



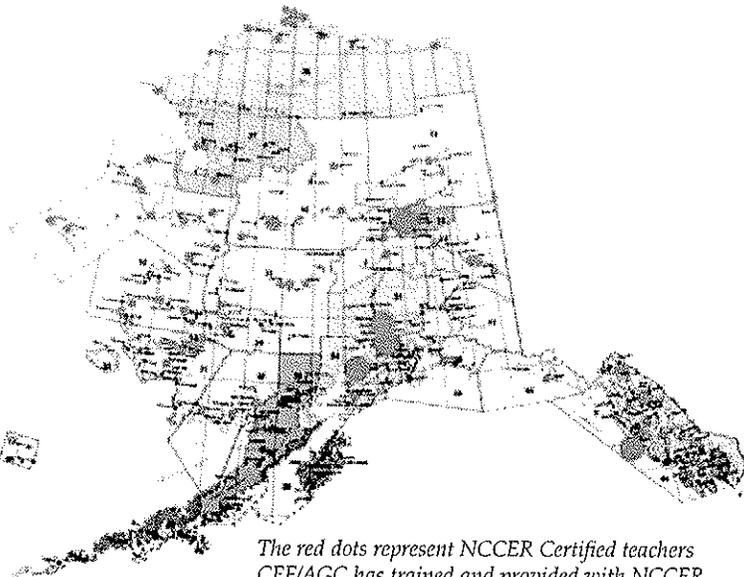
# EDUCATION, TRAINING & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT REPORT



Together with the effective and innovative efforts of our many partners in industry, government, and education, the Construction Education Foundation and AGC of Alaska continue to see substantial gains in workforce development and specialized contractor training throughout the state.

By ROBERT CRESS,  
Training Director

## Making a difference through innovative partnerships in rural Alaska



The red dots represent NCCER Certified teachers CEF/AGC has trained and provided with NCCER Curriculum and instructional support.

Throughout urban and rural Alaskan high schools, nationally recognized and/or innovative construction-related programs are becoming much more the standard for Career and Technical Education CTE, (formerly called shop or Voc-Ed). Examples include Project Lead the Way, SkillsUSA, AWS recognized Welding, NCCER Craft Training, Work

Keys and W.I.N., "Build a Plane", "From Sleds to Sheds", Geospatial Technology, Logistics, and many others, possibly weatherization. More on these and urban Alaska in the Summer 2009 issue.

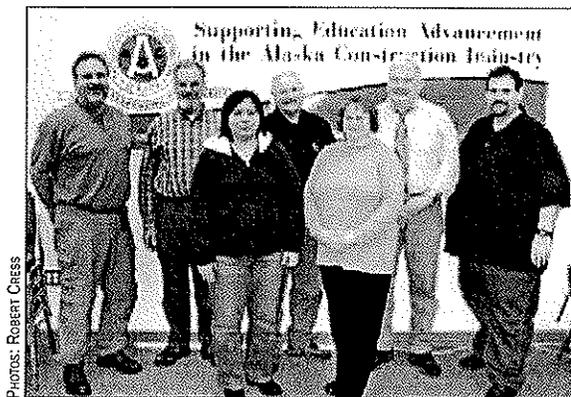
There are many components for a successful construction education/training program, which result in student readiness for construction jobs or more advanced training. That said, few would disagree that a competent and motivated instructor or program leader is one of the essential factors, if not the most important factor, of any successful program.

Funded through the Denali Commission Grant, our efforts, in part, are directed towards increasing the number of NCCER Certified Instructors and providing curriculum and Instructional support throughout Alaska. Pictured below are rural and urban Building Trades and Vocational Instructors who received NCCER Certification Training.

This issue will concentrate on rural Alaska, the network of the NCCER Certified Instructors sponsored by our program, and several innovatively partnered Building Trades programs in Akiachak, Healy, Klawock and Nenana.

