



October 2025 College Council Report

October 9, 2025 | Soldotna 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 Interim Director: Brian Partridge

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: Tina Hamlin

5.7.2 KBC:

5.8 KPC Director of Advising: Emily Knight

5.9 KPC Academic Affairs

5.9.1 Interim Director of Academic Affairs: Jane Fuerstenau

5.9.2 Faculty Chairs: Jim Titus, Clair Kochis, Christina Paxman, Paul Perry, Adam Dunstan,

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 Advancement Programs Manager: Summer Lazenby

5.14 IT Supervisor: Gareth Chesley

5.15 Director of Facilities & Maintenance: Rusty King

5.16 Council Member Comments

5.17 Faculty, Student, Staff, and Public

6.0 Discussion Items

6.1 Review of Council Candidates/ Applications

7.0 Action Items

7.1 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: November 13, 2025 in Soldotna

College Council Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2025 | 6:00 pm | KRC & Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Hal Smalley, Martin Fallon, Mark Jensen, Jack Hester, Sonja Redmond, Carol Swartz

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Brent Johnson, Kris Holderied

STAFF:

Brian Partridge, Katy Koetitz, Jackie Marshall, Tina Hamlin, Carrie Couey, Jane Furstenau, Gareth Chesley, Marci Lea, Sara Rinearson, Hunter Moos, Summer Lazenby, Clair Cochis, Christina Paxman, Rusty King, Adam Dunstan

1.0 - CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hal Smalley called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm. Roll called, quorum established.

2.0 - APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Martin Fallon made a motion to accept the agenda.

Sonja Redmond seconded the motion. Passed by unanimous consent.

3.0 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Martin Fallon made a motion to accept the minutes.

Mark Jensen seconded the motion. Passed by unanimous consent.

4.0 - INTRODUCTIONS

Brian Partridge introduced several new faculty and staff members across KPC, including Josh Ostraff the new Art Faculty, Jonathan Mann, the new Instrumentation professor, Katie Archer Olson the new education professor. New staff Hunter Moos the new Residence Hall Coordinator, Summer Lazenby in her new role as the Advancement Programs Manager and Jane Fuerstenau as the Interim Director of Academic Affairs and Assistant Director.

5.0 - ORAL REPORTS

5.1 Chair Smalley: Hal shared that he was in OR for his 60th high school class reunion.

5.2 KBC Advisory Board Rep. - Not in attendance

5.3 Interim College Director – Brian Partridge: Fall convocation was held at the Kachenak Bay campus this August and the three words of the year are Opportunity, Outreach and Patience. Emphasizing that the desire for each campus to embrace the community and have patience with everyone as there are so many interim positions right now. Brian discussed ongoing hiring processes for various faculty and staff positions. The PRT professor search is wrapping up and there is movement on a Welding/Maritime position and Biology position. He also mentioned that the UAA Chancellor search interviews have concluded, with a potential new UAA chancellor to be identified in October, which may affect

the timeline for transitioning back to the KPC leadership. Brian reported that KPC is preparing for an accreditation visit on October 7th. He is excited for the opportunity that KPC has being the selected campus so he can brag on all that KPC is doing. Martin asked if Cheryl was putting her name in the Chancellor position and Brian confirmed that she was not applying for the permanent position.

5.4 Kachemak Bay Campus – Brian noted that KBC is busy as usual and the staff there has really stepped up in his absence. Nancy Johnson has taken the lead as second in command while Brian is in Soldotna a few days a week. He highlighted the revival of the CNA program with local instructors Janice Bridges and Haylee Taylor. He also announced that the Young's building is finally set for demolition beginning as early as next week. The building will be replaced by a gravel parking lot and potentially developed into a multi-year project with input from community stakeholders. Brian also responded to a question about the KBCSU and noted that applications are being reviewed and they hope to have all positions filled soon.

5.5 RBES Coordinator – Jackie shared updates about the Intro to Marine Biology course taught by Dr. Millie Branson who is a Seward High graduate. She highlighted the invaluable partnership with Seward High School and commented on how graciously they have accepted her and made her feel like one of their staff. Jackie noted that she is still actively seeking out possible Council members and will continue to do so.

5.6 Student Services – Sara Rinearson shared how excited she is to Welcome Hunter Moos as the new Res Hall Coordinator. Hunter has a background in higher education and student affairs and is doing well in his first few months on staff. Sara announced the upcoming reopening ceremony for Res Hall planned for January. Sara reported the continuation of CAMP operations through a recent lawsuit victory, with funding extended until June 2026. She thanked KPC for keeping staff members Jeff and Summer employed during the funding uncertainty. With Summer moving into the Advancement department, a new CAMP Coordinator position will be posted soon.

5.7 Student Government:

KRCSU: Tina Hamlin reported that they have 2 new hires getting ready to start and they are both traditional college age students and she is excited to have their perspectives on board. The Student Union plans to host another bonfire event pending approval from the Director's office. The Student Union will be offering soup for students weekly through The Goods restaurant. They are hoping to provide soup for at least 30 students each week. The estimate from The Goods is \$7 per person.

KBC: Brian noted that they had 100% turnover and have been recruiting officers and interviews will begin soon.

5.8 Advising – Brian Partridge announced that the Advising Department had applied for and been granted a Perkins grant that is for \$150,000 over three years to assist Dual Enrolled CTE students. Emily is working on a PD for a part time position to manage the grant.

5.9 KPC Academic Affairs

5.9.1 Jane Fuerstenau: Jane introduced herself and noted that her current contract is until June of 2026 and her PD is being written as she goes. The hope is to do a spring search with a summer hire. Jane occupies the office inside the Director's office suite and is available when Brian is not on campus.

5.9.2 Faculty Chairs –Aam Dunstan noted that for Indigenous People's Day there would be an event from 11-1pm in McLane Commons about the Tiano people group with a potlatch after the presentation.

5.10 Educational Technology Innovation Learning Design – Brian mentioned that there would be a search for a new Accessibility Specialist and hopefully a web designer.

