



Kenai Peninsula College
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

September 2024 College Council Report

September 12, 2024 | Kenai River Campus | 6:00 p.m.

1.0 Meeting Called to Order

1.1 Roll Call

2.0 Approval of Agenda

3.0 Approval of Minutes

4.0 Introductions

****ORAL REPORTS LIMITED TO FIVE MINUTES****

5.0 Reports

- 5.1 Chair, College Council: Hal Smalley
- 5.2 Kachemak Bay Campus Advisory Board Chair: Kris Holderied
- 5.3 KPC Director: Cheryl Siemers
- 5.4 KBC Director: Brian Partridge
- 5.5 RBES Coordinator: Jackie Marshall
- 5.6 KPC Student Services Director: Sara Rinearson
- 5.7 Student Government Reports
 - 5.7.1 KRC: Susan Browning/Tina Hamlin
- 5.8 KPC Director of Advising: Emily Knight
- 5.9 KPC Academic Affairs
 - 5.9.1 Director of Academic Affairs: Scott Downing
 - 5.9.2 Faculty Chairs: Jim Titus, Clair Kochis, Christina Paxman, Paul Perry, Adam Dunstan, Brian Partridge
- 5.10 ETILD Lead: Kim Frost
- 5.11 KRC Director of the Learning Center: Heidi Biskeborn
- 5.12 KPC Director of Administrative Service: Carrie Couey
- 5.13 IT Supervisor: Mark Jensen
- 5.14 Director of Facilities & Maintenance: Rusty King
- 5.15 Council Member Comments
- 5.16 Faculty, Student, Staff, and Public

6.0 Action Items

- 6.1 Change the date for the March meeting due to spring break: March 13 move to March 20
- 6.2 24-25 Chair and Vice Chair election

7.0 Action Items

- 7.1 Vote on 24-25 Chair and Vice Chair
- 7.2 Scholarship Funding (perpetual agenda item)

8.0 Executive Session

The Council may go into executive session in accordance with AS 44.62.310 to discuss matters the immediate knowledge of which would have an adverse effect on the finances of the university and matters that could affect the reputation or character of a person or persons.

9.0 Adjournment

Next Meeting: October 10, 2024; KRC Ward 102 @ 6pm

College Council Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2024 | 6:00 pm | RBES Seward & Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joe Kashi, Brent Johnson, Walter Partridge, Dick Peck, Martin Fallon, Sonja Redmond, Jack Hester

MEMBERS ABSENT:

James Hornaday, Kris Holderied, Hal Smalley

STAFF:

Brian Partridge, Christina Paxman, Kim Frost, Paul Perry, Rusty King, Jim Titus, Clair Kochis, Katy Koetitz, Adam Dunstan, Carrie Couey, Paula Martin, Scott Downing, Sara Rinearson, Tina Hamlin, Jackie Marshall, Emily Knight, Nancy Johnson

1.0 - CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Joe Kashi called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm. Roll called, quorum established.

2.0 - APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Joe Kashi made a motion to amend the April agenda to include a resolution in discussion Items, 6.2 to congratulate Dr. Jeff Siemers and Dr. Kim Frost who both recently received their Ph.D.

Brent Johnson moved to approve the motion as stated. Dick Peck seconded.

3.0 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve March moved by Dick Peck and 2nd by Brent Johnson minutes passes by unanimous consent.

4.0 - INTRODUCTIONS

No introductions

5.0 - ORAL REPORTS

5.1 Chair Smalley: Not in attendance

5.2 KBC Advisory Board Rep. – Kris Holderied: Not in attendance

5.3 College Director – Cheryl Siemers: Not in attendance

5.4 Kachemak Bay Campus –Paula Martin: Facilities Manager Chris Maurer retired and we are going to be posting that position soon. We are also finishing up the KBC Director search and the Biology professor search. In addition to the report, Paula mentioned that she has been having discussions with Cheryl, Carrie and Rust about demolishing the Young property sooner than later.

5.5 RBES Coordinator – Jackie Marshall: Excited about opportunities for Dual Enrollment in Seward. There is now a GED tutor with the AAE in Seward. Just today Jackie was able to connect a student to some resources for KPC. KPC is a good resource to the Seward Community. Dick Peck suggested reaching out to AVTEC to explore the possibility of a partnership with the KRC Cafe and their Culinary Arts Program.

5.6 Student Services –Sara Rinearson: Nothing to add.

5.7 Student Government:

KRC SU: President Tina Hamlin: Nothing to add.

5.8 Advising – Emily Knight: Emily just returned from a college fair in Newhalen, AK where the entire district was in attendance. She shared about career pathways but was disheartened that she was unable to offer housing.

5.9 KPC Director of Academic Affairs –

5.9.1 Scott Downing: Nothing to add.

5.9.2 Faculty Chairs – Jim Titus - Hilcorp has hired 11 of our grads or soon to be grads for their internship program this summer.

Chistina Paxman - Excited to share that Dr. Ali Ahamadi will be joining the English department for the Fall semester.

Paul Perry - Accreditation complete and they are now waiting for the site visit. Brian Partridge - KBC Faculty as a whole would like to congratulate Dr. Kim Frost on receiving her PhD.

5.10 Educational Technology Innovation Learning Design – Kim Frost: Nothing to add – No comments

5.11 Learning Center – Heidi Graves: Not in attendance

5.12 Administrative Services – Carrie Couey: Nothing to add

5.13 IT Services – Mark Jensen: Not in attendance.

5.14 Facilities / Maintenance – Rusty King: None of the contractors that came to look at the Goodrich building submitted bids. UAA FP&C has extended the bid time and will have a closed bid offer to 3 contractors. They are also open to repair options. Blazy Construction will possibly be re-submitting a bid. There was no engineer estimate. Brent Johnson asked who is funding this project and asked if the state has been approached to help fund. Rust said that UAA FP&C are in charge of seeking funding. Brent also suggested looking into the possibility of Federal Aid for structural repair. Rusty will investigate and report back.

5.15 Council Member Comments: Brent Johnson: Brent noted that both the Soldotna and Homer campuses had their start inside a high school and anticipates growth in Seward as well.

Dick Peck: Congratulations to staff and faculty on the significant growth. As always, very nice reports.

Sonya Redmond: Great Reports as always. Thank you!

