



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **AIDEA Supports Workforce Development Agreement Between JAG Marine and Generations Southeast Vocational Training Center**

Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA), JAG Marine Group, and Generations Southeast Vocational Training Center announced a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to work together and promote Workforce training efforts for Alaskans to be employed in the shipyard repair and construction industry.

JAG Marine Group operates the Seward and Ketchikan shipyards. AIDEA owns the Ketchikan shipyard. JAG has significantly increased business and job opportunities at the Ketchikan shipyard since it took over a few months ago.

Generations Southeast provides Vocational training for Alaskans through multiple facilities and through virtual classes. Generations Southeast is supported by Central Council Tlingit-Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, Sealaska Corporation, and the State of Alaska.

**Doug Huff, JAG said** "There are tremendous opportunities to work in the shipyard and maritime industry in Alaska. This MOU and the efforts of our partners to train Alaskans will provide family wage blue collar jobs to Alaskans right out of high school. And another leg to the economy in Southeast Alaska."

"Sealaska is honored to partner with Tlingit & Haida Generations Southeast, the Alaska Department of Labor, and AIDEA, Sealaska recognizes the critical importance of providing workforce training that prepares Alaskans for Alaska's jobs—strengthening our regional economy today and for generations to come," **said Chas Edwardson, Generations Southeast Director & Cultural Heritage Education of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.**

**Richard Rinehart, Sealaska Board Chairman stated** "Sealaska is honored to partner with Tlingit & Haida Generations Southeast, the Alaska Department of Labor, and AIDEA, Sealaska recognizes the critical importance of providing workforce training that prepares Alaskans for Alaska's jobs—strengthening our regional economy today and for generations to come."

“This is a statewide effort, and the shipyard presents a real opportunity to create local jobs in Southeast Alaska,” **said Tlingit & Haida President Chalyee Éesh Richard Peterson.**

“Too often, Alaskans leave because they believe there are no opportunities here at home. Tlingit & Haida, through Generations Southeast, is prepared and willing to take on this opportunity for our region by developing shipyard-specific, certified training in partnership with industry and state agencies, so Alaska jobs can be filled by Alaska workers.”

“Expanding marine construction is vital to economic growth in Ketchikan, and I strongly support partnerships that equip Alaskans with the training needed for high-quality jobs. These collaborations play a critical role in building a skilled workforce that meets state and regional labor demands, strengthens long-term economic growth, and helps keep families, jobs, and students in our communities,” **said Alaska State Senator Bert Stedman.**

**Alaska Representative Jeremy T. Bynum stated** “This partnership is exactly what Southeast Alaska needs: career training connected directly to real jobs. I have consistently supported technical readiness and career training because it is the foundation for a strong workforce and a strong economy. I appreciate AIDEA, JAG Marine Group, and Generations Southeast for investing in our people and building a pipeline that keeps Southeast Alaska talent working and thriving in Southeast Alaska.”

“Providing the opportunity for Alaskans to explore aspects of the shipyard brings me so much joy, because that’s where my love and respect for the trades began”

**said Kennedy Stumpf, Welding Instructor, Generations Southeast Director of Welding Program**

“This MOU creates a clear pathway from training to employment by aligning workforce education with the real needs of Alaska’s shipyards. When industry and training partners work together like this, Alaskans gain the skills they need for good-paying jobs, and our maritime economy grows stronger across the state,” **said Governor Mike Dunleavy.**”

“Building Alaska’s workforce starts with strong partnerships,” **said U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski.** “By investing in Alaskans, AIDEA, JAG, and Generations Southeast Vocational Training Center are strengthening our coastal economies and keeping opportunities in our communities.”

“The Working Families Tax Cut includes many important priorities for Alaska, including significant funding for icebreakers and homeporting them in our state, and expanding opportunities for future Coast Guard and Navy maintenance and repair activities at our shipyards,” **said Senator Sullivan.** “But to seize those opportunities, it’s critical that we have more highly trained shipbuilding workers. That’s why this agreement is so important.

I want to thank AIDEA, JAG Marine Group, Sealaska, the Alaska Department of Labor, and Tlingit & Haida Generations Southeast for joining together to train Alaskans."

**Alaska Congressman Nick Begich:** "In order to deliver on the promises of the Alaska opportunity act it's necessary for us to meet the future with tomorrow's workforce today that means investing in training programs like the one just announced to ensure that the job opportunities and the prosperity that will come to Alaska stays in Alaska."

**Randy Ruaro, AIDEA's Executive Director** stated "AIDEA will continue to work with JAG to find additional partners to bring more opportunities and economic benefits from the shipyard. We are just getting started."

**About AIDEA:**

Established by the Alaska State Legislature in 1967, the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) is an independently governed public corporation dedicated to promoting the economic welfare of Alaskans. AIDEA's mission is to provide financing and investment opportunities that drive economic development, create jobs, and enhance the quality of life for residents across the state.

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