

From business boot camp to boutique owner

You know what the world needs more of? Good news. That's what. We have some of the good stuff and we're proud to be able to share it with you.

If you're not familiar with Alaska Business Week (ABW) — and you should be! — it's the Alaska Chamber's summer program, teaching entrepreneurship and business to high school students for every corner of the state.

The Chamber does important and timely work on the economic issues of our day, but ABW is a critical investment from today's business community to the workers and employers of future generations.

Each year, dozens of students learn what it takes to start, manage and maintain a business. We've had the privilege to watch these young students learn and grow, but nothing is as exciting as seeing one of them take the entrepreneurial plunge. We're showing young Alaskan's what it takes to create their own companies, and their own jobs, and provide livelihoods to their neighbors.

But don't take our word for it. How about we let Kate McWilliams, the owner and operator of Bethel's newest boutique, Arctic Belle, tell you:

"ABW allowed me to develop my entrepreneurial skills and become confident in my own decisions. I made meaningful personal connections and also great friends. The atmosphere provided by ABW helped me immensely in fulfilling my dream of becoming an entrepreneur."

My mentor from the Chamber was a huge support when I told him about my idea. He read over my business plan and gave suggestions and offered to put me in touch with other entrepreneurs around the state. All the positive feedback I received fueled my motivation even more.

Even after the week was over and we all departed our separate ways, the friends I'd made during ABW texted me regularly, eager to hear how my business was going. I kept in contact with my mentor via social media. I had a fantastic experience, but at the same time, I couldn't wait to get home and start implementing what I'd learned towards creating my business, Arctic Belle Boutique.

Sometimes dealing with the technical aspects of establishing a business, such as licensing on the local and state level, creating a financial system, and developing advertisements felt way over my head.

At these moments it was empowering to know that I had a foundation based on knowledge and desire. I've learned more about business than a textbook could ever offer, and opening the Arctic Belle is just the beginning of exploring my passion and potential."

Congratulations and all our best to you, Kate. Chamber members... if you're in Bethel, make sure to drop by and engage in a bit of local commerce!



Alaska Business Week 2015

July 18 - 25, 2015
Alaska Pacific University
Anchorage, AK



Alaska Business Week is a one-week summer program teaching the basic principles of business and leadership to Alaskan high school students. Participants live on a college campus, where they compete as teams, mentored by Alaskan business leaders. The program is open to students finishing 9-12 grades.

Register online at
alaskachamber.com/ABW




ALASKA CHAMBER

For More Information Contact:
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Huna Heritage Foundation seeks Executive Director

The Huna Heritage Foundation (HHF) seeks a full-time Executive Director to perpetuate the Huna Tlingit culture by developing and implementing goals, objectives and administrative policies at the direction of the Board of Trustees.

Day-to-day management and administration of the HHF include, but are not limited to fund raising, financial management, and program management as well as successful completion of other duties as assigned. An



opportunity exists for the work to be performed by the Executive Director in either Hoonah or Juneau, Alaska.

Qualified applicants may send their cover letter and resume to:

hfh.executivesearch@forak-ergroup.org. The first round of cover letters and resumes were reviewed on Nov. 20, however, the position will remain open until filled.