Jack Hester: Asked if the increase that was noted in Cheryl's report was headcount or credit hours? It is indeed headcount.

Marty Fallon: Enrollment numbers are impressive. That requires a lot of work. See you all at graduation.

6.0 - DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.1 Unused funds - Dick asked Carrie where do the unused funds rest? Carrie said that in mid-July, Statewide will do their financial adjustments and whatever is left over will be swept into the statewide account and that she is unaware of the landing account type. She assumes it is a checking account. Carries also noted that all the money comes in and out of a UA account. Cheryl is working with the Vice Chancellor of Admin Services to inquire about this matter. Jack Hester, Dick Peck and Joe Kashi would like some clarity on this by the fall meeting.

6.2 Motion to Congratulate: Dr. Jeff Slemers and Dr. Kim Frost on the completion of their PhD. Moved and seconded.

7.0 - ACTION ITEMS

7.1 Scholarship Funding (perpetual agenda meeting)

As of 4/17/24 the balance of the scholarship fund is \$1307.69.

Dick Peck challenged the council members to match his \$750 donation from the previous meeting. Joe Kashi said he would donate \$50 to the scholarship fund.

8.0 - EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

9.0 - ADJOURNMENT

Declared by the Chair at 6:46 p.m. Passed by unanimous consent.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: *Katy Koelitz*, College Council Secretary

Minutes approved on _____ as attested by:

Hal Smalley, Chair

Kenai Peninsula College
COLLEGE COUNCIL REPORT

September 12, 2024

Director's Office

Prepared by: Cheryl Siemers

5.3

KPC Director

Cheryl Siemers

Welcome to the first meeting of the academic year 2024-2025. It has been an exciting opening to the academic year, and a busy summer preceding that. Thank you to our faculty and staff who continually support the KPC mission to provide excellence in education in a supportive environment. They “put the punctuation mark” on one of our key strategic aspirations to put students first. I would say that they do this tirelessly, but indeed, we are at times a bit tired. With enrollment up again another 12 percent following a year of growth, we are looking at ways to strategically build support for our team as well as our students. Our words for the year are Curiosity, Confidence, and Come Alongside, which will help frame our approach to find our stride and support one another in this process.

Since our spring meeting, KPC faculty and staff orchestrated two exceptional commencements, one at our Kachemak Bay Campus May 8 and one at the Kenai River Campus May 9. This was followed by a collaborative end of the year meeting on the morning of May 10 and separate meetings on the individual campuses in the afternoon. These meetings remind us of the reason we do our work on behalf of the students. The springtime was a wonderful season of celebration.

The summer also was a sad season of loss at KPC. Faculty, staff, students, community and family celebrated the life of education faculty member Robin Dahlman during a memorial service organized by her family on May 5, held on the Kenai River Campus. In June, we sadly lost a student and son of a beloved coworker. In July, we were saddened by the passing of Associate Professor of Art Cam Choy's passing. We continue to grieve these significant losses to our community. On Sept. 13, KPC will host an art show “In Memoriam” in honor of Cam's contributions to the college and community. Special thanks to Brandi Kerley, hired as the curator for this show who has put countless hours in preparation, and to College Council member Joe Kashi for his assistance with these preparations as well. We hope College Council members can attend the event.

The details in the Council reports here capture growth, strategic efforts, and daily work that move our institution forward, but it does so with the committed efforts of each and every individual—staff, faculty, students, community partners, volunteers, and council members. Thank you.

Director's Office Highlights

The following were key activities for the director for the summer months:

- Presented to the Assembly for the Kenai Peninsula Borough Budget Request
- Expanded dual enrollment opportunity in partnership with IDEA for new course
- Hosted EXCEL Alaska with KPC Team, partnering with Alaska Christian College
- Presented at National Association of Branch Campus Administrators Conference in Palm Springs
- Attended the WICHE Leadership Academy in Denver, Colorado
- Elected as Chair of Community Campus Director's Council for UA
- Hosted AMEC conversation and moved Yamaha Training Program to KPC curricular oversight
- Held Executive Leadership Committee Planning Retreat
- Held AY 2024-25 Convocation
- Participated in Adjunct Orientation
- Presented with faculty on community campuses at UAA Faculty Senate Retreat
- Hosted KPC Open House and 60th anniversary celebration, with MANY thanks to our KPC team for an outstanding event

Kachemak Bay Campus

Prepared by: Brian Partridge

5.4

KBC Director Search

In the April college Council report, Interim Director Paula Martin reported that the KBC Director search was nearing its end. The search process resulted in the hiring of Brian Partridge as the new KBC Director. Prior to assuming this new position in June, Brian was the Associate Professor of Psychology for the KBC campus as well as the KBC chair. He looks forward to serving KBC and KPC in his new role and working with the college council in the future.

KBC New Hires and Searches

Greg Simpson was hired as the KBC maintenance supervisor (CT1). Greg comes to us with a long history of construction and maintenance in Alaska. Since his hire, Greg has been getting up to speed on all the various systems and needs of the KBC campus. When he is not working for us, he manages his home ranch/farm in Anchor Point. We are thrilled to have him onboard.

The hiring of the new KBC director has left a hole in the faculty line-up. A search for the new KBC psychology faculty is under way. KBC is searching for a tenure track psychology faculty member to be hired and ready for the Fall '25 semester.

The biology faculty hiring process in the Spring resulted in an unsuccessful search. That committee is reconvening to begin the process anew. The goal is to have a term faculty member to support the Semester by the Bay program to offer foundational biology courses for the KBC campus. The new target date is to have the person hired and ready for the Fall '25 semester.

KBC is currently searching for a janitorial/maintenance staff (MSW3). Our long-time maintenance staff, Anna Conway, tendered her resignation August 9th to pursue other opportunities closer to family. Anna went above and beyond her duties to keep the KBC campus in great shape in the absence of our maintenance supervisor. We are all truly grateful and will miss her.

KBC Academics

This time last year, KBC was reporting a return to pre-pandemic numbers and a 40% increase in headcount over the Fall '23 semester. This year, the increase is a more manageable 7.2% in head count and 4.2% in credit hours. It is notable that this increase is despite losing some classes due to the loss of the psychology faculty.

This Fall the KBC campus is offering 63 course sections due to the hard work of 4 full time faculty and 23 adjunct faculty. We added several new offerings including "Oil Painting for Beginners", Elementary Spanish 1 & 2, "Your Health and Social Services Career", and "Introduction to Insects of Alaska".