5.11 Learning Center – Brian reported that the Learning Center had received state and federal funding for the year and there is a Grant Coordinator and Adult Education Instructor position that will be posted soon.

5.12 Administrative Services – Carrie mentioned that Tammy Kottke is on the UAA Staff Council and at the recent meeting was told by multiple people how much they appreciated and valued Cheryl as the Interim Chancellor.

5.13 Advancement - Summer Lazenby reported that she has been “drinking from the firehose” and trying to get an understanding of the scope of her department. She is working on a formal marketing plan proposal that will be a multi-year plan and she is trying to gain an understanding of the budgeting process.

5.14 IT Services – A Question was asked about the wireless capabilities in the Res Hall and what was being done to prepare for the students that will be there in the spring. Gareth talked about how PWSCC is a community campus which already has a similar scenario with housing. They have a separate commodity internet connection to augment their housing. After talking with the Network team at UAA they think that would be a good solution for us too. Our next step is to talk to GCI about adding the new connection (Carrie is reaching out to them).

5.15 Facilities / Maintenance – Nothing to add

5.16 Council Member Comments: Martin Fallon: Thanked everyone for the great reports and inquired about the accreditation cycle. Brian responded that this visit is part of the greater UAA accreditation and that KPC was the selected campus to host the community campus portion of the visit. Departments have their own accreditation site visits like the one the Paramedica program went through last year. Sonja Redmond: Noted the great work on the reports and all the work that goes into growing this campus.

Mark Jensen: Enjoyed reading the reports and it is refreshing to feel a part of KPC again.

Carol Swartz: Commented that she is recovering from surgery just yesterday but has plans to meet in person with Brian soon. She inquired if the enrollment report reflected increases across all campuses and Sara Rinearson confirmed that all three KPC campuses are seeing increased enrollment. Hal Smalley: Great reports and suspects that they will get longer in the coming meetings as things get busier and there will be more information for discussion.

5.17 Faculty, Student, Staff, and Public: No comments

6.0 - DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.1 Open Council Seats - The council can have as few as 7 and as many as 15 members. There are open seats in Seward, Homer and the Kenai/Soldotna area. Discussion included the need for community members to consider applying for open seats, particularly in Seward and Homer. The conversation ended with a discussion about advertising for potential council members with backgrounds in KPC programs.

6.2 Dates for AY26 College Council Meetings- The date for the February meeting will be moved from the 12th to the 19th. All Spring council meetings will be on the third Thursday of February, March and April. Carol made a motion to add item 7.3 to the agenda to accept the February date change. Marty seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

6.3 Elections for Chair and Vice Chair: Hal said that he would love to continue to serve as the chair. A discussion was had about who the Vice Chair would be and a nomination came for Jack Hester.

7.0 - ACTION ITEMS

7.1 Elections: Jack Hester made a motion to retain Hall Smalley as the chair. Sonja Redmond seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7.2 Scholarship Funding (perpetual agenda meeting)
The balance of the scholarship fund is still at \$1567.69.

7.3 Move the February meeting date. Carol made the motion to accept the new date. Marty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8.0 - EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

9.0 - ADJOURNMENT

Declared by the Chair at 7:00 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Katy Koetitz, College Council Secretary

Minutes approved on _____ as attested by:

Hal Smalley, Chair

Director's Office

Prepared by: Brian Partridge

5.3

NWCCU Accreditation Review Process

The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) serves as the regional accrediting body for degree-granting institutions in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington. NWCCU accreditation ensures that institutions meet rigorous standards for educational quality, institutional effectiveness, and student achievement outcomes.

The NWCCU accreditation review process reached a pivotal milestone this month with the arrival of accreditation evaluators at Kenai Peninsula College on Tuesday, October 7th. This comprehensive evaluation represents the culmination of extensive preparation and self-study efforts undertaken by faculty, staff, and administration over the past academic year.

NWCCU Standards Framework

Our review focuses on NWCCU's five core standards:

1. Mission, Core Themes, and Expectations - Institutional purpose and strategic direction
2. Resources and Capacity - Human, financial, and physical resources supporting mission fulfillment
3. Planning and Implementation - Strategic planning processes and resource allocation
4. Core Theme Planning, Assessment, and Improvement - Systematic evaluation and continuous improvement
5. Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability - Evidence of achieving institutional mission and long-term viability

Review Timeline and Process

The comprehensive evaluation extends beyond our Kenai Peninsula campus, with meetings continuing at the University of Alaska Anchorage campus through Friday, October 9th. This multi-campus approach reflects:

- The integrated nature of our operations within the UA system
- NWCCU's requirement to evaluate all locations where degrees are offered
- Assessment of system-wide support services and administrative structures

Accreditation Cycle

This review represents KPC's continuation in NWCCU's seven-year accreditation cycle. Our current accreditation status remains in good standing, and this evaluation will determine our reaffirmation for the next cycle period through 2031.

UAA Chancellor Search Update

Search Timeline

The search for the University of Alaska Anchorage Chancellor has progressed significantly, with President Pat Pitney scheduled to announce her selection by October 22nd. This timeline represents the culmination

of a comprehensive national search process that has engaged stakeholders across the UAA system, including Kenai Peninsula College.

Impact on KPC

As a community campus within the UAA system, KPC has a vested interest in the Chancellor selection. The new Chancellor will play a crucial role in:

- Setting strategic direction for the UAA system
- Overseeing budget allocation and resource distribution to community campuses
- Maintaining relationships with community campuses like KPC
- Advancing system-wide academic and operational initiatives
- Supporting NWCCU accreditation compliance across all UAA locations

Stakeholder Engagement

Throughout the search process, KPC representatives have participated in candidate forums and provided input on desired leadership qualities and institutional priorities. This engagement helps ensure our campus perspective is represented in this critical leadership decision

Community Engagement and Outreach

Kenai River Campus Halloween Community Event

The Kenai River Campus (KRC) continues to demonstrate its commitment to community engagement by carrying on the beloved Halloween tradition and offering a special event to the local community. This celebration exemplifies KPC's dedication to serving as more than just an educational institution—we are an integral part of the community fabric.

