

Building Alaska's Workforce

#Opening Kids' Eyes

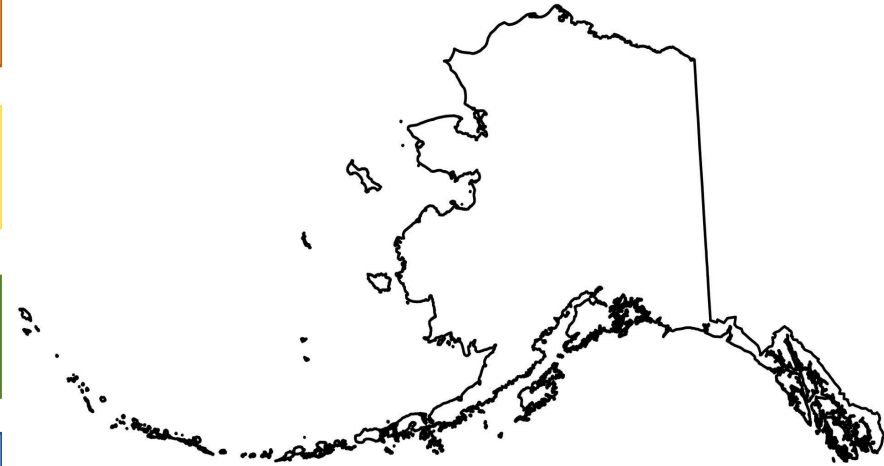



54 SCHOOL DISTRICTS

446 SCHOOLS

5,618 K-12 TEACHERS


127,509 ENROLLED K-12 STUDENTS





Alaska Resource Education (ARE) mission is to educate Alaskan students on our natural resources. ARE had a record year teaching 11,835 students but they still face major obstacles, such as:

- Current ratio of counselors to students in ASD is 1:330
- Many teachers/counselors may not be aware of the career options the resource industry offers
- Funding, staffing capacity, rural travel, Zoom fatigue, lack of teacher interest in teacher trainings
- Barrage of social media posts condemning the oil, gas, and mining industries
- Continued perception that one has to attend college to land a good job



College is not for everyone. Many people prefer working as craftsmen, equipment operators, etc., and there shouldn't be a stigma in choosing to go the non-college route.

- 65% of working millennials say “they are doing what their parents want them to do”
- 37% of students in Alaska go to college
- ~12% of them finish in under 6 years
- 83% nationwide regret going to an expensive college after they graduate



Vocational/Apprentice Programs

- Nearly two thirds of Alaskan won't go to college
- Nationwide, colleges and universities enroll about 15 million students
- Companies/unions employ approximately 800,000 apprentices
- Number of apprentices has increased 50% in the last decade
- College enrollment has decreased 15% during that time
- Many companies are dropping the requirement that new hires must have a college degree. They're realizing that experience matters.
- Alaska has more than 16 different union construction craft apprentice programs
- 3,000 students per year receive vocational training at Northern Industrial Training (NIT)
- AVTEC trains an average of 1,250 students per year
- King Tech now offers 23 programs and internship opportunities
- General uptick in internships this year

