



3211 Providence Drive, SSB 214
Anchorage, Alaska 99508-4614
tel: 907 786-6400
www.uaa.alaska.edu/ctc/

Date: February 12, 2020

To: John Stalvey, Interim Provost

From: Denise Runge, Dean

Cc: Dan O'Connor, Director, Prince William Sound College

Re: AY20 Expedited Program Review Findings

Program/s in this review: Millwright (OEC)

Specialized accrediting agency (if applicable): none

Campuses where the program is delivered: Prince William Sound College

Members of the program review committee:

- Dennis Eastman, Assistant Professor
- Steve Johnson, Associate Professor
- Jason Smilie, Career & Technical Coordinator
- Meg Smith, Advisory Committee member
- Marty Krueger, Advisory Committee member

Centrality of Program Mission and Supporting Role The Millwright OEC aligns well with the mission of UAA, CTC, and of the PWSC campus. The program prepares students for highly skilled occupations in precision instrumentation, welding, construction, blueprint reading, turbines, generators, rigging, conveyor systems, and safety. The program utilizes a nationally recognized curriculum certified by the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) and prepares students for immediate employment in mining, gas & oil, energy production, and fish processing industries. Department of Labor data indicate that there are approximately 300-350 millwrights working in Alaska, with substantial numbers of them expected to retire in the next five to ten years.

Program Demand (including service to other programs), Efficiency, and Productivity Demand for the program has remained small but steady during the review period, and the program has taken steps to better align to student interests while improving efficiency. The program began with three majors in 2017 and 2018, expanding to eight during the 2019 review year. Due to the nature of the labs where instruction takes place, course enrollments are capped at ten. For 2019, the student credit hours per full time equivalent faculty member, or SCH/FTEF was 182.6. Its tuition revenue per credit hour is \$146 and its cost per credit hour is \$501.8 for a ratio of .29, indicating the program is covering only about one-third of its instructional costs. The campus receives external funding from the City of Valdez to offset a

portion of the faculty member's salary, reflecting the city's belief that the program supports local industries and brings residential students into the community. Overall the program is experiencing flat enrollment and high costs, with capacity constrained due to its small instructional space.

Program Quality, Improvement and Student Success During the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 academic years, some enrolled students were not completing the Millwright OEC, noting that the 6-credit internship course requirement was a barrier to completion. The majority of students were completing the five Millwright modules and receiving NCCER Millwright certification. In 2018-2019, the 6-credit internship course requirement was removed, resulting in 100% completion (nine graduates) of the OEC and NCCER Millwright certification for 2019. While completing the five Millwright course sequence, students are required to work on a project that integrates and applies what they have learned throughout the five NCCER certification modules. The program faculty note that their advisory committee has commended this approach to preparing skilled applicants to fill high paying entry-level positions within their industries. Additionally, program faculty note the high job placement of their graduates within oil & gas, mining, and marine sectors in Alaska.

Program Duplication / Distinctiveness The PWSC Millwright program is the only program in the state that provides all five NCCER levels of instruction and training.

Commendations and Recommendations Commendations: The program is commended for its ongoing efforts to ensure student success and placement. Recommendation: The program and the campus should work diligently to find an alternative to the cramped and limited instructional shop space. The program should explore options for alternative delivery methods, incorporating its existing secondary partnerships, apprenticeships, and/or partial distance delivery alternatives to expand its reach.

Decision *Continued Review:* Program is required to address specific issues and to undergo another review within the next two academic years.