With the support of KBC Math faculty, Jeff Johnson, the KBC Learning Resource Center will be adding a Math Lab component to offer math tutoring and instruction in addition to the writing support already offered.

KBC's Summer '24 semester enrollment showed an increase of 30% over the Summer '23 semester.

KBC 2024 Convocation

The 2024 KPC Convocation was held on the KBC campus for the second time this year. Despite challenging weather, over 100 attendees attended to support their students. This year KBC handed out 20 OECs, 9 High School Equivalencies, 5 CNAs, 6 AAS Nursing, 1AAS Surgical Tech, 4 AAs, and 5 Bas. We were also proud to support the hooding for 1 MFA and a PhD.



KBC Writer's Conference

The 22nd Writer's Conference, organized by Erin Hollowell, was another huge success. This was the third year that the conference was hosted on the KBC campus. The conference was attended by 89 registered individuals. Of those, 20% were UA students, 53% were previous attendees, and 20% were from out of state. The public readings were at capacity for our space.



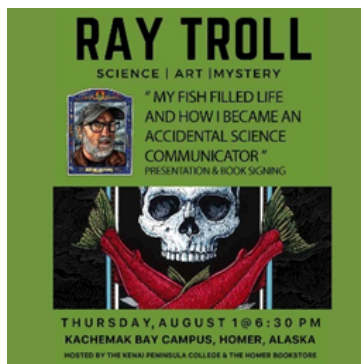
KBC AAE

The KBC Adult Education team had another record year. Their program provided services for 117 students (double their 2023 numbers). Their classes were offered in seven locations including Homer, Anchor Point, Ninilchik, Vosnesenka, Port Graham, Nanwalek and Seldovia. Additionally, they developed two new IET classes earning them the State AAEA Outstanding Innovation of the Year Award.

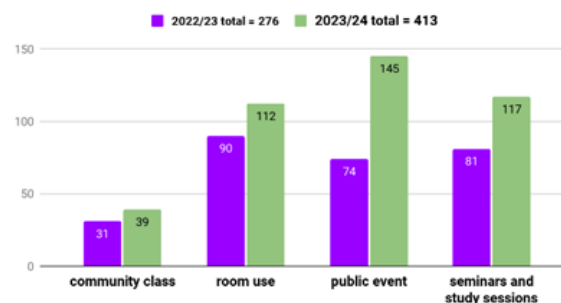
This semester, they have already onboarded 37 new students on their way towards another banner year.

KBC Community Engagement

The first month of the 2024/25 school year KBC hosted 14 community events attended by 420 people (a 41% increase over the same period last year). The campus was excited to host a talk by Ray Troll, a renowned artist, and musician who presented "My Fish-Filled Life and How I Became an Accidental Science Communicator" to a crowd of 185, which was made possible by simulcasting the talk into the Pioneer Commons to accommodate the overflow crowd. KBC also welcomed multiple trainings for adult and youth community leaders; a teen mindfulness series, a community collaboration and other workshops with South Peninsula Hospital and MAPP of SKP; the re-establishment of the History, Law, & Politics discussion group and a collaboration with UA Fairbanks with an all-day training on seed saving and plant breeding that launched in the classroom and concluded in the KBC high tunnel.



Events on Campus



KBC Corner Lot

In May, KBNERR was awarded a NOAA PAC grant for the planning/design of shared facilities between KBC and KBNERR. This grant supports a three-year planning process to explore opportunities and community needs for the corner lot. The first of those meetings will begin in October.

In the meantime, we are moving forward with plans for the demolition of the existing structure on the property. This month, EHS Alaska was on site to evaluate for potential hazardous materials.

Resurrection Bay Extension Site

Prepared by: Jackie Marshall

5.5

Fall 2024

After a full Alaska summer off contract, I returned to the office on Friday, August 16 to attend via Zoom, the KPC-wide Fall Convocation.

Fall semester is in full swing with 15 Seward area students taking KPC classes using the Dual Enrollment JumpStart and Middle College Programs.

Along the lines of Dual Enrollment Programs, I met with KPBSD College and Career Coordinator, Annaleah Karron the first week of the semester to help facilitate the distribution of textbooks for Seward MC students and sort out fall schedules for the MC students at Seward High. Annaleah and I are in regular communication to be sure Seward High and Seward area homeschool students are in the loop on dual enrollment opportunities.

We were able to get enough enrollment for the in-person Introduction to Biology course to go. The class is being held at Seward High School. Class enrollment consists entirely of dual enrolled high school students.

Thirty-one students are enrolled in RBES's online-asynchronous (no scheduled meeting time) Introduction to Logic class. This course consistently has enrollment of 25 or more students each semester.

I am working with KPC's Communication Specialist, Ruby Glaser, to begin promotion of an opening for a psychology adjunct instructor in Seward. My hope is to offer an in-person Lifespan Development class Spring 2025 semester.

The renewal of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for use of Seward High office space and classroom use for KPC with KPBSD is well underway. I expect final signatures to be in place by the end of the week. This MOA is required to be renewed each academic year and updates to the MOA language are made annually by KPBSD. Final signees for the MOA are KPC Director Cheryl Siemers; Kari Dendurent, Assistant Superintendent KPBSD; and Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services of UAA, Ryan Bucholdt. My KPC point of contact for the MOA process is Director of Academic Affairs, Scott Downing.

Lastly, I am coordinating with KPC IT to address some technology issues I am having. Mark Jensen, KPC's IT Services Manager is coordinating with GCI for the installation of a new modem at Seward High (RBES's office location) and Rob Lewis from KPC's IT Services is assisting me in the procurement and installation of a new computer and printer for the RBES office.