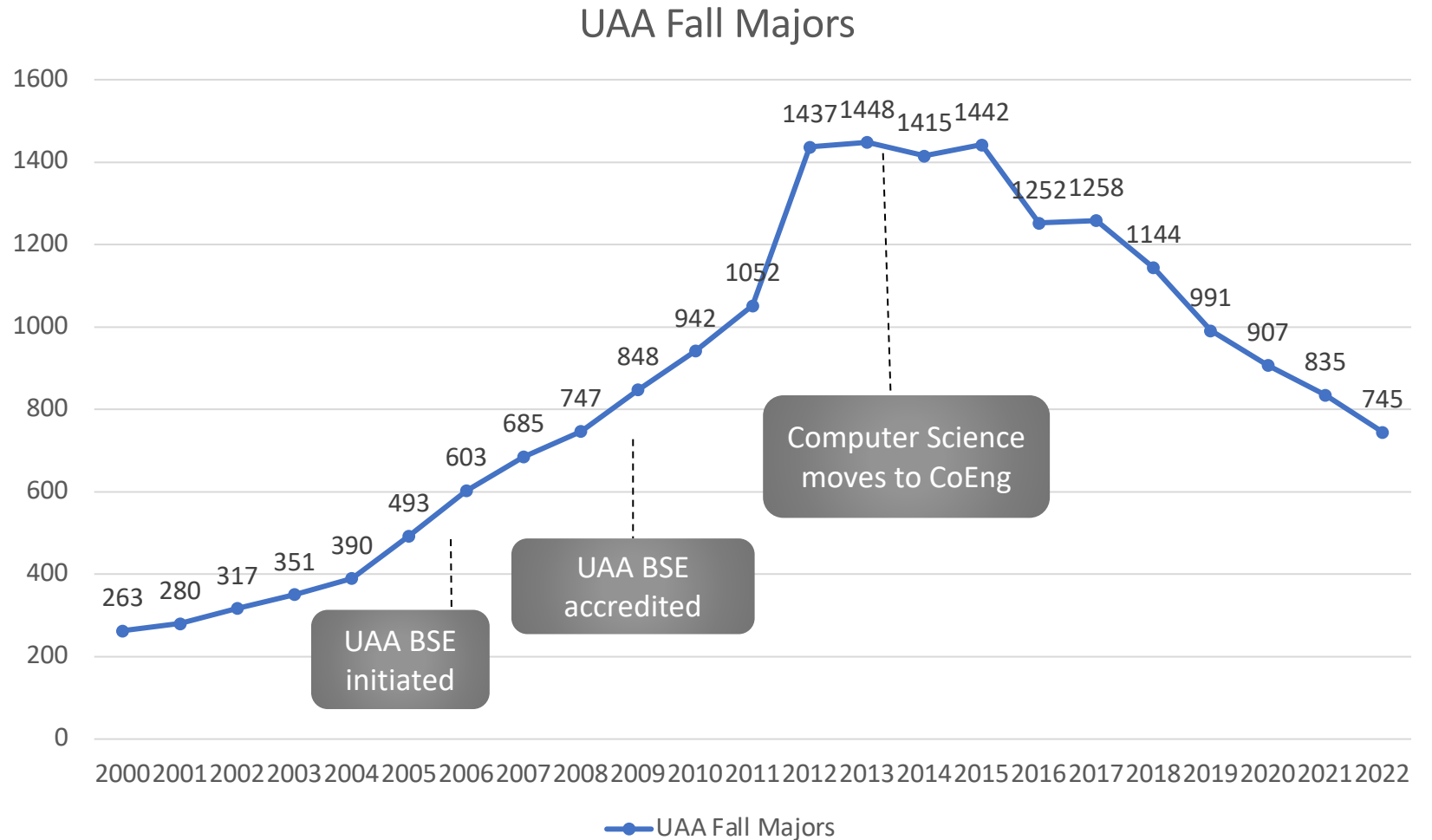
Looming Labor Shortage

- Alaska has experienced nine consecutive years of decreasing working-age population (6% decrease since 2013)
- 18,000 current job vacancies; projected to go as high as 30,000 in the next couple of years
- Our workforce is aging out; young Alaskans are leaving the state and not returning
- Multiple new large-scale projects on the horizon (Pikka; Willow; Mahn Choh; port projects) and new expansion projects at Red Dog; Pogo; Fort Knox; and more
- Large federally funded infrastructure projects
- Major lack of skilled labor (truck drivers; welders; pipefitters; etc.)
- Covid impact
- Decreasing enrollment in Alaska's engineering programs

College of Engineering History

Fall Headcount

- 1961 Engineering Management Program begins
- 1971 Surveying & Mapping 2 year program begins
- 1981 BS Civil Engineering established
- 1983 First BSCE graduates; ABET-accredited
- 1991 BS Geomatics established
- 2004 Project Management program established
- 2005 Bachelor of Science Engineering program
- 2008 Mechanical, Electrical, and Computer Systems Engineering ABET-accredited
- 2012 Computer Science combined with CSE
- 2015 Engineering & Industry Building construction completed
- 2019 Year 1 of \$70M budget cut to University of Alaska system



What Can You Do To Help?

- Get involved in a classroom! Volunteer with ARE or an organization like Junior Achievement and share your own experiences
- Talk regularly to your own kids and grandkids – teach them about the realities of our dependence on natural resources and how America leads the world in responsible development. You may be the only one giving them that message!
- Share the message that Alaska has great vocational training programs like those offered by NIT, AVTEC, UAA, and our many union apprentice programs. These programs provide fantastic training and assistance with job placement
- Teach children that a transition to green energy will always be dependent on mineral extraction
- Talk about the rewards that work in the resource industry provides
- Take your kids on Alaska adventures and get them excited about living in this state!

Rewards of Working in the Resource Industry