Chancellor Visit to KPC

On Monday, October 6, 2025, KPC was delighted to host Interim Chancellor Cheryl Siemers for a special campus visit. Accompanied by Brian and Jane, the Chancellor toured the grounds, stopping by every office with a festive “Chancellor’s Cart” stocked with donuts and refreshments. This thoughtful gesture not only provided a delightful treat but also delivered a significant morale boost, offering staff and faculty alike a cherished opportunity to connect and converse with Cheryl.



Kachemak Bay Campus

Prepared by: Brian Partridge

5.4

Kachemak Bay Writers' Conference announced keynote speaker and faculty

The keynote speaker for the 2026 conference will be poet and essayist Jane Hirshfield, cofounder of Poets for Science, who is known as a leading voice for science and poetry. For 2026, writing will focus on and address "the landscape, the environment, or the climate." Additional faculty members for 2026 include poets Elizabeth Bradfield, Donika Kelly, and J. Drew Lanham; fiction writers Jamie Ford, Julia Phillips, and Diane Wilson; and nonfiction writers Bathsheba Demuth, Chris La Tray, and Zoë Schlanger. Participating publishing professionals include editor Chip Blake and agent Ayesha Pande of Ayesha Pande Literary. For more information, see the [Homer News article](#), or visit the [Conference website](#).

New KBC Student Association

As of Friday, September 26, KBC has a new Student Association Executive Board. Returning member, Sarah Couch, will be this year's president after serving as vice president last year. Secretary Karma Wilcox is a legacy member, as her father was President when he was a student. Joining them is Coda Woods as KBC Treasurer, and SBB student Savannah Lyle, the new KBC Service Chair.

On-campus enrollment is up

With two full-time faculty members on sabbatical, in-person classes were reduced by half this semester while in-person enrollment increased slightly, indicating an increase in on-campus enrollment overall, a trend we hope will continue.

Semester by the Bay welcomes its 14th Marine Mammal Biology cohort

The local radio station interviewed students about what they hope to bring and gain from the experience. [Listen to the story here](#).

Facilities Update

- The corner lot (formerly known as Young's) is scheduled to begin being dismantled this week.
- KBC passed its annual fire inspection.

Student and Enrollment Services

- Student Enrollment Services conducted a New Student Orientation in the first week of the semester, which had the highest engagement since before Covid.
- KPC Health Nurse, Heidi Sequeira visited Homer with mental health and other resources for local students, and gave a wonderful presentation to the new Semester by the Bay cohort.
- Traffic continues to be very busy with drop and payment deadlines, bringing students to campus for assistance.

Community Programs

- The Homer Chamber of Commerce organized a candidate forum that included all six candidates running for City Council, and was attended by 50 people, including reporters from the Homer News and KBBI.
- Kenai Peninsula Votes held a robust informational meeting about the borough-wide elections coming in October, which included candidates for the Hospital School, and Service Area Boards, and a look at all sides of the ballot propositions.
- South Peninsula Hospital Health and Wellness brought 50 seniors to campus for a health and wellness event.
- The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center presented on the invasive species work it has been doing in Kachemak Bay and around the state.
- The Alaska Reindeer Herders Association held its annual meeting.
- KBC hosted a three-day Philosophy conference organized by KPC instructor Jeff Siemers. The Pacific Association for the Continental Tradition welcomed about 40 members from across the West to exchange academic papers and ideas.



Resurrection Bay Extension Site

Prepared by: Jackie Marshall

5.5

The spring 2026 schedule is set. Along with the usual offerings of Introduction to Logic, Introduction to Literature and Writing Across Contexts, for the first time we will be offering an in-person Human Biology course. The Human Biology course meets a need for high school students as the high school only offers anatomy and physiology every other academic year.

On November 18th, RBES will host a Post-secondary event at Seward High. Richelle Frankovic- Spencer, KPC's Admissions Counselor and Shelby Fuller, KPC's Financial Aid & Veteran Services Specialist will join me in hosting an event during the day for the students and then an event in the evening for students and their parents/guardians. The event will consist of promoting KPC post-secondary certificate and degree programs along with the KPC Residence Hall opening, financial aid information, including the process for applying for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA) and promotion of the Spring 2026 course offerings for dual enrolled students.

On October 1st, I traveled to the Kenai River Campus to participate in the Campus Collaboration Summit. I participated in the capacity of my role as RBES academic advisor. The following departments from KRC, KBC and RBES were involved in the Campus Collaboration Summit : Academic Advising, Administrative Services, Learning Center and Student Services. It was a great opportunity to better understand the work each department does and how KPC system-wide is working together to serve our students.

Student Services

Prepared by: Sara Rinearson

5.6

TRIO Student Support Services

On September 26, KPC was notified of a successful application for the TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) grant with a program start date of September 25, 2025. KPC is funded to serve 140 first-generation, low-income, and/or disabled students. The grant offers a variety of wraparound support services, including but not limited to admissions and financial aid support, career exploration, postsecondary course selection, peer tutoring, and financial and economic literacy, and is designed to complement many of the great resources KPC already provides in various areas. The TRIO SSS grant brings in over \$1.3 million to KPC over the course of five years and funds two full-time positions and several student positions, including a Program Director and a Retention Coordinator to serve students. The program objectives are to assist students in the persistence and completion of certificates and 2-year degrees, as well as transfer into 4-year degree programs.

