

Agency: University of Alaska**Project Title:****Project Type:** Equipment and Materials

Juneau Campus Mining Workforce Development

State Funding Requested: \$204,000**House District:** Juneau Areawide (3-4)

Future Funding May Be Requested

Brief Project Description:

Improvements and additions to allow the UAS Center for Mine Training to provide essential health and safety renovations to the AJ training mine and to acquire equipment to expand training opportunities beyond entry level to all 5 mine tech levels.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$204,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2012 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$204,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

*Funding Details:**FY10 capital appropriation \$400,000 for initial simulator purchase**FY10 \$65,000 UA TVEP grant***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

The UAS Center for Mine Training provides a wide variety of training services for the SE mining industry. The center started in 1986 training for the opening of the Greens Creek mine and just completed the last round of start-up training for Kensington. The center's principal mission is to prepare a new workforce for job openings in hardrock mining. An essential part of the training is located at the AJ mine in Sheep Creek Valley, Juneau. The University has a long-term lease on the underground areas that are used to conduct hands-on training during six-week long new miner training programs. The mine is operated under the Federal Mine Safety and Health Administration regulations for metal and non-metal mines. This proposal addresses requirements for mine ventilation under the MSHA regulations.

Underground mines require mechanical ventilation usually provided by large electrically powered axial fans. For the AJ a 100 hp fan is required. This is a health and safety issue as well as a compliance requirement for our students. Equipment to procure will include one trailer mounted 125/150KW, 480VAC, 3 phase diesel generator to be located outside the mine portal to supply power to the mine.

Generator with controls \$90,000

Electrical Connections from generator to mine training area \$30,000.

Ventilation fan located 2000 feet back from the portal \$34,000.

Computer based Training Package

Project Total \$204,000.

This equipment will allow students and faculty to work underground with standard mining equipment in a fresh air environment and will permit operation of lights and drainage/supply pumps as well as emergency communications systems and equipment maintenance. Without the ventilation, these activities must be severely curtailed and on some days

completely postponed.

The underground training is essential in preparing our workforce to work in the mining industry. The last class of 12 students was hired within three weeks of graduation at starting annual salaries ranging from \$80,000 to \$85,000. Along with extensive classroom/laboratory instruction, the Center for Mine Training will use state of the art mine machine simulators to provide task training certifiable under federal MSHA regulations allowing our students to be competitive for higher level technical positions as well as entry level. We believe the mining industry can be a significant source of employment and revenue across SE Alaska as several exploration projects in the region appear to be successful and should lead to new mines opening and many more jobs for students prepared at the Center for Mine Training.

Project Timeline:

This project would be complete within 6 months of the approval of funding.

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

University of Alaska

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

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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