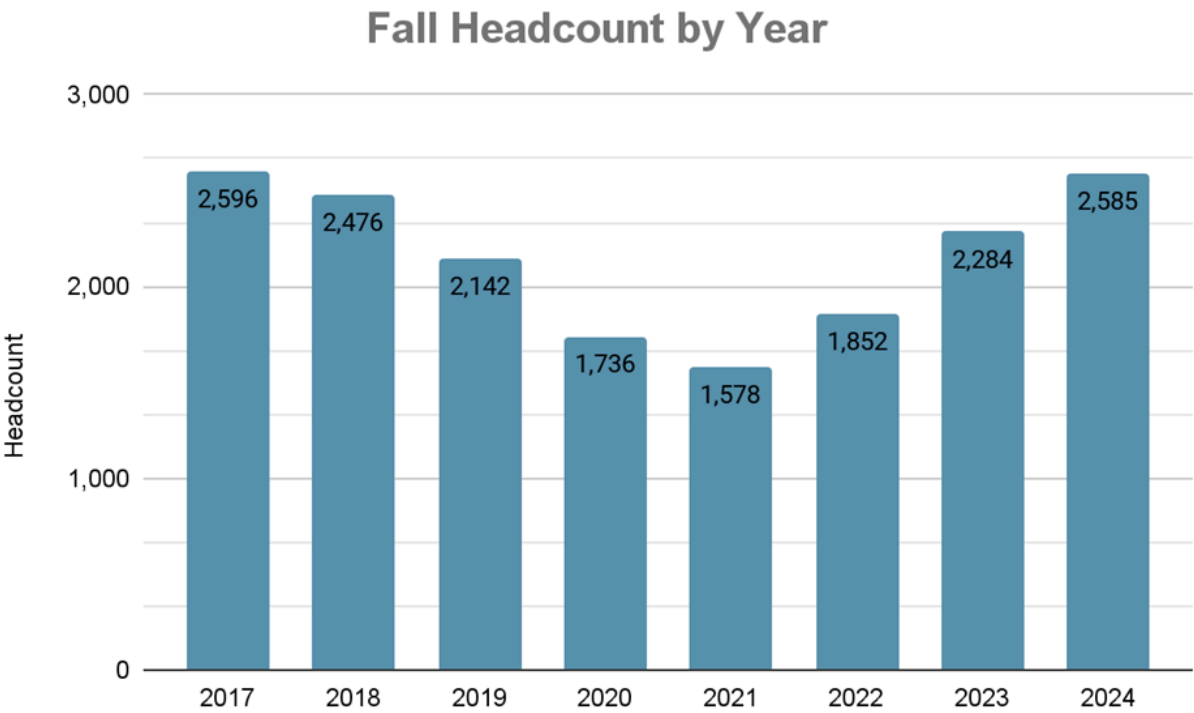
Student Services

Prepared by: Sara Rinearson

5.6

Student Services Highlights

With continued enrollment growth, the summer months leading up to the fall semester are more demanding than usual. Typically, June allows the department to regroup following finals and commencement. However, this year, the department experienced a high level of activity, with a continuous influx of walk-in students and phone inquiries. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to everyone in the Student Services Department for your dedication, long hours, and hard work. Enrollment continues to rise even following last year's 23.4% fall headcount increase. As of September 2, 2024, KPC has seen an additional 11.9% increase in headcount as compared to fall 2023 as well as a 12.4% increase in credit hours as compared to fall 2023.



In collaboration with the Director’s Office, Student Services hosted UAA’s Office of Equity and Compliance to deliver the first in-person Title IX training in several years. The training was held on both the Kachemak Bay Campus and the Kenai River Campus on August 26th and 27th respectively, with 41 staff, faculty, and students attending the KRC training.

Admissions & Registration

Ginger Rose & Alex LeClair

159 Admits for fall with 65 additional pending (up 30% from fall 2023)

- Occupational Endorsement Certificate
 - Ahtna Language - 2
 - Petroleum Production - 3
 - Marine Mammal Biology - 11
- Undergraduate Certificate
 - Corrections - 4
 - Dena'ina Language - 2
 - Petroleum Technology - 2
 - Welding Technology - 11
- Associate of Arts
 - Alaska Native Studies - 2
 - General Program - 36
- Associate of Applied Science
 - General Business - 3
 - Industrial Process Instrumentation - 14
 - Pre-major Paramedical Technology - 22
 - Process Technology - 42
- Associate of Science - 5

Headcount by Primary Major for Fall 2024 (KPC majors only)

- | | |
|---|---|
| ● Ahtna Language Instruction - 1 | ● Ahtna Language - 1 |
| ● Alaska Native Studies - 2 | ● Corrections - 1 |
| ● Dena'ina Language Instruction - 2 | ● General Business - 8 |
| ● General Program - 58 | ● Industrial Process Instrumentation - 17 |
| ● Marine Mammal Biology - 9 | ● Non-Degree-Seeking - 375 |
| ● Pending Degree-Seeking - 13 | ● Petroleum Production - 1 |
| ● Petroleum Technology - 1 | ● Paramedical Technology - 12 |
| ● Pre-major Paramedical Technology - 17 | ● Process Technology - 78 |
| ● General Sciences - 3 | ● Welding Technology - 13 |

Admissions Counselor & Recruitment

Richelle Frankovic-Spencer

Richelle has been out in the community throughout the summer at many local events and activities starting with the Alaska EXCEL Summer Camp held on the Kenai River Campus in June. She attended Wednesday Markets, Kenai Peninsula Fair, Industry Appreciation days as well as one on one campus tours. Richelle worked with Leslie Byrd and Dawn Edwards-Smith to re-envision our New Student Orientation which had a very successful turnout of attendees this fall including an additional 20 walk-in attendees the day of the event. Richelle also worked with Heidi Sequeira to onboard 8 students for the CNA course. She is currently planning and ordering for the upcoming UA College and Career Fairs as well as starting the initial planning for our UA Scholars event held in November.

Advancement

Ruby Glaser

KPC hosted a very successful 60th Anniversary Open House Celebration on August 20th after many months of planning and effort from the KPC community. The event kicked off with a reception for local dignitaries where two legislative citations were presented: one for KPC in recognition of the 60th anniversary and another to Lisa Parker honoring her many years of dedication to our community. Following the reception, KPC welcomed over 400 guests onto campus to enjoy local food trucks, meet staff and faculty, explore our campus, tour a KPC history timeline, and play lawn games. This is an annual event that the local community enjoys year after year. UAA did a featured article on the open house and KPC's 60th anniversary which can be read [here](#).

CAMP Program

In spring 2024, KPC was awarded one of three first-time College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) grants in Alaska from the Department of Education's Office of Migrant Education. The grant is funded to serve 25 migratory workers and/or their dependents as they finish their first year of post-secondary education. Students are provided both financial and wrap-around service support to address any barriers to success they may have.