Admissions & Registration

Ginger Rose, Alex LeClair & Brandon Edwards

Admissions

Final admission totals for fall 2025: 256 applications received (13.2%+), 184 admitted

Registration

Data entry in progress for the spring 2026 semester schedule

- Schedule viewable on UAOnline October 20
- Priority registration:
 - Veteran students, Friday, October 24
 - Seniors Monday, October 27
 - Juniors Tuesday, October 28
 - Sophomores Wednesday, October 29
 - Freshmen Thursday, October 30
 - Open Registration Monday, November 3

Admissions Counselor & Recruitment

Richelle Frankovic-Spencer

Richelle has played a key role in enhancing Kenai Peninsula College's recruitment initiatives through strategic outreach and partnership development. She recently staffed a booth at Harvest Moon Festival as part of her collaboration with Jill Burnham on agricultural grant projects being implemented at KBC in Homer. Hunter Moos, new Residence Hall Coordinator, was able to join them to discuss the upcoming opening of the residence hall. She's also been working closely with the Residence Hall and Advancement Department on Residence Hall planning and marketing, continuing to build strong partnerships across campuses and programs.

Richelle helped organize a group tour in collaboration with Alaska EXCEL to showcase KPC's academic programs and promote the upcoming opening of the residence hall in Spring 2026. Richelle also helped coordinate a week-long, on-campus camp in partnership with Alaska Resource Education and KPBSD students. This camp, focused on energy-related careers, provided students with hands-on experiences, including local energy facility tours, campus exploration, and career pathway discovery through the University of Alaska Career Coach interest inventory. Additionally, Richelle facilitated a visit with the UAA Admissions Counselor for the Kenai region, strengthening inter-campus collaboration and increasing awareness of KPC's offerings.



CAMP Program

Jeff Smith

On Sept 15th, the Department of Education issued a notification of continuation funding for KPC CAMP. This Year 2 award covers the period of 07/01/2025 to 06/30/2026. In light of this award, the program is now working to enroll additional students into the program for the Fall 25 cohort. Numerous applications have been reviewed, several interviews with students have been conducted, and award letters are being issued to new CAMP scholars. KPC is now hiring a CAMP Coordinator to fill a critical position that was vacated in August. The CAMP Director is traveling for student recruitment this month, joining the KPC Admissions Counselor at three college fairs in Kenai, Wasilla, and Anchorage. CAMP is also working with each CAMP scholar to identify areas of financial, academic, or personal need where the program can provide additional support now that funds have been made available by the Department.

Financial Aid & Veteran Services

Misty Klodt & Shelby Fuller

The University of Alaska has partnered with AWARDED, a new scholarship management system that provides an easier, more streamlined experience for students, improved communication and updates for applicants, and a faster and more efficient scholarship selection and awarding process.

Applications are not required for scholarships in AWARDED. That said, some scholarships require additional information to meet donor-set criteria. Students are encouraged to fill out the optional profile in order to be eligible for KPC donor funded scholarships that require additional information.

Residence Hall

Hunter Moos

During October, various groups of temporary guests will be staying in the residence hall. This includes a camp organized by KPBSD and Alaska Resource Education, as well as KPC students attending Process Tech and Paramedic lab intensives.

Additionally, the Residence Hall Coordinator (RHC) has continued to partner with Admissions and Advancement to spread the word about the residence hall. These efforts have included creating a new residence hall [Instagram](#) account, working the KPC booth at the Harvest Moon Festival with Richelle, and joining several campus tours to discuss student housing. During the next month, the RHC will attend the College and Career Fair with Richelle and continue to work with Advancement to advertise the residence hall on social media.

Student Health Center

The Student Health Center (SHC) continues to offer clinic hours **Monday–Thursday, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm**. This fall, the SHC is leading several initiatives to support student health and well-being, including:

- Hat, glove, and sock distribution to help students stay warm
- Influenza vaccine campaign to encourage flu prevention
- Ongoing advocacy and liaison support for student mental health needs with Central Peninsula Hospital as well as meeting with tele-health companies that have changed their pricing formula.
- Collaboration on a new lactation/wellness room to provide a supportive space for student

Kenai River Campus Student Union

Prepared by: KRCSU President, Tina Hamlin

5.7.1

The Kenai River Campus Student Union (KRCSU) continues to actively engage with students on multiple levels while representing their interests within the broader University of Alaska community. KRCSU remains committed to ensuring that student perspectives are heard through ongoing participation in the Coalition of Student Leaders (CSL).

KRCSU recently welcomed two new officers: Nathaly Rizo-Hernandez, Marketing Coordinator, and Lydia Schwartz, Activities Coordinator. Both have made outstanding contributions to the Student Union, bringing fresh ideas and enthusiasm to student outreach and engagement efforts.

The first Trivia Night of the academic year was well attended, with 16 students participating. On October 13, KRCSU will host a Mocktail Sip & Paint event in partnership with the Writing Center and the Art Department. This interactive event will teach students how to prepare three different mocktails while painting a fall-themed watercolor canvas, combining creativity and community building.

KRCSU recently partnered with The Goods to provide students with weekly soup, inspired by a similar program at the Kachemak Bay Campus. This initiative was developed in response to growing awareness of student food insecurity and aims to offer consistent, accessible nourishment to those in need. By providing a warm, healthy meal each week, KRCSU and The Goods are helping to foster a stronger sense of community and support on campus while addressing a basic but critical student need.

Later in the month, KRCSU will host a Fire Social on October 22 to foster greater student connection with both the college and the Student Union. Guests will enjoy hot beverages and seasonal treats while socializing by the fire behind the campus.

As part of its mission to represent KRC students at the university level, KRCSU participated in the first CSL meeting of the semester on September 22. KRCSU President, Tina Hamlin has served as Chair of the Coalition for the past year. During the September 29 CSL meeting, a new Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary were appointed. The group is now preparing for the 2026 Juneau Advocacy Trip, where they will discuss and finalize advocacy priorities.

Finally, KRCSU is in the early planning stages for the Spring Graduation Ceremony. Efforts are underway to select a keynote speaker, with plans to gather student feedback through email surveys and classroom visits to ensure broad input in the decision-making process.

