



October 15, 2014

Dear Alaskans:

An ancient proverb advises: if you want 100 years of prosperity, grow people. That is the shared mission of the Department of Education & Early Development, the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, and the University of Alaska - to grow people ready for the workforce, ready to contribute to our state, and ready to provide a future for themselves and their families.

In 2010, we published the Alaska Career and Technical Education (CTE) Plan. Since that time, we have continued to advocate for and support the re-establishment of career and technical education into the mainstream education system. Implementation of the plan has resulted in alignment of funding and programming to increase CTE offerings throughout the education and workforce development systems in Alaska.

The Alaska State Legislature and the Parnell Administration have supported these efforts by funding the Career and Technical Education grant program to expand secondary curriculum, reauthorizing the Technical Vocational and Education Program to fund postsecondary training, adding the voc-ed increment to the K-12 foundation formula, and including a CTE option as part of the Alaska Performance Scholarship program.

The strategies in the CTE plan remain relevant as guidelines to help strengthen our state's CTE system. As we renew our support for the plan, we are committed to continue working together toward the ongoing expansion of career and technical education and training in our state. Along with the ongoing recommendations from the CTE Plan Advisory Committee, our action agenda will focus on increased alignment with employer demand, workforce development plans, and in-demand occupations. By even closer collaboration with our partners in education and workforce development, we can provide more pathways that lead to occupational credentials and degrees for Alaska's current and future workforce.

For Alaska's continued prosperity, an educated, work-ready workforce is essential. Achieving that goal requires the ongoing partnership and contributions of elected leaders, school boards, employers, educators, students, and *you*. Join us as we build *Alaska's Talent Pipeline*.

Sincerely,

/s/
Mike Hanley
Commissioner
Department of Education &
Early Development

/s/
Dianne Blumer
Commissioner
Department of Labor and
Workforce Development

/s/
Patrick Gamble
President
University of Alaska