

Agency: University of Alaska

Project Title:

Project Type: Equipment and Materials

Southeast Campus - Mining Machinery Simulators Purchase

State Funding Requested: \$400,000
One-Time Need

House District: Juneau Areawide (3-4)

Brief Project Description:

mining machinery simulator

Funding Plan:

Total Cost of Project: \$750,000						
	<u>Funding Secured</u>		<u>Other Pending Requests</u>		<u>Anticipated Future Need</u>	
	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>
Federal Funds					\$125,000	11
Local Funds					\$125,000	11
Other Funds					\$100,000	11
Total					\$350,000	
<i>Explanation of Other Funds:</i>						
<i>Alaska Mining Industry</i>						

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

The University of Alaska Southeast has a nationally-recognized mine worker training program. Developed in concert with the mining industry, it prepares Alaskans for work in the growing field of mine employment. Alaska mines from southern Southeast to Northwest Alaska rely on UAS for job-ready graduates. The program boasts great success in increasing Alaska hire.

This project will allow the University of Alaska to install a full-scale, full-motion simulator of mine machinery used in Alaska mines. The simulator will allow students to gain operational time on the machine and qualify for employment in the mining industry. \$400,000 will get the system operational with the first machine simulator. Training could start immediately upon installation. UAS will partner with the Alaska Dept. of Labor and the private sector to secure additional funding to complete the suite of simulated machines.

Mining today is mechanized to the point that after entry level training, every miner is an equipment operator and progresses through their career by moving from one piece of equipment to a more demanding and sophisticated machine. Only by having the simulators can we provide that degree of productive training. Most students have no equipment operation experience entering the program, and that makes them less attractive and productive for their employers.

The simulator will rectify this gap in the UAS training program. Enrollment is expected to increase from 45 new miners a year to 90, and UAS could also provide step-up training for over 300 existing employees to move to a higher tech level when openings arise. Each Alaskan trained and hired represents \$100,000 annually that stays in the Alaska economy.

For use by Co-chair Staff Only:

**\$400,000
Approved**

6:23 PM 5/4/2010

Project Timeline:

Once funding is available the University will immediatly solicit bids from manufacturers. Upon awarding the bid, it will require six to eight weeks for delivery and installation. Students could be working in the simulator as early as November 2010.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

University of Alaska Southeast

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: University Alaska Southeast Career Tech Center
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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No