### Building Trades Instructor Frank Schneider writes from Akiachak, Yupiit School District:

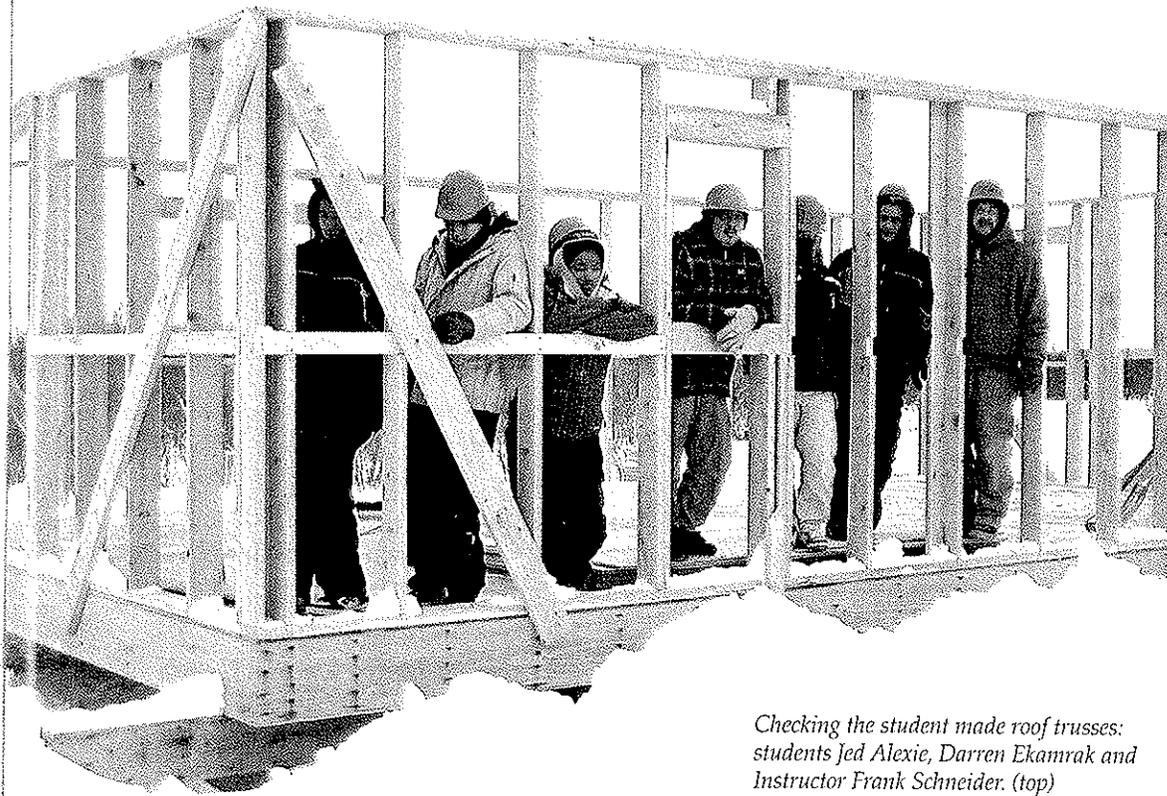
Preparing rural Alaskan students for high pay, high demand jobs carries a unique set of challenges; however, these challenges can be overcome. A good starting point is developing a quality career and technical CTE program that connects technical professionals in both education and industry.



At the Fairbanks AGC Office: School Districts include Alaska Gateway (Tdk), Haines, Fairbanks North Star (Lathrop, North Pole), and Lower Yukon (Kotlik and Scammon Bay).



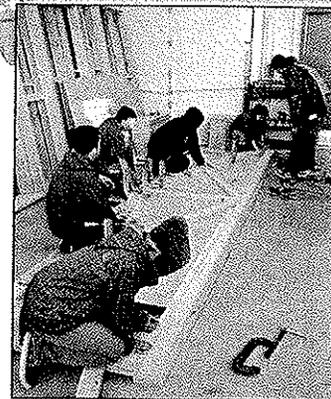
At the Anchorage AGC Office: School Districts include Mat-Su (Palmer, Colony, Houston), Lower Yukon (Emmonak, Mountain Village), Kenai Peninsula (Nikiski, Skyview), Aleutians East (Sand Point, King Cove), Yukon Kuskokwim (Kallag), Chatham (Angoon), Pribilof Islands, Cordova City, Klawock and Craig City. Companies include Peak Oil Field and Raven Electric.



*Checking the student made roof trusses: students Jed Alexie, Darren Ekamrak and Instructor Frank Schneider. (top)*

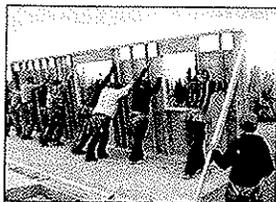
*Progress report with Micheal Andreanoff, Darren Ekamrak, Jolene James, Jed Alexie, Cynthia Andrew, Nick Andreanoff, Frank Schneider. (Not pictured, Elsie Wassilie)*

*Constructing a Truss with Jolene James, Jed Alexie, Darren Ekamrak, Nick Andreanoff, Cynthia Andrew, Micheal Andreanoff, Frank Schneider. (bottom)*



In the fall of 2007 it was my pleasure to participate in a workshop on NCCER Instructor Certification sponsored by AGC of Alaska. Since making these connections, our school has received curricular and support materials to help our students work toward nationally recognized certifications. Also, using "From Sleds to Sheds" seed money has helped jump start the construction pathway in our CTE program with our Arctic Entry Building attachments.

As shown, our students are building a single bedroom teacher-housing unit that is being purchased by the Yupiit School District. This project provides our students with hands-on experiences in rough and finish carpentry, cabinet making, residential wiring and plumbing. This hands-on experience complements the NCCER Core in technical reading, writing and math.