Academic Advising

Prepared by: Emily Knight

5.8

Department Updates

UAA's Office of Student Success invited all faculty to participate in Progress Report Campaign #1 during weeks 4 and 5 (Sept 15 - Sept 28) of the fall semester. The focus of this campaign is to address academic performance and progress. Faculty are asked to provide one or more of the following alert reasons for each student enrolled in their courses:

- Not attending class or engagement issues
- Referral for tutoring (low scores on assignments/tests)
- Student personal issues (non-academic concerns)
- Please check in with your professor!
- Student performing well - no concerns!
- Student progress update (no outreach needed)

Depending on which alert reasons are selected, cases are opened and assigned to the appropriate advisor. KPC advisors have been assigned to at least 60 student cases this semester and are following up with students through email, phone, and text message. Cases remain open until meaningful contact is made with the student or until multiple outreach attempts have been made with no response.

Dual Enrollment/Career and Technical Education

KPC was granted the Carl Perkins Postsecondary Planning grant in late June and has finally been approved to move forward with hiring a CTE advisor who will support the efforts of the KPC Dual Enrollment advisor. In addition to the advisor position, the grant will provide funding for tuition, fees, books, and supplies for dual enrollment students in KPC CTE courses that lead toward industry credentials, such as the State of Alaska Nurse Aide and American Welding Society certifications.

Disability Support Services (DSS)

Below are the recorded DSS interactions for September. Student interactions include meetings/appointments with students to discuss possible DSS accommodations and services, whereas staff/faculty interactions include requests for clarification and referrals to DSS. Requests for Faculty Notification Letters (FNL) may come directly from student appointments or may be requested by students from other campuses.

Student Interactions: **3**; Staff/Faculty Interactions: **2**; Faculty Notification Letters generated: **11**

Selected Meetings and Activities

- Campus Collaboration Summit - October 1
The KPC Advising Team participated in the annual Campus Collaboration Summit, which includes members from student-serving departments. This meeting provides an opportunity for networking and information sharing among departments whose staff work closely with students and community members.

Academic Affairs

Prepared by: Jane Fuerstenau

5.9.1

Significant Activities During this Period

- Attended a **Scholarship Townhall** briefing September 23rd to learn about the new scholarship system for awarding UAA scholarships. This is a significant change from how UAA has traditionally handled scholarship applications as committee members will no longer see the names or identifiable information about the applicants. It was also revealed that some scholarships will be awarded based on a computer logarithm rather than committee member reviews.
- Participated in the **New Employee Orientation** September 24th by presenting on the history of KPC. I also attended the same day presentation by the UAA Employee Experience Team explaining UAA services available to KPC employees.
- Participated in a **review of the Spring 2026 course schedule** with the Interim Campus Director, the Faculty Office Manager, and the KBC Director's Assistant on September 29th. This is the last review of the semester schedule by the Director's Office before turning the schedule over to faculty and department chairs for further edits.
- Attended the **Campus Collaboration Summit** October 1st, and presented a session on "What to Expect during the On-Site Accreditation Visit."

Selected Meetings and Trainings

- Attended Cleary Act training for Incident Management Teams October 2nd
- Attended a Student Success Committee meeting September 25th to work on improving instructor response time to student inquiries and assignments.

Faculty Chairs

5.9.2

Business & Industry

James Titus

PRT

Agrium Tour for Process Students

On Friday, September 12, 2025, Professor Laube led a group of twelve process technology students on an educational tour of the closed Agrium facility. Despite several days of rain in Nikiski, the weather was cool and cloudy, and the group was fortunate to enjoy a rain-free experience. Students traveled from a wide range of communities—including Palmer, Anchorage, Kasilof, Sterling, and Kenai—demonstrating their commitment to professional growth and hands-on learning. The tour provided students with a unique opportunity to observe real-world industrial operations and gain insights beyond the classroom. When asked if they learned something valuable during the visit, every student enthusiastically raised their hand, highlighting the tour's impact on their understanding of process technology. Participation in a facility tour is a requirement for all first-year process students, who may choose from several options to fulfill this component of their curriculum. The Agrium tour continues to be a popular and meaningful choice, offering students direct exposure to industry practices and fostering engagement with their chosen field. In the photo below the students are standing on the Plant 4 Primary Reformer, with the Plant 1 equipment in the background.



IPIN

Classes are ongoing, nothing to report from the last meeting.

Welding

Classes are humming with welding activities.

Business

Classes are ongoing, nothing to report from the last meeting.

Mathematics and Natural Sciences

Clair Kochis

On September 13th, KPC once again helped run "Beluga's Count!" an annual event that brings together government agencies, universities, non-profits, Tribes, and members of the public to monitor and learn about the endangered Cook Inlet beluga whale. Dr. Orca Jimmy Peniston was once again a member of the lead planning committee for the Inlet-wide event. In total, there were over 1134 public visitors of the events throughout the Cook Inlet. They saw 18 beluga at the Kenai Bluffs. In total, 114 were seen throughout the Inlet, which is a ton because there is estimated to only be about 300 belugas in Cook Inlet.

Dr. Debbie Boege-Tobin and Dr. Peniston also co-hosted the Kenai Bluffs monitoring station in collaboration with Alaska Wildlife Alliance. 68 members of the community came and monitored belugas with us at the Kenai Bluffs on the day.

Humanities and Fine Arts Department

Christina Paxman

Throughout the remainder of September, primary efforts were directed toward equipping faculty and students for the new semester. We have recently begun working on other initiatives—such as spring adjunct hiring.

Healthcare Programs

Paul Perry

EMT Program: CPAP Training

EMT Instructor Ashley Pass led a hands-on training session this month focused on Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) administration, a critical airway management skill for EMTs treating patients in respiratory distress. Using a manikin, oxygen tank, and CPAP mask, Ashley demonstrated the proper setup, application, and troubleshooting of the device, emphasizing indications such as congestive heart failure and pulmonary edema, and the importance of maintaining positive airway pressure to improve oxygenation and reduce work of breathing.



