established with YKHC last year. Once the Occupational Endorsement is completed they will be conferred in limited radiography.

A second Limited Radiography cohort of 18 students enrolled for their first class Spring semester 2006. Fifteen of this group resides in Southeast Alaska, (SEARHC employees) one in Emmonak and two in Anchorage. In order to offer this second cohort, clinic/hospital-based laboratory mentors had to be established to oversee the clinical practice portion of this program. This class is primarily web-delivered didactic, though the faculty member expanded to add some synchronous web-conferencing “class time”.

Community Wellness Advocate Careers: Coursework in health promotion for elders began this quarter, as did an exercise class targeted at elders. Planning for the health promotion tract for elders is actively moving forward. Hired a new administrative assistant.

PCA/CNA Careers: Complete local course of 7 students in Sitka; piloting PCA to CNA Bridge course to a statewide group of 38 students; working with the State Board of Nursing to ensure all requirements are being met; evaluating PCA Pilot course and incorporating needed changes.

**PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT REPORTING PERIOD:**

Describe the grant activities you expect to complete during the next quarter.

Several new courses are under development for distance delivery. Due to the increased desire to receive training and courses this way we have hired key personnel to help faculty develop the courses most needed. We expect at least 4 courses to be developed between HCR and CHAP. In addition a new cohort will begin sometime this spring in HCR.

The Allied Health staff at UAF has begun to lay out the plans for a Pre-Nursing AS degree based on a similar model developed by UAS. This pipeline will be made available to all CHAP participants and to those individuals in the villages that live near a rural campus expecting to host the Nursing Degree. The expectation is this series of courses will help those students prepare academically for the rigors of the Nursing degree and to compete for the limited entry positions.

Pharmacy Careers: A final 1 credit course will be developed this semester in preparation for establishing this offering as a transcribed University of Alaska Occupational Endorsement for Pharmacy Technician. Establishing the Endorsement will be completed by the end of summer.

The student tracking database was created to provide a detailed understanding of where students reside since they are all distance-based. With open registration and no cohort model, students are participating from all over Alaska and the South Pacific. The original partnership with the University of Hawaii continues. Discussions are underway with UH as they prepare to establish a School of Pharmacy. Since Alaska has no advanced degree program for pharmacy training, has a major workforce shortage in this area, this is a worthy partnership to investigate.

Medical Laboratory Careers: The Clinical Laboratory Assistant training will be transformed into a transcribed UAA Occupational Endorsement next quarter. This new Endorsement was recently approved by the UA Board of Regents to create a transcribed permanent record for students completing work of 9 to 29 credits in a defined occupational field. In addition, an additional 3 credit course will be added to the Phlebotomy training and an Occupational Endorsement will be created for it next quarter as well.

We will continue to offer the Phlebotomy Procedures 101 and Specimen processing 194D in distance form. Recruitment is underway to replace the faculty person who resigned last semester. This is a very difficult teaching field to recruit due to very high salaries paid by the health industry compared to University salary levels.

Radiographic Careers: Based on workforce needs for Radiographic Technicians in rural Alaska, we hope to build on the YKHC Limited Radiography group of completers to begin offering the AAS degree to a small Bethel cohort by Fall 2007. Potential applicants for this highly competitive program will be supported by Kuskokwim Campus and UAA to complete need pre-requisites and General Education requirements so they can apply to the program next May. The trainee success coordinator will be instrumental in supporting this effort.

Trainee Success at UAA: More trips to Bethel and surrounding communities are planned to continue familiarization with the community and assessment of need for health students. The coordinator will connect again with the Bethel Limited Radiography completers to discuss their plans should they want to apply for the Rad Tech AAS. The coordinator is planning a series of root cause interviews to assist in identifying pitfalls and possible solutions. He will also travel to Dillingham this quarter to begin the relational connections with UAF Dillingham campus and the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation. The coordinator will begin generating students/employees in dental assisting for the fall Infection Control online class. We intend to enroll students from YKHC, Maniilaq and BBAHC.

**PROBLEMS, DELAYS OR CONCERNS EXPERIENCED:**

Are the grant activities progressing as planned? If not, what is the cause? Identify if there are any areas the Alaska Workforce Investment Office can provide assistance.

Pharmacy Careers: There are no delays or problems arising for this activity. The economics of health care and pharmacy practice are creating movement from the retail industry to increase responsibilities of pharmacy technicians and increase efficiencies of pharmacists time and reduce labor costs. This could contribute to higher demand for the pharmacy technician training UAA offers. We will be keeping a close eye on this dynamic.

Medical Laboratory Careers: The full time faculty working on these activities resigned in December. She will continue to teach 2 classes, one in distance form and track some of the students working on a year-long course completion for phlebotomy, until we are able to recruit her replacement. Any further development of AAS Medical Lab Tech courses is on hold until that hiring is completed.

Radiographic Careers: No issues to address.

Trainee Success at UAA: No issues to address

Community Wellness Advocate Careers: Integrate curriculum in the UAS AAS degree in Health Sciences; continue offering standard course work

PCA to CNA Careers: PCA Bridge course will be offered again for online distance delivery after incorporating any needed changes learned from pilot; develop CNA course for online distance delivery pilot in Fall 06 semester; collaborate with state workgroup on CNA pilot program development.

**POSSIBLE PROBLEM RESOLUTIONS AND TIMEFRAMES:**

For any problems identified, describe how you will resolve them and how long it will take.

Pharmacy Careers: No issues to address.

Medical Laboratory Careers: The UAA Allied Health Sciences will recruit to fill this position, ideally by summer so the new faculty will have time to become versed in distance education technology and be prepared to pick up the teaching load in Fall 2006.

Radiographic Careers: No issues to address

Trainee Success at UAA: Moving forward very well.

Community Wellness Advocate Careers: None

PCA/CNA Careers: Submitting detailed proposal to Board of Nursing for Bridge pilot activities and approval; evaluating possible preceptors at multiple locations (Wasilla, Anchorage, Soldotna, Bethel)

**Certification:** I certify that the above information is true and correct and in accordance with the terms and conditions of the agreement.

Karen Perdue, AVP – Health Programs  
**Name and Title**

 4/17/2006  
**Signature** **Date**