



Southwest Alaska Vocational & Education Center
Training Alaskans to fill Alaskan Jobs

Vocational Training and Education for the Future of Southwest Alaska



The Southwest Alaska Vocational and Education Center (SAVEC) is developing an exciting new facility concept to bring world class education and vocational training to residents of Southwest Alaska

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Background

The Bristol Bay region, renowned for its cultural and natural wealth, is nonetheless grappling with pronounced economic and educational challenges. A significant barrier to economic development is the necessity for residents to travel outside the region, and often out of the State, to access important, high quality vocational education and training. This not only imposes a financial burden on individuals seeking to advance their skills but also results in a drain of resources and capital from our community. SAVEC met these needs in the past but the old facility on King Salmon Air Force Base was scheduled for demolition leaving the region without a vocational training facility. The establishment of the new SAVEC training facility presents a solution to these challenges. By offering comprehensive vocational training locally, we can retain talent and financial resources within the region, fostering economic resilience and growth. The new SAVEC facility will serve as a beacon of opportunity, enabling residents to pursue their educational goals without the high cost and added strain of travel.

Who We Are

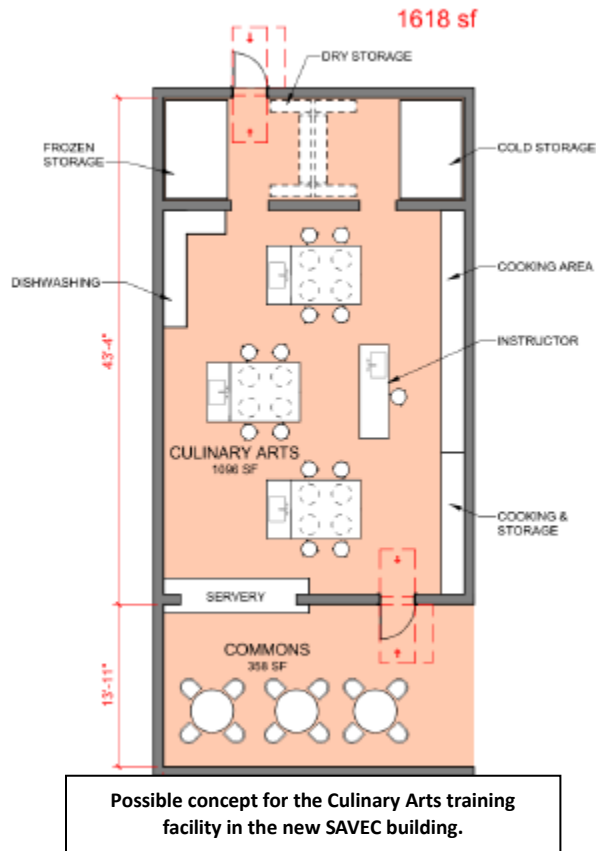
SAVEC was founded in June 2002 as a 501(c)3 organization with a mission to promote, coordinate, and provide high-quality training and education to residents of Southwest Alaska. The organization serves Bristol Bay and rural residents from around the State, providing career and workforce development training in various fields, including

Construction, Fisheries, Maritime, and Support Industries. SAVEC has the flexibility to quickly respond to workforce development needs and is governed by an eight-member board of directors representing regional organizations, Bristol Bay Campus, and local municipal governments.



SAVEC provides world class education and vocational training in Southwest Alaska

SAVEC's New Training and Education Center



Possible concept for the Culinary Arts training facility in the new SAVEC building.


SAVEC's new training facility will serve as a hub for vocational education, offering both hands-on training and distance learning programs tailored to the specific needs of residents from our villages.

Our training will focus on career clusters such as welding, office occupations, construction, driving courses, culinary arts, and building maintenance, aligning with the workforce needs of local employers. The facility will also provide space for industry-required re-certifications and other essential training programs.

The project is in the pre-design phase with architectural programming underway.

Why It's Important

The establishment of the new SAVEC facility will have far-reaching positive effects on the Bristol Bay region. Primarily, it will lead to job creation, both directly through the hiring of instructors and support staff for the facility and indirectly through the increased availability of skilled workers in various industries. This influx of skilled labor will not only benefit local businesses but also attract new enterprises to the area, fostering economic development and diversification.



“Increasingly, economic development is workforce development. People with the right training for the jobs that exist are the scarcest resource. Organizations like SAVEC are the key to keeping Rural Alaska viable as a place to live and earn a livelihood. Vocational training not only improves lives through greater earning potential, but supply a region with enough talent to make it a good place to do business.”

Nolan Klouda, Executive Director, University of Alaska Center for Economic Development

Moreover, by providing comprehensive vocational education and training opportunities, the new SAVEC facility will empower individuals within the community to pursue fulfilling careers and achieve economic self-sufficiency. This, in turn, will contribute to an improved quality of life for residents as they gain access to better employment prospects and higher earning potential. Additionally, the facility will serve as a catalyst for community engagement and social cohesion, fostering a sense of pride and unity among Bristol Bay residents.

Project Supporters

To sustain our operations, SAVEC is bolstered by the collective support of our eight-member board, State and Federal grants, and contributions from regional organizations. Notably, the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation’s annual contribution of \$250,000 underscores a mutual dedication to advancing workforce development and stimulating economic growth in the Bristol Bay region. The US Department of Commerce, through the Economic Development Administration, along with Bristol Bay Borough, Bristol Bay Native Association, Bristol Bay Housing Authority, Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation, and Bristol Bay Native Corporation have funded a feasibility study, business plan and architectural programming for the new facility. In addition, Bristol Bay Borough has agreed to provide land collocated with the future Borough administrative campus where the new SAVEC facility can be constructed. We remain steadfast in our commitment to nurturing enduring partnerships with our regional partners, local businesses, and industry leaders to enhance regional prosperity.

How You Can Participate

SAVEC is looking for partners to assist in the design and construction of the new training facility. If you or your organization are interested in participating in this exciting project, please call us or email using the contact details below. We believe high quality education and vocational training are the keys to economic development and improved standards of living in Southwest Alaska. We would be honored to have you working with us as we move forward toward making this facility a reality.

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