The award is over \$2.3 million and spans five years with the opportunity to renew every five years. Since the program's July 1 start date, we have been hard at work crafting position descriptions to hire the program's 3 new positions and we hope to announce those hires in the near future.

Campus Safety & Evening Coordination

Leslie Byrd

New opioid overdose response kits have been mounted near most KRC AEDs, and 2 AEDs were added to more distant parts of the main academic building. The ERT team is reconvening to host the September Fire Drill. De-escalation training is September 11 via Zoom, all KPC employees are encouraged to attend. If unable to attend live, a recording will be available by request by contacting Leslie Byrd.

Financial Aid & Veteran Services

Misty Klodt & Shelby Fuller

Spring 2024 kicked off our UA Foundation Scholarship April 17th deadline with 82 scholarship applications. The KPC Scholarship Committee met in May and awarded 57 students financial assistance.

Foundation Scholarship award amounts for the 24/25 school year:

John & Mae Hakala	\$5,000	John S. O'Dell	\$2,000
Pam Ward	\$5,000	KPC Staff	\$1,000
KPC Faculty	\$1,000	KPC Scholarship	\$1,000
Chevron	\$7,000	Damon Foundation	\$6,084

David Forbes	\$4,000	Dr. Barbara Christian	\$5,000
David Rodriguez Perez	\$3,000	Tim Jolly Scholarship	\$3,500

Additionally, The KPC John C. Brockel and Brockel Family funds are generously assisting 44 freshmen and sophomore KPC students for the 24/25 academic year. These awards are based on credit enrollment per the following payout scale and allow students to enroll at their own pace for success:

2024 - FALL	2025 - SPRING
\$4,000 FT (12+)	\$4,000 FT (12+)
\$3,000 3/4 (9-11)	\$3,000 3/4 (9-11)
\$2,000 1/2 (6-8)	\$2,000 1/2 (6-8)
\$1,000 1/4 (1-5)	\$1,000 1/4 (1-5)

The total funds offered through these accounts is over \$360,000. Students may receive the full \$4,000 per semester if they enroll in 12+ credits.

Tuition Waiver and Administrative Scholarships to Date:

Certified Nursing Assistant Scholarship Fall 2024:	\$3,675
24/25 High School Senior Tuition Waiver Scholarship:	\$33,696
24/25 Borough Choice CTE Scholarship:	\$5,616
Student Support Fund Fall 2024 (Need Based):	\$6,461
Adult Education/Learning Center Support:	\$4,844
Dual Enrollment Assistance (Need Based):	Estimated \$12,000 for fall semester

Veterans Support:

Veteran Services worked with other UA Veteran Services on navigating updated practices throughout the summer semester. Additionally, we participated in KRC's Fall 2024 New Student Orientation and continue to work with UAA Military & Veteran Student Services to aid our military and veteran students in navigating the UAA certification process.

Student Health Center

Heidi Sequiera

The Student Health Center is now open after the summer closure. We are currently reviewing medications and supplies, ensuring everything is up to date. Our clinic hours for the academic year are Monday through Thursday, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, with evening appointments available upon request. "Toilet Tidings," a newsletter featuring campus events and health tips, continues to be distributed in bathroom stalls across the KRC campus. Additionally, the Student Health Center is hosting weekly stretching and meditation sessions every Thursday from 12:30 PM to 1:00 p.m. in the McLane Commons. We invite all students to participate in these sessions for a moment of relaxation and mindfulness.

Kenai River Campus Student Union

Prepared by: KRCSU President, Tina Hamiln

5.7.1

Kenai River Campus Student Union has been engaging with students on several levels and representing the students' interests to the larger University of Alaska community. We continue to represent the students at the Coalition of Student Leaders.

The Kenai River Campus Student Union started off the 2024 academic year by contributing to the KRC Open House and providing free coffee and popcorn from the Student Union office for the visitors. The event was well attended, and we were glad to be able to support the college. We participated in the New Student Orientation with a presentation informing students of what the Student Union is and how we can serve them. KRCSU also kicked off the new semester with a Welcome Table in the Main Entrance to welcome new and returning students to campus during the first week of classes.

KRCSU had its first Student Union meeting on September 5th. The staff and faculty advisors from last academic year, Susan Browning and Mark Burton, have retained their positions for this academic year again. We will continue to have bi-weekly meetings with our advisors as well as have meetings open to everyone on campus. KRCSU is meeting regularly with Director Siemers.

As part of KRCSU's mission to represent KRC students at the UA level, the Coalition of Student Leaders (CSL) first meeting will be coming soon.

KRCSU is in the early stages of choosing a keynote speaker for graduation in the spring. We plan on sending out email surveys to all students to get some feedback in addition to going into classrooms and letting students have the opportunity to speak to us face to face.

Academic Advising

Prepared by: Emily Knight

5.8

Advising Updates

The KRC Advising team welcomed Ash Magallanes in June 2024 to fill the role of the KRC Academic Advisor. Previously, Ash served as the KRC Testing Center Administrator and as the Disability Services Specialist. Ash's experience in DSS and Testing Services is extremely valuable and continues to be an added asset in her work as an advisor for both degree and non-degree-seeking students who test into developmental and remedial courses. Ash also serves on KPC's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.

Disability Support Services at KRC have been transferred to the Academic Advising office. Students in need of DSS services for their KRC courses are encouraged to contact krc.dss@alaska.edu.

Dual Enrollment

Summer Numbers

The JumpStart program saw a headcount of 18 students enrolled in 67 credits. Half of the 18 students identified a home school program as their school of attendance.

Fall Numbers

KPBSD's Middle College program placed a cap on enrollment for Fall 2024, limiting the program to 100 students. Those who were not eligible for Middle College were encouraged to participate in the JumpStart program. A final headcount for fall will be available after the add/drop deadline on September 6.

Summer Programming

Alaska EXCEL spent the month of June on the Kenai Peninsula and partnered with Alaska Christian College and Kenai Peninsula College to offer summer courses to approximately 60 students from rural Alaska. Of the 60 students, 10 enrolled in KPC's Emergency Trauma Technician (EMT A110) course and 8 enrolled in KPC's Introduction to Welding (WELD A101) course to earn 3 college credits and a full year of high school credit.

