

Education & Workforce Development Committee  
Chamber of Commerce  
Friday, August 31, 2007

Attendee: Miguel Torres, Terrance Robbins, Linda Hardin, Bobbi McCreary, Samantha Ewent, Wendy Gierard, Barb Truitt, Sharon Thompson

Sharon Thompson was a guest and presented information on the Totem Heritage Center education offerings.

Chamber website will soon have resume and job posting capability.

Samantha Ewendt is the new Vista volunteer in the Youth to Work program.

- She is working to get the program underway this fall.
- Challenges include integrating:
  - Work Keys into the high school,
  - Identifying employers who will help the program,
  - Recruitment of students and
  - Organizing a 10-hour work readiness seminar for mid-September.

Linda Hardin gave a school district overview.

- Kayhi has a new principal and four new staff
- New superintendent
- New special ed director
- Focus this year on attendance and drop out rate
- Compass program will run after school again (working on having a 5:30p bus for kids)
- Powerschool is ready to go
- Technology \$\$ focus this year will be elementary schools
- Tech prep agreements in place
- Every school in district passed the AYP. Report Card to Community will be released in upcoming months.

Wendy Gierard gave university overview.

- UAS Ketchikan started August 30. Enrollment is down a little but the campus has more new students than in past years.
- Full range of course offerings. High school students are taking welding and there are night classes, but expansion of the fabrication lab is being completed this fall so welding courses are limited. Once completed, classes in bridge crane operation, forklift operation and other construction/industry skills will available.
- UASK is sponsoring a Workforce Development Summit on Friday, September 14 from 11am-3pm at the Ted Ferry Civic Center. This is the second summit focused on identifying local industry educational needs and workforce development issues. Miguel asked that the minutes from the first be sent to the group. They are attached.

Miguel mentioned that the Tongass School of Arts and Sciences has received permission to start a private preschool. The preschool has a M, W, F class and a T, Th class. The preschool gives parents one more option in the district for preschool. Miguel mentioned that children that attend preschool are much more likely to be successful in school in the long run. The Tongass School can be reached at 225-5720 for more details.

Other comments from the group included:

- Career education for younger students
- Creating an environment for internships
- Discussion around the number of minutes required to be taught in the district

Next meeting is Friday, September 28, 2007 at 12noon at the Best Western Landing Jeremiah's.