

Kotzebue Tech Center celebrates Vocational Ed Week

Can Alaska train a qualified work force for Alaskan jobs? This is the big question facing Alaskan vocational-technical schools and no better time to ask it than during Vocational Education Week, which was last week, February 9th-15th.

To raise the public's awareness of the importance of this question, Governor William Sheffield joined the state of Alaska with the American Vocational Association in declaring Vocational Education Week.

The Kotzebue Technical Center played its part by hosting a series of open houses and workshops. There were tours of shop facilities and the new three-bedroom house which the KTC carpentry class is building. There were also two career planning workshops to explore vocational interests and aptitudes. There was, in addition, a display at the Kotzebue Alaska Airlines Terminal complete with samples of baked goods prepared by the KTC Food Service students. High School students were invited to participate in a "buddy" program for a half day, visiting KTC classrooms of their choice with a KTC student to assist them. There was also a vocational art poster contest planned for the Kotzebue Middle School. KTC students prepared several public service announcements which were aired throughout the week on KUTZ radio, joined on radio by a special interview



Governor Sheffield with KTC Industrial Mechanics Class November 1985. The governor states that "vocational education, as the backbone of Alaska's Employment related education & training, is charged with preparing people for work."

with Governor William Sheffield and KTC Director, Gale Vick. In addition, recognition awards have been sent to persons around the state who have contributed to vocational education.

KTC counselor Colleen Doherty worked hard with other KTC faculty and students to plan these events and to promote vocational education awareness. Stressing the ongoing efforts of vocational-technical trainers, Doherty said, "This year's theme, "Vocational Education: A Choice

with a Future", really says it all. We are training people for Alaskan jobs and we hope that planned radio interviews with former graduates working on the North Slope will attest to our success." Doherty made his remarks several days before the VE week.

Persons interested in the great strides that vocational education is making within the state may want to contact the Alaska State Vocational Association, c/o Arnie Handschke, Box 51, Kotzebue, Alaska 99742.