Academic Affairs

Prepared by: Scott Downing

5.9.1

Fall '24 Enrollment as of Sept. 3

Headcount: 2,567 **Credit Hours:** 12,391

As overall enrollment has increased again this fall, we are seeing an upward trend in face-to-face (f2f) enrollment as well. Between Fall '23 and Fall '24, KPC f2f enrollment increased 12 percent and the Kenai River campus saw a 20 percent jump in students taking f2f classes.

KPC also continued an upward trend in seats filled, moving from 63 percent to 67 percent. Face-to-face courses trended upwards more substantially moving from 34 percent of seats filled in f2f classes in Fall '23 to 50 percent in Fall '24. In comparison, 75 percent of seats in 'Online-No Set Time' courses have been filled in Fall '24, unchanged from Fall '23.

The only modality that decreased in enrollment between Fall '23 and Fall '24 was "In Person or Online", decreasing 14 percent.

KPC has 27 full-time faculty and 82 adjunct faculty offering classes across 45 disciplinary areas during the Fall '24 semester.

Program Review

Program review provides an opportunity for faculty to reflect on their programs with a specific focus on student learning and success. Program review occurs on a seven-year cycle. In the fall, each program receives a customized, fillable form with previous recommendations and other information pre-loaded.

KPC has one program scheduled for program review this academic year: **Corrections (OEC-UC)**.

Due Dates:

- **March 1** - Program Report to Dean
- **April 1** - Dean Response
- **April 8** - Optional Program Response
- **August 1** - Provost Decision

Assessment

Program Assessment has moved to a biennial process to offer faculty additional time to gather data and reflect on the success of the program in helping students meet student learning outcomes (PSLOs). We have three programs completing program assessment reports this fall. Reports are due to respective deans on Oct. 15.

- Welding Technology Undergraduate Certificate (UC)
- Conservation Ecology Occupational Endorsement Certificate (OEC)
- Marine Mammal Biology Occupational Endorsement Certificate (OEC)

Accreditation

The Paramedical Technology program is in the process of renewing their specialized accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). The Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP) will be visiting campus this year as part of that review.

UAA has scheduled an **Accreditation Kickoff for Sept. 13 from 9-11:30 a.m.** in Library 307 on the Anchorage campus and via Zoom. The University is entering the seventh year of its seven-year accreditation cycle and will be completing the Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness report, which is scheduled to be submitted in Summer 2025.

The NWCCU accreditation team will be visiting all UAA campuses in Fall '25 and UAA has outlined the roles and responsibilities of the campus communities (faculty, staff, administrators).

- Apply student learning and student success insights into the learning experience
- Use student learning and achievement data in continuous improvement, decision making, and resource allocation
- Contribute to the institution's approach to student learning and success
- Participate in opportunities, including surveys and open forums, and provide input, information, and feedback
- Review report drafts
- Prepare for the campus visits
- Participate in the campus visit sessions for faculty, staff, and students

Campus visits and discussions will be tied to the UAA aspirations as well as the student core competencies. KPC is also using the aspirations and core competencies as a framework for the strategic planning process.

UAA Aspirations

- We put students first.
- We create a culture of equity and inclusion by embracing our diversity.
- We embrace our role as a trusted and respected community partner.
- We positively impact communities and the world through innovation.
- We accelerate excellence through continuous improvement.

Core Competencies

- Effective Communication
- Personal, Professional, and Community Responsibility
- Intercultural Fluency

- Creative and Critical Thinking

Selected meetings/activities August/September

- KPC Adjunct Orientation
- UAA Accreditation Advisory Meeting
- KPC Executive Leadership meeting
- UAA Dual Enrollment meeting
- UAA Academic Dispute Resolution training
- UAA Course Fee training
- KPC Student Success Committee
- KPC Open House
- KPC Convocation
- KPC Faculty Forum
- KPC Humanities and Fine Arts Department

Faculty Chairs

5.9.2

Business & Industry

James Titus

Once again, our numbers have grown significantly this semester. The industry needs more operators than any time before and our goal is to help fill the void.

PRT

- Hired two new adjunct professors.
- Brenner Musgrave former KPC PRT grad.
 - Brenner is teaching PRT 144 this fall, and PETR 155 in the spring.
- Erin Okonek former KPC grad PRT.
 - Erin is teaching PRT 160 this fall.
- PRT 130 lab was added to the course and available in the fall semester.
 - JENCO FADU alignment trainer is here and will be used during the PRT 130 lab.
 - All PRT faculty will be trained on this unit, and it should be ready for the labs in the fall.
- Big Silver MCC (Motor Control Center) is still bypassed. Maintenance is working on permanently removing the MCC.

IPIN

- Steve Vroman will continue to teach PETR 240 and ET 241 in the fall.
- Steven Vroman will continue to teach ET 243 in the spring.
- Allen Houtz will be teaching PETR 244 in the spring.
- Electronic Recycling
- Inletkeeper hosted its annual electronics recycling event at the Central Peninsula Landfill on April 27th. Rich Kochis volunteered to help sort and collect items throughout the day. Electronic devices can leach harmful toxins such as lead, mercury, cadmium, beryllium, polyvinyl chloride, and chromium into our watershed if they end up in landfills. Additionally, valuable reusable metals that have required significant resources to mine are lost when we discard these items improperly. Inletkeeper aims to provide accessible electronics recycling for all residents in the Cook Inlet Watershed. Save your old electronics and plan to bring them to the next recycling event in spring 2025!

Welding

It is another great year for welding. Enrollment is up. They are currently working through the curriculum changes that UAA CTE is requesting.

Summer Updates

Clair Kochis presented at the Mathematics Association of America Pacific Northwest Regional Conference on June 21. The presentation titled Navigating the Online Classroom: Pedagogy of Online Mathematics was well attended, and Clair was asked to write and submit an article to the MAA Focus journal focused on accessibility in the virtual mathematics classroom in the coming year.

Dr. Orca Jimmy Peniston hosted a public recording of the [Big Biology Podcast](#) at KPC on June 29th 2024. The podcasters interviewed two biology professors about the large-scale ecology and evolution experiments they are conducting in lakes on the Kenai Peninsula. The event was attended by members of the public who were able to ask the researchers questions about the project and socialize with them afterwards. A recording of the conversation was also broadcast on KDLL as an [episode of Kenai Conversation](#). (photo from event below)

Collaborators and Dr. Peniston published a research article titled “[Maternal care leads to the evolution of long, slow lives](#)” in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (one of the most prestigious scientific journals). This research was reported on in a [CBC News article](#).

