



UNIVERSITY  
of ALASKA  
SOUTHEAST

# University of Alaska Southeast School of Career Education

*Panel Discussion: Workforce & Education*

Cory J. Ortiz, PhD  
Dean, University of Alaska Southeast,  
School of Career Education



# Cory Ortiz, Dean

## Education

- B.S. & M.S. Technology and Engineering Education
- Ph.D. Career and Technical Education

## Professional Experience

- K-12 & Postsecondary Career and Technical Education
- 4-year degree program partnered with K-12 & higher education

## Personal

- First-generation college graduate
- Son of a second-generation copper miner



# University of Alaska Southeast



# Center for Mine Training

Provide workforce training in occupational fields leading to employment in the mining industry, with a special emphasis on expanding an Alaskan workforce for underground Mine Mechanics.



# Current Mining Career Pathways



## Occupational Endorsement (OE)

Mine Mechanic Emphasis

This Occupational Endorsement (OE)

29 credits in the Power Technology Department.

Emphasis on the types equipment used in underground mining.

## Associate of Applied Science (AAS)

Mine Mechanic Emphasis

61 credits hour degree the student should be able to obtain an entry level position as a mechanic

Emphasis on the types equipment used in underground mining

## Dual Enrollment (High School)

Introduction to Mining Occupations & Operations

University and industry sponsored course offered to High School students

Introduction to careers available in Alaska's mining industry, the importance of mining in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and to provide an overview of the life of a mine.

# Current Projects

- Development of a new mine safety class, in consultation with input from local mines
- Development of new advisory committee to advise program development
- Hiring of new (local) staff
- Specialized training classes (short term, non credit)
- Exploration of new training opportunities

# Current Industry Partners

- Hecla Greens Creek
- Coeur Alaska Kensington
- Tyler Rental
- Alaska Miners Association
- Juneau Economic Development Council

# Hecla Greens Creek Pathway to Mining Careers

- Mission: Train local mechanics for employment in Alaska's minerals industry.
  - Introduction to Mining Careers and Occupations course
  - Apply to UAS Diesel/Mine Mechanic Program and apply for Hecla Scholarship support
  - Interview for Summer Internship Experience
  - Interview for Job Opportunity





# Intro to Mining Occupations and Operations

- Course built for High school students, who earn 3 UAS college credits upon completion.
- Scholarship support from Hecla Greens Creek and Coeur Alaska Kensington ensure no cost for students interested.
  - Mining partners present various topics to the class
  - Course finishes up with mine site tour



# Hecla-Greens Creek Scholarship Program

- \$105,000 Annual Donation
  - Six (6) selected students receive funding for the cost of tuition up to 16 credits in their first semester.
    - If pursuing an A.A.S., tuition, and fees for classes in their second year.
  - 20 High Students provided the opportunity to attend the IMOO course

# Coeur Alaska Custom Tailored Classes

- Hydraulics & Welding
  - Pilot program
  - Operators who needed / wanted additional training

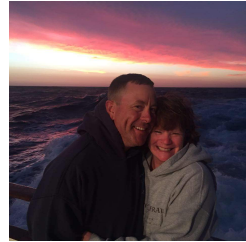
# Vision for the Future

- Assess programs - ensure relevance
- Update and expand programs as needed
  - (e.g., advanced welding, NDT, Machining, fixed plant)
- Modernize labs and training spaces

# Faculty & Support Staff



Tom Dolan  
Assistant Professor  
Power Technology



Adam Zenger  
Instructor  
Mine Training



Catherine  
Pusich  
Administrative  
Manager



Ashley  
Morehouse  
Academic  
Advisor



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**Thanks!**

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