

October, 2015

EXCEL ALASKA NEWSLETTER

The Trades:

Carpentry,
Welding and
Heavy Equipment
Operations



Welding Students
strike a pose for the
camera!

Welding and Carpentry CTE Session: 23 Students from 14 different rural Alaskan villages attended the Welding and Carpentry CTE session from September 29th-October 12th, 2015.

EXCEL Alaska hosted yet another amazing two-week Welding and Carpentry CTE session at the Joe Parent Vocational Education building, in Aniak. 23 students from 14 different rural Alaskan villages attended the session. It included students from Kuspuuk, Yupiit, Lower Yukon and Yukon Koyukuk school districts.

The instruction for carpentry was led by Ray Tubbs and the instruction for welding was led by Randy Newman, both retired teachers specializing in each component. NCCER (National Center for Construction Education and Research) Core instruction was taught by Erich Kuball, Tony Wilson and Christa Jones. The daily Career Session was led by Billijo Mills.

This year EXCEL Alaska combined the two camps together. Out of the 23 students, 12 chose welding and 11 chose carpentry as their daily trade.

In carpentry, students learned a wide variety of skills, from basic safety to materials

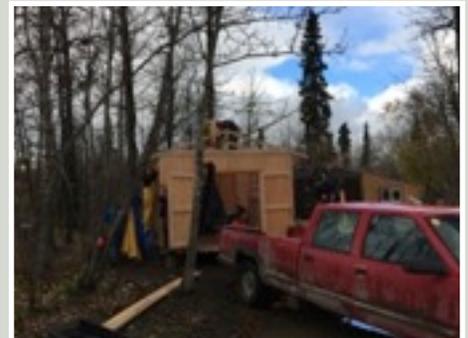
handling. Additionally, the students learned how to build trusses and frames for building structures. In all, the carpentry students built a 12 X 16 ft. and an 8 X 12 ft. shed.

In the welding class, students learned how to Stick and Mig weld, as well as plasma cutting. Projects included constructing 4 four-wheeler trailers, 2 barrel stoves, 2 pipe stoves, and 1 smoker. Participants also had a lot of time to work on several mini-projects.

All together, this was a very productive two weeks for the students. All participants earned the National NCCER Core certificate. They practice teamwork, communication, and problem solving skills to finish projects, as well as participated in a drug, alcohol, and suicide prevention class. I'd say they have the tools for success in their future.

Below:

Students work on delivering the 12 by 16 foot shed to the buyers property. After completion of the project, the students painted the shed dark brown.



Student Quote: From student survey.

"EXCEL Alaska is the best career opportunity in Alaska for young adults."
Anonymous

STUDENTS ON THE SIMULATORS



Students on the real thing!



EXCEL Alaska Heavy Equipment Operations CTE Session, 2015

EXCEL Alaska also hosted a Heavy Equipment Operations (HEO) session in the month of October (13th-21st). 16 students from 11 different rural Alaskan communities attended.

Instruction was led by Gerald (Gerry) Andrews and assisted by Christa Jones and Tony Wilson. Gerry has been in the HEO career field for almost 40 years and has a huge wealth of knowledge, which he was able to share with the students. Additionally, he piqued students interest in the HEO career fields. Students also completed Personal Learning Career Plans (PLCP) on AKCIS. PLCP class was lead by Tony Wilson and Christa Jones.

During this session students took an in-depth look at the basics of heavy equipment operations and learned basic functions of excavators, loaders, and dozers. They did this through completing coursework and working on simulators. After getting a feel for the equipment and learning some basic knowledge, they were able to practice on the real thing! All 16 students had the opportunity to run the Excavator, Bobcat, and Tractor-Loader-Backhoe.

The students also took an in-depth look into what they want to do after high-school during PLCP class. Not only did they learn about what careers are out there, they learned what they like and dislike within a job so they can become more successful in the transition to their career.

Lastly, students received Drug, Alcohol and Suicide Prevention Training. During this training students learned; how to identify stress, the difference between positive coping strategies and negative coping strategies; how to identify risk factors of suicide; and where to go if they see these risk factors in their peers.

By and large, this session was very successful. Students gained the basic skills to entry level HEO, received hands-on real time on heavy equipment, looked into careers that fit their interest, learned ways to positively cope with their stress, and learned how to seek out risk factors of individuals dealing with suicidal thoughts.

UP NEXT:	EXCEL 9	AVTEC	CREDIT RECOVERY-UAA	EXCEL 10
	November 2nd-7th, 2015	Mini-bridging session	January 11th-24th, 2015	January 25th-February 2nd
	Kenai, AK	December 1st-10th, 2015 Seward, AK	Anchorage, AK	Anchorage, AK