Dr. Peniston was also named as a runner up for the [Ecography Award for Excellence in Ecology and Evolution](#), which is given every year to an early-career researcher who writes an exceptional review manuscript in the journal *Ecography*. The journal made a [short video about our article](#).

Coming up this Fall

Dr. Peniston has a few exciting things going in their face-to-face Anatomy and Physiology class (A111). First of all, their enrollment has more than quadrupled since last year (from 5 to 22)! Secondly, they have an Undergraduate Assistant this semester who will be helping implement case study activities in class, which will provide students with more active learning opportunities and also help them relate the content to real-life situations. The Undergraduate Assistant will also get paid teaching experience. Thirdly, this class is part of the KPC pilot program for the new learning management system, Blackboard Ultra.



Big Biology Podcast crew at KPC. From left to right Marty Martin (podcast host, professor of biology at University of South Florida), Andrew Hendry (podcast guest, professor of biology at McGill University), Alison Derry (podcast guest, professor of biology at University of Quebec in Montreal), and Art Woods (podcast host, professor of biology at University of Montana).

Social Sciences, Education, AKNS & Languages (SEALs)

Adam Dunstan

Psychology

Last spring, tenure was awarded to Michelle Fellows, Psychology. Meanwhile, Brian Partridge, associate professor of psychology, became the new Director for Kachemak Bay Campus. Congratulations to Drs. Fellows and Partridge!

Education

Returning and new faculty Lynn Dusek (full-time term at KPC), Jenna Baldiviez (UAA full-time, new KPC adjunct), and Dawn Grimm (new KPC adjunct) are working hard to ensure we can offer much needed teacher education classes this year

Anthropology

Research

Adam Dunstan is continuing his multi-year research project with the Kenaitze Indian Tribe involving the cultural significance and genetic history of salmon in the Kenai River – including hosting geneticists from Illinois this summer, and conducting interviews with tribal members.

Public Events

In May Rebecca Lambourn and Adam gave a tour of archaeological sites to Kenaitze middle and high schoolers in a youth program, and in June KPC hosted students from a summer youth program for a tour of the (temporary) anthropology lab and sites on campus.

Alaska Native Studies

OEC coordinator Sondra Shaginoff-Stuart is working to coordinate courses and events between Anchorage campus and KPC to benefit students in our Alaska Native language programs. Also, “AKNS Faculty will meet monthly to see how to collaborate and support each other as we teach this year,” reports Sondra. “We will connect and communicate with each other to share events and ideas for our classes so that they can be shared across campuses. We will focus on developing a calendar with events and how we can promote the college and connect more with our communities.”

Our Yup’ik classes are going well, and Professor Sassa Peterson notes that she was interviewed by KDLL during a story on dipnetting in the Kasilof River, and that during the interview she spoke about our Yup’ik courses at KPC. Here is the link:

<https://www.kdll.org/local-news/2024-06-25/dipnetting-opens-on-the-kasilof-river>.

This summer was busy for the ETILD team! As we look forward to the new year, we are excited to share some highlights in this report beginning with multi-day faculty professional development events that kicked off and concluded the season.

ENGAGE 2024: Ultra Conversion Pilot

The ENGAGE event, a yearly themed faculty professional development intensive hosted by ETILD, provides an opportunity for educators to delve deeply into innovative teaching practices and technologies. This past May, eight full-time KPC faculty members participated in the ENGAGE event, focused on transitioning at least one Fall 2024 Blackboard Original course to be taught in UAA's new learning management system, Blackboard Ultra. Over the course of three days, ENGAGE participants received comprehensive training and hands-on support for redesigning their courses, while also establishing an active community of practice for continued mutual support. We were pleased to also welcome Jenna Amber, UAA Instructional Designer, for her first trip to the Kenai River Campus to attend the event. The ENGAGE training supported ETILD's strategic goals by enhancing online learning through professional development and promoting collaborative partnerships.

2-Day Video Creation Workshop

In August, a two-day video training workshop, conducted twice—once at KRC and once at KBC—engaged 14 full-time and adjunct faculty members under the guidance of ETILD Instructional Designer Claudia Pearson. This workshop, developed in response to faculty interest following successful video creation and editing sessions at KPC Professional Development Day, provided in-depth instruction on using video technology for online courses. The curriculum covered a wide range of applications, including course introductions, syllabus overviews, and interactive video quizzes. The event supported ETILD's strategic goals by enhancing engaging online learning experiences, integrating advanced technologies, and fostering professional development.

Instructional Designer - Accessibility Support Specialist

ETILD is pleased to announce that our department is growing with the recruitment of a new Instructional Design & Accessibility Support Specialist. Currently posted, this role will focus on improving the accessibility of our digital and educational resources while also providing general instructional design support. The Accessibility Support Specialist will work closely with faculty to design and refine course materials, troubleshoot accessibility issues, and develop training on best practices for digital accessibility. This position will offer both in-person and remote support, leveraging a range of tools and basic technical knowledge to enhance content accessibility across the college. This addition to our team reflects KPC's ongoing commitment to fostering an inclusive and supportive learning environment for all.

Technology Updates

Hyflex (Blended Instruction) Classroom Design

Following extensive consultations with faculty to identify the specific needs of HyFlex course delivery, ETILD, and KPC's IT department co-designed a pilot classroom aimed at enhancing student engagement in blended learning environments. Gareth Chesley from Homer IT spearheaded the implementation of this design in KBC's Pioneer 212. The room features dual front screens, a confidence monitor, front and rear cameras, and dual podium monitors, all designed to support faculty in fostering engagement between students physically in the classroom and those attending virtually. This pilot room will serve as a proof of concept, guiding future technological upgrades, including the planned enhancements for the Ward building at KRC.

Kenai River Campus Meeting Owl Deployment

In addition to the Meeting Owl installed last Spring in Ward 116, IT installed a second OWL in the Nursing classroom at KRC this summer. Three additional Meeting Owls are now on site and queued for installation at KRC—two in the Ward building and one in CTEC. Two fully self-contained mobile Owl carts have also been deployed, enhancing flexibility of room use. These carts are available to faculty and administration and can be used anywhere on campus with access to Wi-Fi.

