



News from Alaska EXCEL

second quarter of the 2019-2020 school year!

Did you know? Your donations helped provide instruction in needed English, math, and science classes for rural Alaskan students to graduate on time!

EXCEL 11

Because of your continued support, 30 students from seven different rural school districts were able to visit their potential post-secondary training campus.

EXCEL 11 ended on October 30th, just in time for all the students to head home for Halloween. For ten days the students worked very hard for their accomplishments. Designed to give students a taste of different post-secondary options, **EXCEL 11 moves them towards thinking about their future career paths.** Some of the other activities included in EXCEL 11 push students to step outside their comfort zones and teaches effective communication with adults and peers in business environments.

We are excited about our new partnership with **Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC)**. Some of our



students are either shareholders or descendants of ASRC and it was a wonderful connection for them to make with their corporation headquarters here in Anchorage,

Each successful completer of EXCEL 11 earned a .5 high school credit in Career Development Life-Work Planning.

Below are some highlights:

- AVTEC visitors took the TABE entrance exam
- Drug and Alcohol prevention training
- Job application, resumé, cover letter and mock interview
- Toured of Kenai Peninsula College, AVTEC, Alaska Christian College and Alaska Job Corps
- Job tours at Alaska Communications Systems, ASRC, and IBEW
- Learned personal social skills such as hand shakes, eye contact when speaking, and active listening
- Learned real-life budgeting skills and independent living skills
- Created and/or updated Personal Learning & Career Plans (PLCP) on Alaska Career Information System (AKCIS)
- Learned how to navigate the public transportation system in Anchorage
- Learned how to write a thank you letter
- Studied for and received **Alaska Driver's Permits**

We are grateful to each district for sending the students to us and for the opportunity to make a difference in their lives.

Thank you for making it possible for these young, rural Alaskans to learn independent living skills and for us to assist them in planning their futures as they look forward to their high school graduation.

Did you know? The Yupik translation for the godwit is cenairpak or kukukuak (pronounced sen-arrgh-buck) or (goo-goo-gock)!

How are you like a godwit?

John - I am persistant

Joseph - I am amazing in many ways

Shahaila - I won't give up

Esmae - I am strong

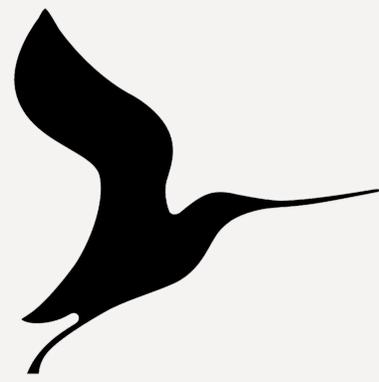
Phillip - I am capable of great things

William - I am capable to grasp my future

Samie - I can do anything if I try

Michael - I am determined

Isiah - I won't drink pop for nine days
Jereme - I am a warrior, I am strong



Did you know? Our students find and purchase interview-worthy clothing on a budget of under \$25!

EXCEL 12

Thinking back to your first interview, were you nervous? Did you have butterflies? Were your palms sweating? Your dedication to EXCEL helped over 25 seniors make a solid after-graduation plan and not have so many butterflies for their first interview!

EXCEL 12 took place here at the EXCEL house on the Alaska Pacific University Campus from November 6th - 16th. It was a terrific eleven days and the students' accomplishments were varied and many. EXCEL 12 is designed to be very individualized to the student's needs and wants to answer their question, "What am I going to do after high school?"

In addition to shopping at Value Village for appropriate clothing for an interview, check out more highlights below:



- A healthy lifestyles lesson including how to eat a balanced diet once they are living on their own
- Students shopped for food for the session on a budget and cooked all of their own breakfasts and lunches
- Received **Alaska State Drivers Permit**
- Received **Alaska State ID**
- Received **Birth Certificates**
- Received their **CIB cards**
- Found and applied for a real job in Anchorage for which they were qualified, created a resumé and cover letter, and interviewed in a mock interview at Alaska EXCEL
- Went on campus tours at **Alaska Job Corps, AVTEC, Kenai Peninsula College, Alaska Christian College, UAA, and APU**

- Attended a **personal finance** presentation by **Alaska USA Federal Credit Union**
- Opened up **Checking or Savings accounts** at **Alaska USA Federal Credit Union**
- Started scholarship goal essays
- Filled out budgeting sheet for post-secondary options they are interested in to understand the cost and amount of scholarship money they need
- Completed real life **budgeting activity** based on the job they interviewed for, finding a place to live to fit within their budget, and a car they could afford
- Completed TABE test for **AVTEC**

Students did well and we were thrilled to have a full house here. Each session we see them getting closer and closer to their goals.

Did you know? Iris tells us the godwit is yummy!

BOARD NEWS

Please join Alaska EXCEL in welcoming PJ Simon and Sam Hill as newly elected Executive Board Members.

POLLACK “PJ” SIMON JR lives in Fairbanks, Alaska and is a plumber apprentice working toward his journeyman plumbing license. Additionally, he is a Class A assistant hunting guide and is working toward his registered big game guide license.

PJ was elected to the Doyon, Limited board of directors in March 2014 and serves as vice chair. He serves on the executive and finance committees and as the alternate Doyon representative on the Alaska Federation of Natives board of directors as well as a board member and secretary on the Doyon Oil Field Services, Inc. Other board assignments include Alaska Trappers Association and most recently Alaska EXCEL.

