Northwestern Alaska Career and Technical Center

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Honorable Donald Olson, Senator
State Capitol Rm 506
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Olson,

This letter is to inform you of NACTEC’s current partnership with and what the University of Alaska Fairbanks Marine Advisory Program (UAF MAP) contributes to the 300+ students we serve annually. Due to this partnership UAF’s extension agent, Heidi Herter, provides a level of instruction and exposure to fisheries and coastal areas issues that our students would otherwise not receive. Your support of UAF’s Marine Advisory Program position in Nome, AK is needed to provide this service into the future.

NACTEC considers itself quite fortunate to have Heidi Herter lead fisheries and wildlife related instruction as she most recently completed this past August. Thanks to Ms. Herter’s efforts, NACTEC students participate in a weeklong Field Biology camp at Salmon Lake each summer in 2007-2009 while the MAP program has been in our region. Such collaborative efforts provide upper level, dual college credit experiences for our students that we would not be able to deliver due to the nature of highly qualified instructors under No Child Left Behind.

Additionally Ms. Herter has proven invaluable leading efforts to improve our marine safety program. Over 300 students from the sixteen villages in the Bering Strait/Norton Sound region receive water safety and survival swimming while at NACTEC. Due to Ms. Herter’s background knowledge, experience, and certification, she prepares each of our students utilizing the Alaska Marine Safety Education Association curriculum. Her efforts in this domain benefit all of our students and also serves to better prepare our teaching staff.

Due to the UAF Marine Advisory Program, students of the Bering Strait/Norton Sound region receive a level of instruction and services that would quite simply otherwise go unfulfilled. I ask that you support this program under the University of Alaska budget request on behalf of all students in our region. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Douglas J. Walrath, Director