For those unfamiliar, a Meeting Owl is a 360-degree smart conference camera that automatically shifts focus to the active speaker, providing a more dynamic and engaging experience for remote participants. This effort aligns with ETILD's mission to support innovative and inclusive learning environments that enhance both teaching and learning experiences. Our thanks go to the IT department and facilities for their efforts in deploying and installing and troubleshooting these technologies.

Learning Center

Prepared by: Heidi Biskeborn

5.11

The Learning Center was open over the summer for testing services, tutoring services, GED acquisition and college preparation, all with condensed hours. Starting mid-August, all Learning Center programs returned to their full regular hours of availability.

Pathways PREPP: Participants Reaching Employment Potential Program

Pathways PREPP is a combination of Alaska Adult Education (AAE) and WIOA Youth programs. Services over the summer consisted of classes for GED preparation, college readiness, and career guidance and counseling. Now that all the staff is back from summer break, the full list of Pathways PREPP options is available:

- Basic Skills & Pre-Secondary Education
- Secondary Education & High School Equivalency Preparation (GED prep)
- College-Readiness Preparation
- English as a Second Language (ESL) Instruction
- Integrated Education & Training (IET)
- Digital Literacy Instruction
- Financial Literacy Instruction
- Tutoring, Study Skills Training
- Paid & Unpaid Work Experience
- Workforce-Readiness/Soft Skills Preparation
- Leadership Development Opportunities

Tutoring Services

The Math Lab and Writing Lab were open limited hours over the summer to assist students in summer classes and are now open regular hours for fall. Students are encouraged to come into the labs in person or via Zoom.

Testing Center

The Testing Center was open for limited hours over the summer for students and the community. Starting August 12th, it reopened to 5 days a week to accommodate the rush of college placement tests for fall. The 5 days a week schedule will continue until mid-May.

Disability Support Services

Disability Support Services (DSS) was moved to Advising over the summer. Anyone needing accommodations can reach out to the Advising department at 907-282-0383 for more information.

KPC Administrative Services

Prepared by: Carrie Couey, Director of Administrative Services

5.12

KPC BookStore

The Free Ship to Campus program, provided by our online textbook retailer Ambassador, has extended the ordering time frame from 2 weeks to 6 weeks for the Fall 2024 semester. This increased the number of packages we received for students as well as foot traffic in KPC BookStore as we start the Fall 2024 semester.

The first addition of the KPC Bookstore Newsletter was delivered to students via email. We are planning to send a newsletter to students every month during Fall and Spring semesters. This newsletter will remind students of important dates and information related to the books and tuition payments and remind students that the bookstore not only offers KPC branded items but also supplies, study guides, snacks, and other gifts and souvenirs.

Stop by and check out what we have now! There are lovely handmade wooden bowls made by KPC welding instructor, Duwain Aamodt. Check out KPC Writing Lab writing specialist Jennifer Hudson's beautiful hand-crafted necklaces and earrings. And the most recent edition is Walden Bros knitted hats.



Place your order for KPC Copper River vests by October 1st, 2024. Anticipated delivery is early November. Pre-Order and /or Try on in the Book Store. Payment \$170 due on/or before pickup.



New Staff

Estaline Cooke is our most recent addition filling the Accounts Payable/Travel Tech position. Her duties also include managing our ProCards. Starting just a couple of weeks ago, Estaline is off to a great start.

IT Services

Prepared by: Mark Jensen

5.13

It has been a busy summer for IT Services. Rob Lewis updated all the computers in every KRC classroom and we replaced all the computers in the CTEC 205 computer lab.

We worked with UAA on designing a new plan for the Audio-Visual setup in Ward 102/104/106. We now have a solid plan for this and once we are past the start of the semester and things slow down we will begin purchasing the gear. We hope to have this project finished by summer 2025.

We have made good progress on both campuses taking computers that will not upgrade to Windows 11 out of service. We should finish this well before the October 2025 end of service date.

Summer highlights at KBC include completing end of year spending for KBC IT and processing all the items received. Gareth Chesley served on two search committees, one for the KBC Facilities position and is currently on a committee for the KBC Custodial position. Throughout the summer Gareth was a valuable resource on the Ward 102/104/106 project. He also completed the deployment of the Pioneer 212 classroom pilot project on the Homer campus. Gareth processed all the checked-out equipment when it came back in at the end of the summer semester. He completed maintenance on all public machines and the computers in all the KBC classroom spaces.

We are meeting every class on the KRC campus for the first couple of weeks to make sure instructors and students are comfortable with the equipment in the room.

The Helpdesk call volume has been up over previous years with most calls needing password reset help followed closely for help with DUO setups and requests for DUO bypass codes.

Facilities Operations and Maintenance

Prepared by: Rusty King

5.14

Dry Well Failure

Earlier this summer a 50-year old dry well system failed. The wells are located in the rear of the main campus behind the Ward building. The wells serve as the catch basins for the Ward roof primary drain. A sinkhole was noticed in the grass, and upon further investigation we discovered the hole was approximately 6' deep. After reviewing the original architectural and mechanical plans we discovered the sinkhole was over the second of 2 dry wells in this system. Due to the proximity to the Kenai River, KPC Facilities contacted UAA FP&C inquiring about a soils engineer. An engineer was contracted, KPC Facilities staff excavated the site and unearthed the two dry wells. The first well was found to have sunk 7" below original placement and was half filled with sediment. The second well was found full of compacted sediment. Both wells will need to be replaced. KPC Facilities is working closely with the engineer to get the new dry wells installed prior to the end of October. UAA FP&C is being kept in the loop as well.

Goodrich Building

To date, there have been two additional designs discussed to repair the Goodrich truss issue. The structural engineering firm is conducting feasibility studies on the two additional repair designs. UAA FP&C and KPC Facilities are holding meetings every other week to make sure there is positive forward movement in this project. During the feasibility study phase KPC Facilities has planned on the relocation of the last program housed in the Goodrich building and have worked on moving more equipment and needed supplies to the already displaced programs to meet their needs due to the extended time out of their primary locations.

Fire Systems

Both the Soldotna and Homer campuses are going to have a fire system update. The Homer campus will be receiving new modern smoke detectors throughout and a new operations panel. The Soldotna campus will be receiving a new operations panel. UAA is working on the project approvals at this time.

Homer Support

KPC Facilities has had the pleasure of supporting the Homer campus both on site and remotely during the transition time for their Facilities department.