### **Career Counselor Joel Lueders reports from Healy, Denali Borough School District**

Every year since 2000, Building Trades students at Tri-Valley High School in Healy build two cabins like those pictured thanks to a strong partnership with the National Park Service (NPS) and Denali National Park.

Under the instruction and supervision of Chip Barker of Denali National Park and Don Mirosh, Tri-Valley Building Trades Instructor and NCCER Certified, students participate in all aspects of the construction process from framing through the finishing of the interior. Constructed on unattached piers, each cabin measures 18 x 26 feet, includes an arctic entry, two bedrooms with built-in bunks and a kitchen and living area that features a pine tongue and groove vaulted ceiling. Construction time is about 1200 student hours per cabin.

Upon completion, the cabins are relocated each May to Denali National Park where they are used to house the park's summer employees.

To date, Healy students have built 18 cabins for the Denali National Park and have 16 more planned through 2014.

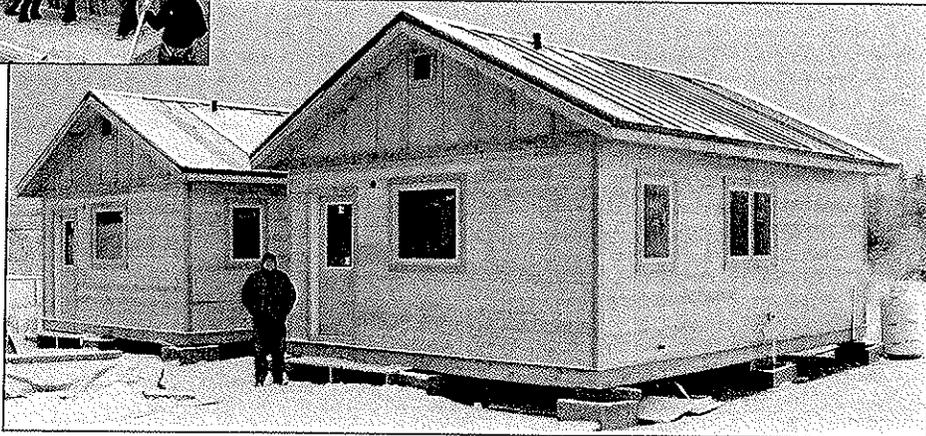


PHOTO: ROBERT CRESS

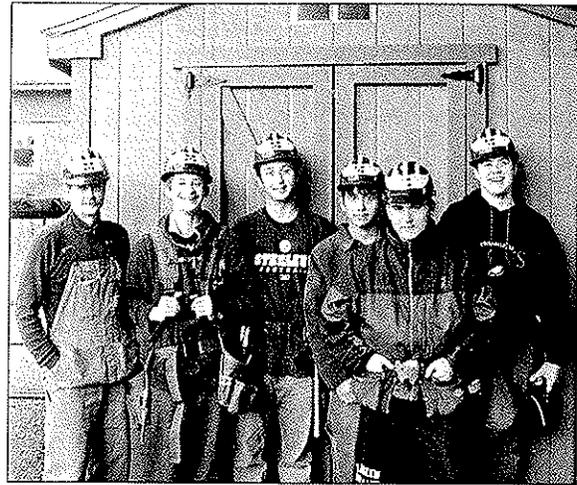
*Tri-Valley students raise a cabin wall. (inset)*

*Joel Lueders, Career Counselor, with two student built cabins #17, #18 of a planned 34, ready to be moved to Denali Park.*

Photo: Mike Cleary



Klawock student built shed #1 of #4 on the way to its new owner.



Instructor Mike Cleary and students Kyle Packer, Cody Williams, Steven Roberts, Nate McNeill, and James Sharpe.

### Building construction rural style in Klawock by Instructor Mike Cleary

Klawock secured "seed money" to build our first shed with the support of the Denali Commission "From Sleds to Sheds" Sustainable Building Program. With money in hand, we were able to sign our Building Construction students up for high school credit, NCCER Certification Credits for this course, and three college credits from the University Of Alaska Southeast.

The students have designed, built and delivered one shed. Our second shed is nearly complete and two additional sheds will be built and sold by May 14, 2009. This was a combined effort with parents, school, community, university and the construction industry.

This is clearly a partnership that works!

*Note: Seed money was less than \$3,000, and provided valuable experiences in entrepreneurship and project management for many more classes.*

-Robert Cress

### Blain Morris, Vocational Education Instructor for Nenana High School writes:

Construction trades students Cosmos Mountain of Nulato and Justin Constantine from the Big Lake Area have just finished the ATV meat wagon trailers pictured here. Materials were purchased with "seed money" from the "From Sleds to Sheds" program. We have buyers lined up for these projects and will soon begin a sno-go trailer, a shed, and other school projects. Students learned fabrication, welding, and business skills from these projects. We extend much thanks to the Denali Commission and AGC of Alaska for their commitment to vocational education.

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