First Annual UAA Simulation Conference

Kenai Peninsula College EMS faculty members **Paul Perry, Tiffani Perry, and Kayce Kirby** represented the **KPC EMS Programs** at the **First Annual UAA Simulation Conference**, held at **Alaska Pacific University** on **September 19th**. The team led a **hands-on presentation** featuring advanced simulation tools including the **Laerdal SimMan 3G Plus, SimBaby, and iSimulate training monitors**, demonstrating how high-fidelity simulation enhances clinical decision-making and emergency care education. Faculty member Kayce Kirby also attended a **moulage workshop**, gaining new skills to create realistic injury effects for training and outreach. These techniques will be incorporated into future simulation scenarios across the **EMT, Advanced EMT, and Paramedic** programs, and will also be featured in the upcoming **KPC Halloween Haunted EMS Lab—a community trick-or-treat event** where the paramedic lab will be transformed with **zombies, moulaged simulators, and themed decorations** to provide a fun and educational experience for local families.



Advanced EMT Class: Lab Intensives

The **Advanced EMT** class at Kenai Peninsula College recently completed their first **48-hour lab intensive**, gaining valuable hands-on experience in both foundational and complex patient care skills. Students

practiced **intravenous (IV) therapy**, learning to start IVs on each other and on volunteer family members to build confidence and proficiency in vascular access. In addition to core skills labs, the class participated in **high-fidelity simulation scenarios**, including a **Status Asthmaticus** case involving a 25-year-old female in severe respiratory distress. These immersive scenarios challenged students to apply assessment, airway management, and medication administration skills under realistic conditions, preparing them for real-world emergency responses and the **State of Alaska Advanced EMT certification**.



KPC Administrative Services

Prepared by: Carrie Couey, Director of Administrative Services

5.12

Jenya Malakhova-Quartly: KPC Bookstore Manager/Head Cashier

Textbook adoptions for Spring 2026 are now finalized and due earlier than in previous semesters. Submitting early helps ensure that students have a full month to purchase their course materials before the first day of class.

Spring 2026 Textbook Adoption Deadlines

Adoptions Open	10/15/25
Schedule viewable in UAOnline	10/20/25
Adoptions Close	10/31/25
Bookstore Viewable (Price Report)	11/17/25
Bookstore Open for Purchases	12/01/25

[New FALL Arrivals Are Here!](#)

KPC Cotton Canvas Tote - 13" W X 11"H X 6" D



Ladies Hooded Rain Jacket - Colors: Black and Blue Iris - Sizes: S -2XL



STYLE NAME
Weatherproof® Vintage
Rain Jacket

It's got extra water resistant performance, extra long hem and sleeves, extra pockets at [www.ckstr.com](#).

Available in 40-42, 44-46, 48-50, 52-54, 56-58, 60-62, 64-66, 68-70, 72-74, 76-78, 80-82, 84-86, 88-90, 92-94, 96-98, 100-102, 104-106, 108-110, 112-114, 116-118, 120-122, 124-126, 128-130, 132-134, 136-138, 140-142, 144-146, 148-150, 152-154, 156-158, 160-162, 164-166, 168-170, 172-174, 176-178, 180-182, 184-186, 188-190, 192-194, 196-198, 200-202, 204-206, 208-210, 212-214, 216-218, 220-222, 224-226, 228-230, 232-234, 236-238, 240-242, 244-246, 248-250, 252-254, 256-258, 260-262, 264-266, 268-270, 272-274, 276-278, 280-282, 284-286, 288-290, 292-294, 296-298, 300-302, 304-306, 308-310, 312-314, 316-318, 320-322, 324-326, 328-330, 332-334, 336-338, 340-342, 344-346, 348-350, 352-354, 356-358, 360-362, 364-366, 368-370, 372-374, 376-378, 380-382, 384-386, 388-390, 392-394, 396-398, 400-402, 404-406, 408-410, 412-414, 416-418, 420-422, 424-426, 428-430, 432-434, 436-438, 440-442, 444-446, 448-450, 452-454, 456-458, 460-462, 464-466, 468-470, 472-474, 476-478, 480-482, 484-486, 488-490, 492-494, 496-498, 500-502, 504-506, 508-510, 512-514, 516-518, 520-522, 524-526, 528-530, 532-534, 536-538, 540-542, 544-546, 548-550, 552-554, 556-558, 560-562, 564-566, 568-570, 572-574, 576-578, 580-582, 584-586, 588-590, 592-594, 596-598, 600-602, 604-606, 608-610, 612-614, 616-618, 620-622, 624-626, 628-630, 632-634, 636-638, 640-642, 644-646, 648-650, 652-654, 656-658, 660-662, 664-666, 668-670, 672-674, 676-678, 680-682, 684-686, 688-690, 692-694, 696-698, 700-702, 704-706, 708-710, 712-714, 716-718, 720-722, 724-726, 728-730, 732-734, 736-738, 740-742, 744-746, 748-750, 752-754, 756-758, 760-762, 764-766, 768-770, 772-774, 776-778, 780-782, 784-786, 788-790, 792-794, 796-798, 800-802, 804-806, 808-810, 812-814, 816-818, 820-822, 824-826, 828-830, 832-834, 836-838, 840-842, 844-846, 848-850, 852-854, 856-858, 860-862, 864-866, 868-870, 872-874, 876-878, 880-882, 884-886, 888-890, 892-894, 896-898, 900-902, 904-906, 908-910, 912-914, 916-918, 920-922, 924-926, 928-930, 932-934, 936-938, 940-942, 944-946, 948-950, 952-954, 956-958, 960-962, 964-966, 968-970, 972-974, 976-978, 980-982, 984-986, 988-990, 992-994, 996-998, 1000-1002, 1004-1006, 1008-1010, 1012-1014, 1016-1018, 1020-1022, 1024-1026, 1028-1030, 1032-1034, 1036-1038, 1040-1042, 1044-1046, 1048-1050, 1052-1054, 1056-1058, 1060-1062, 1064-1066, 1068-1070, 1072-1074, 1076-1078, 1080-1082, 1084-1086, 1088-1090, 1092-1094, 1096-1098, 1100-1102, 1104-1106, 1108-1110, 1112-1114, 1116-1118, 1120-1122, 1124-1126, 1128-1130, 1132-1134, 1136-1138, 1140-1142, 1144-1146, 1148-1150, 1152-1154, 1156-1158, 1160-1162, 1164-1166, 1168-1170, 1172-1174, 1176-1178, 1180-1182, 1184-1186, 1188-1190, 1192-1194, 1196-1198, 1200-1202, 1204-1206, 1208-1210, 1212-1214, 1216-1218, 1220-1222, 1224-1226, 1228-1230, 1232-1234, 1236-1238, 1240-1242, 1244-1246, 1248-1250, 1252-1254, 1256-1258, 1260-1262, 1264-1266, 1268-1270, 1272-1274, 1276-1278, 1280-1282, 1284-1286, 1288-1290, 1292-1294, 1296-1298, 1300-1302, 1304-1306, 1308-1310, 1312-1314, 1316-1318, 1320-1322, 1324-1326, 1328-1330, 1332-1334, 1336-1338, 1340-1342, 1344-1346, 1348-1350, 1352-1354, 1356-1358, 1360-1362, 1364-1366, 1368-1370, 1372-1374, 1376-1378, 1380-1382, 1384-1386, 1388-1390, 1392-1394, 1396-1398, 1400-1402, 1404-1406, 1408-1410, 1412-1414, 1416-1418, 1420-1422, 1424-1426, 1428-1430, 1432-1434, 1436-1438, 1440-1442, 1444-1446, 1448-1450, 1452-1454, 1456-1458, 1460-1462, 1464-1466, 1468-1470, 1472-1474, 1476-1478, 1480-1482, 1484-1486, 1488-1490, 1492-1494, 1496-1498, 1500-1502, 1504-1506, 1508-1510, 1512-1514, 1516-1518, 1520-1522, 1524-1526, 1528-1530, 1532-1534, 1536-1538, 1540-1542, 1544-1546, 1548-1550, 1552-1554, 1556-1558, 1560-1562, 1564-1566, 1568-1570, 1572-1574, 1576-1578, 1580-1582, 1584-1586, 1588-1590, 1592-1594, 1596-1598, 1600-1602, 1604-1606, 1608-1610, 1612-1614, 1616-1618, 1620-1622, 1624-1626, 1628-1630, 1632-1634, 1636-1638, 1640-1642, 1644-1646, 1648-1650, 1652-1654, 1656-1658, 1660-1662, 1664-1666, 1668-1670, 1672-1674, 1676-1678, 1680-1682, 1684-1686, 1688-

