

Kawerak Educational Services Finds Trainees Want Voc Ed

By JENNY ALOWA
Program Coordinator
Kawerak Educational Services
(non-profit Native organization)
recently opened a vocational ed.
school to 87 students from 16
Bering Straits Villages.

A survey done by Kawerak
showed that the majority of
these students from the villages
would rather have a vocational
ed. program close to their home.
The nearest skill center is in Fair-
banks, Alaska. A survey also
showed that these skills were ask-
ed by our village students and are
geared to the need of the area.

Out of 87 students, 40 are in
the building trades (Carpentry,
electrician, and Plumbing), 15
students are in Heavy Equipment,
and 15 students in Food Service.
There are also 5 in the Business
and Administration (office)
course, college accredited courses
thru University of Alaska, Nome
Extension Services.

All courses run 6 months ex-
cept the Business and Office Ad-
ministration Courses which are
one or two years. All the courses
are beginning courses. The voca-
tional ed. students will receive a
proficiency certificate at the end
of the program.

The goal of the program is to
place these students into jobs
after the completion of their pro-
gram. Kawerak takes the respon-
sibility for assisting with job
placement.

Since the opening of the
school on Nov. 4th, students,
staff, coordinators, and directors
of Kawerak, Bob Madden have
worked hard, as well as the villag-
es who sent their students on a
commitment basis. The Kawerak
planners composed a student-
policy agreement with the Ka-
werak Village Board Member em-
phasizing the importance of the
program.

The student and the village
representative to Kawerak board
go over the student policy. If

the student agrees to abide the
policy, he signs the paper with
the village representative. This
way we mean serious business
with the program as we would
like to produce 60-70 per cent
completion with our students.

Male students are housed at
Nome/Beltz dormitory and fe-
male students at Nugget Inn II.
Nome/Beltz school was original-
ly Wm. Beltz vocational school
but was taken over as a regional
high school for the area. Last
year village high school students
were transferred to a boarding
home program and the dorm was
left vacant till now.

Four counselors were hired to
work with the students. Their
duty includes personal counsel-
ing, education and job placement,
liaison to their instructors and
staff, and supervision of dorm.
The counselors were carefully
selected and our offices are very
proud of them. They're doing a
great job.

They are as follows: Aaron
Bell, Nome; Tim Slwooko, Gam-
bell; Steve Niksik, Stebbins; John
Agibinik, Unalakleet; and Candy
Davis from Fairbanks, our female
Counselor. Our counselor stu-
dent ratio is 20-1.

Besides the counselors, stu-
dent village representative from
all the 15 villages were selected
to aid the counselors. These stu-
dents representatives were selec-
ted by their own village class-
mates.

The same student village rep.
were chosen to a student council.
The student council members
were divided into committee's.
The "Store" committee started
from the scratch with the help of
Jim Sullivan, prof. of Business
and office Admin. They're selling
items like candy bars, pop, soap,
sandwich stuff, and other items
needed by the students. Herbert
Anungazuk from Wales and Clyde
Piscoya are the managers for the
student store.

The Recreation committee,
headed by Jesse Hamilton,
VISTA for Kawerak, and Bill
Savage, Recreation for Boarding
Home Program puts out good
movies twice a week.

The committee also has use of
the gym facility and runs intra-
mural basketball tournament,
pool table and ping pong, Es-
kimo games with the boarding

home program are being planned.
The first edition of the news-
letter was put out by the com-
mittee on Dec. 6th.

The Grievance Board is a pro-
bationary judicial group of four
students and three staff (coun-
selor, instructor, coordinator).
This board handles disputes in-
volving the program and per-
sonal conduct. A person is given

two chances, depending on the
seriousness of the case, he or she
may be sent home on the second
time. The group is composed of
Student Council Members and
Alternates students each week.

Most of the students are work-
ing part-time. They receive \$15
stipend pay every week in addi-
tion to wages.

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The transportation system headed by Daryl Trigg, and Robert Joe, moves student between Nome/Beltz dorm and downtown every hour.

Winnie James from Gambell, Merle Henry, Koyuk, and Helen Fagerstrom, Nome, run the Food Service.

Lee James and Rod McPhee are the building trades instructors, with more coming soon.

Fred Lancaster runs the heavy equipment class. Jim Sullivan, Business and Office Administration, and Everett Gibbs, director of Nome Extension Service, Univ. of Alaska, has the English class.

Bill Dann is Adult Basic Ed. coordinator, and instructor, John Poling is for any interested students who would like to receive their G.E.D.

Nancy Mendenhall, Barry Levit, and Jenny Alowa are the coordinators of the Kawerak Educational Services who helped Bob Madden plan the whole program. Carrie James is their secretary. Barry, Nancy, and Perry Mendenhall also are travelling to Savoonga, Gambell, Elim, and Koyuk every other week, and are teaching Business and Office Administration courses to the IRA

councilmen, city council, school board and other interested citizens.

BIA contracted KES office to run Savoonga's and Gambell's tribal office trainee program for an office manager and a secretary for six months. Koyuk and Elim are 4 month courses. In the Spring, we hope to have additional villages on our fly-in program.

Our office also received a contract from the State Dept. of Education to bring Adult Basic Educ. to these villages as well as Nome. In the local village a local teacher is hired to teach the ABE. Bill Dann is from our office and is the coordinator.

Above all, our staff would like to give the individual students credit for making our vocational program go. We are proud of each student as they put out their effort, and strength, and belief in the program. It's their program and will be their program! The villages should be proud of their students.

Boarding Home Program Director, Carol Drake and her staff are to be thanked for their cooperation as well as Nome High School staff and many others.