Previously, PJ served as a board member for the Bureau of Land Management Alaska Resource Advisory Council, as the Doyon representative on the Alaska Federation of Natives board of directors, as a political advocate and first chief for the Allakaket Tribe, as secretary/treasurer on the Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) executive board, on the Chena Bingo board, on the TCC advocacy committee, and in the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Water and Sewer focus group. He founded the nonprofit group Friends of Moose and starred on an Animal Planet TV show. PJ advocates locally, statewide, and nationally on Native and rural issues.

SAM HILL was born and raised in rural Alaska (Kotzebue and Kiana). After graduating in 1996, he received a double degree in Environmental Sciences and Exercise Sciences from the University of Oregon in 2001. Sam currently resides in Anchorage with his wife Aune Carlson and together they are proud members of Mountain View Hope Covenant Church, where they serve their community through various activities.

Sam serves as the Senior Vice President of Human Resources for Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC). He started with the ASRC family in February 2004. He spent his first 10 years with ASRC Energy Services (AES), where he held various management roles. Before his transition to the ASRC Corporate HR Department in 2014, Sam held a position as the Vice President of Support Services for AES, where he had oversight for HR, HSET, and Communications.

Currently, Alaska EXCEL's board lineup is as follows:

Executive Board

- Sam Hill - Senior Vice President of Human Resources, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation
- Wayne Morgan - President, Aniak Traditional Council (Member at Large)
- Brenda Pacaro - Workforce & Shareholder Development Supervisor, Calista Corporation (Vice Chair)
- PJ Simon - Vice Chair, Doyon Limited
- Colin Stewart - Career & Technical Education Director, Lower Kuskokwim School District (Treasurer)

(Other Alaska EXCEL board positions will be voted on by the Executive Board at the January meeting)

Advisory Board

- Sam Robert Brice - President, Bilista Holding (Calista Holding Company)
- Susan Hoeldt - Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation
- Meg Smith - Human Resources Manager, Donlin Gold LLC
- Patty Woody - Career & Technical Education Coordinator, Yukon Koyukuk School District

Thank you, Senator Giessel, for the shout-out at the recent RDC/Alaska Alliance Breakfast meeting. We appreciate you passing on your knowledge that Alaska EXCEL is making a difference in Career & Technical Education in rural Alaska as well as raising graduation rates!

Did you know? Students have earned a total of 125 half high school core credits through Alaska EXCEL's Credit Recovery sessions!

CREDIT RECOVERY & POST-SECONDARY PREP

CREDIT RECOVERY & POST-SECONDARY PREP

You are a part of 30 student success stories, such as early graduation for some!

Our Credit Recovery and Post-Secondary Test Prep Session, from December 4th to December 13th was a whirlwind! Not only did we offer our **usual Language Arts and Math classes**, but introduced the option for students to experience **Life Science - EXCEL style**. It was a big hit. Carlene Leisch and Dave LeMaster taught this very hands-on class. Six students walked away not only with .5 science credit, but holding First Aid/CPR certification!



Four students dug-in and studied for their ACT, ACCUPLACER, ALEKS, or TABE test in order to go on to their choice of post-secondary programs at UAA, UAF, or AVTEC. Studying for post-secondary entrance exams isn't easy, but these students didn't shy away from the hard work and even earned .5 high school credit in Post-secondary Prep and Planning.

This was a fantastic session to culminate 2019 with a great deal of student successes.

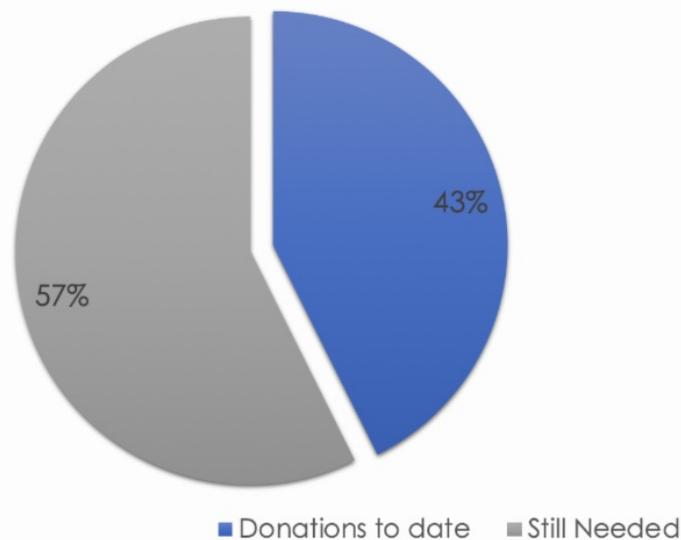
- Six .5 credits in Life Science
- Six First Aid/CPR certifications
- Ten .5 English Composition credits
- Ten .5 credits in a variety of Algebra A through Algebra II
- Four .5 elective credits earned in Post-Secondary Prep & Planning
- A couple of final credits earned for High School diplomas

Whew!

Between you and EXCEL, we can claim victory with a few of our students graduating early or completing the requirements for their graduation in May!

One way to spell success... G. R. A. D. U. A. T. I. O. N. !

EXCEL Fundraising Progress



Here is a snapshot of our fundraising efforts towards our \$200,000 goal.

To give to Alaska EXCEL, please visit www.excelalaska.org and click on the DONATE button

Did you know? Of the districts EXCEL serves, several of them have no funding to

very little funding for their students' travel, leaving 3,337 of 4,145 kids without these life-changing opportunities.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- EXCEL 10 - January 14th - 21st
- EXCEL 9 - January 27th - February 1st
- EXCEL 8 - February 10th - 14th
- EXCEL 7 - February 25th - 28th



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