Stop by the KPC Bookstore to check them out!

Cheryl Brock: KPC Accounting Manager

WIOA Title I Youth Program: **\$175,000**

mentoring, career exploration, study skills, cultural events, transfer workshops, and a Summer Bridge orientation program.

Cheryl also worked with Tammy Kottke, training her on the monthly bank reconciliation, quarterly general ledger reconciliation, UA Foundation processes, department budget reports and miscellaneous procedures as they come up.

Victoria Trujillo: KPC HR Coordinator

The University is transitioning to a new automated overtime process. Effective September 21, 2025, employees will no longer need to manually calculate overtime hours on their timesheets, as the system will automatically handle this task. Close monitoring will be necessary for the allocation of overtime work costs, particularly for positions funded by grants.

The University of Alaska Office of Information Technology moved security awareness training to a new training platform: [KnowBe4](#). The training is to be completed before October 31, 2025 or within 30 days of hire.

KPC's first session of the New Employee Onboarding Event took place on September 24, 2025 at the Kenai River Campus. The event received overall positive feedback from attendees. On the same day, the Soldotna campus hosted the [UAA Employee Experience](#) department, including Director Ahmbra Austin and Media and Events Coordinator Heather Jensen. Ahmbra and Heather participated in part of the Onboarding session, met with the Sunshine Committee, and delivered a presentation about their department, which included prize giveaways at the ice cream social for KRC employees. New employees will be going to Homer for a second session of the Onboarding event on October 3, 2025.

Training resources are available for all University of Alaska employees. HR offers a [Leaders Workshop Series](#), covering topics such as "[Addressing Employee Performance Issues in a Supportive Way](#)", "[Managing Staff Through Stressful Situations](#)," and "[Psychological Pressures Of Middle Management](#)." Employees also have access to education courses on the [MyUA and LinkedIn platforms](#).

All University of Alaska employees have access to the Employee Assistance program through ComPsych. The program is available to all employees, spouses, dependents and anyone living in the employee's home. Assistance is provided in the form of emotional support for mental health concerns, work-life solutions, legal guidance, financial education, and wellness. Information about the program is available on this web page: <https://www.alaska.edu/hr/benefits/support/employee-assistance.php>

Tammy Kottke: KPC Accounting Specialist

Tammy worked to review and update the tracking of KPC's Memorandum of Understanding/Memorandum of Agreements. These documents memorialize agreements with entities involved in the delivery of academic programming and the use of facilities, helping to identify agreement terms and expiration dates. Tammy also processed Journal Vouchers, reconciled KPC bank and general ledger accounts, and handled procurement. She is currently learning new duties, which include managing physical inventory/property processes and overseeing KPC Course Fees. Additionally, she is preparing for upcoming training with the UA Foundation to track scholarship and donor funds.

Estaline Cooke: KPC Accounts Payable/Travel/ProCards Specialist

JPMorgan KPC transactions processed and approved in the first 90 days of FY26:
283 transactions totaling \$86,949.71

Travel spending projected to date: \$20,278.80

New with ProCards:

Refresher training is required before the card's expiration date to continue using it. These training invites will be sent out automatically.

Shannon Garland: KPC Student Accounts/Accounts Receivable Specialist

Student Accounts/Accounts Receivable has remained focused on ensuring timely and accurate billing, applying payments, managing outstanding balances, and forwarding overdue accounts to collections when necessary. Collaboration with Financial Aid and Student Services has helped maintain clear communication with students, issuance of refunds where applicable, and support of students as they navigate the financial responsibilities of a higher education. Additionally, there is ongoing assessment of late fees, processing of tuition and fees for agency-funded students, and disbursement of funds to accounts with credit balances.

Dual-enrollment contracts and tuition exemptions for the Fall 2025 term have been processed. 222 Borough high school juniors and seniors applied to JumpStart, enrolling in 1,084 credit hours. The tuition waiver program reduced the per-credit cost from \$241 to \$80, significantly expanding access to early college opportunities for Borough students.

Participation in the 2025 Williams & Fudge Student Loan & Receivables Collection Conference (SLRCC) in South Carolina provided targeted professional development and opportunities for collaboration with peers in the student receivables field. Sessions focused on compliance trends, effective communication strategies—including the use of AI—legal updates, and innovations in account recovery.

Staffing Changes

Tammy Kottke moved from the KPC Student Accounts/Accounts Receivable Specialist position in April to KPC Accounting Specialist. This position supports the functions of the KPC Accounting Manager as well numerous overall accounting functions.

Shannon Garland joined KPC in June taking on the KPC Student Accounts/Accounts Receivable Specialist position. Shannon brings similar experience working with students at Alaska Bible College in the Mat-Su valley.

KPC Advancement

Prepared by: Summer Lazenby, Advancement Programs Manager

5.13

Departmental Engagement

- Established new connections across multiple Kenai Peninsula College departments
- Created comprehensive social media calendar template that includes:
 - Media assets
 - Post content
 - Relevant links
 - Staff/faculty request tracking
- Template designed for dual purpose: social media management and future digital newsletter structure
- Implementing strategy of 2-3 posts weekly with flexibility for time-sensitive content

Strategic Planning

- Completed draft Marketing Plan, currently under review by Interim Director and Director of Administrative Services
- Next phase: Formation of steering committee to refine and implement plan objectives

Outreach Support

- Collaborating with Admissions Counselor on upcoming outreach events
- Refreshed promotional materials inventory:
 - Replenished high-demand items
 - Added new promotional products (silicone cup sleeves, magnets)
- Scheduled review and update of program/departamental printed materials

Upcoming Absence

- Planned vacation: October 30-November 11
- Preparation plan in place:
 - Pre-scheduled social media content
 - Halloween event materials prepared
 - UA Scholars event coordination completed
 - Relevant team members briefed to ensure seamless operations

Metric of the Month

Views on Facebook for September 2025 compared to August 2025—a 106% increase!



Selected Meetings and Activities

- “Creating a Sustainable Social Media Strategy for Higher Education” Webinar
- UAA Employee Experience Team
- CAMP Coordinator Hiring Committee

IT Services

Prepared by: Gareth Chesley

5.14

Windows 11 Migration Complete

The Windows 10 operating system reaches end of support on October 14, 2025. KPC IT Services is happy to report that we have upgraded all eligible KPC owned computers to Windows 11 ahead of the deadline. This has been a three year effort which every member of the team invested significant time into. In addition to time, this effort has also been a significant monetary investment as Windows 11 was incompatible with much of the older hardware which had been in use.

KPC IT Helpdesk Call Center Upgrade Complete

As the User Services and KPC Helpdesk Supervisor, Rob Lewis worked together with UAA IT to upgrade the system used for fielding helpdesk calls at KPC. The new system, Amazon Connect, has many new, useful features over the legacy Cisco Finesse system which we retired. The project design and deployment began this spring, the system was put into service over the summer and the final training sessions for helpdesk employees were just recently completed. It should be noted that the new system still uses the same phone numbers for initial contact as the previous system so there would be no negative impacts for users.

Core Infrastructure Upgrades

KPC IT has accomplished several major upgrades to the core infrastructure supporting its servers since the spring. In preparation for the end of the fiscal year Don Eide worked through the purchase process to replace two virtual server hosts as well the main server storage device used at Kenai River Campus. These devices were purchased and were installed over the summer in preparation for their migration into service in the fall. The hardware has been configured and has entered into production use. Over the Summer the KBC campus upgraded the software for their virtual server hosts from vSphere 7 to vSphere 8 in preparation for vSphere 7's end of support in October.

Training and Professional Development

Since the end of the summer semester, all members of the KPC IT Services department have completed a great deal of training with some highlights as follows. As new hires, Sage and Erik completed all required UA onboarding training and their Extron AV Associate certifications as well as being onboarded into new IT systems. The KRC team has completed training sessions for the new Amazon Connect system for the KPC Helpdesk. Gareth and the KRC team completed Controlled Space Access (CSAP) training with Leslie. The whole department conducted training and review for the SCCM computer management system in addition to required, yearly UA training.

Facilities Operations and Maintenance

Prepared by: Leslie Byrd

5.15

Projects

Facilities team has completed many internal projects, including:

- Repairing lighting on CTEC exterior, Housing exterior, and Brockel Parking lot

- Tree trimming, window washing and other winterizing processes have begun.

Facilities have supported 10+ van/vehicle resets, 24+ non-academic events and activities this month, in addition to regular and seasonal duties.

Facilities contractors are working on multiple projects:

- Completed the replacement of broken Ward and CTEC windows.

- Rebuilt 2 glycol pumps and replaced two glycol pumps.

- "Backyard" injection well replacement has begun.

- Onboarding new MSW staff Member, Erik Hendrickson, has begun.

- Homer campus Young's building demo has begun.

Safety and Continuity

The KPC ERT teams have started monthly skills workshops. The KPC IMT has already met all Clery requirements for this year, including annual training and emergency plan testing. CCTV upgrades are currently ongoing in collaboration with the IT department. Leslie assisted the Administration Department with the new Employee Onboarding event. She also hosted a safety training at Lee Shore Center for their staff for the sixth year running.