

REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH DON MIROSH



In the interior of Alaska, Don Mirosh, a dedicated Building Trades Instructor, is transforming the lives of students through his passionate commitment to Career and Technical Education (CTE). As part of the Tri-Valley School's Building Trade/School to Work Program, Don's work is deeply rooted in a unique partnership between the Denali Borough School District and Denali National Park.

Originally from Oregon and Washington, Don's journey as a carpenter took a significant turn when he moved to the Lower Kuskokwim with his wife in 1998. It was in the village of Kasigluk where he discovered his passion for teaching, launching a construction trades class that has since evolved into a lifelong dedication to educating the next generation. A few years later, Don and his family relocated to Healy, Alaska, where he found the perfect opportunity to teach high school students the intricacies of building trades, including the hands-on experience of constructing cabins from foundation to finish for Denali National Park.

What excites Don most about the field of CTE is the pathway it provides for students to access successful careers in high-demand industries within the state. "CTE is a more respected and lucrative career path than it was when I was a kid," he shares, emphasizing the significance of skilled trades in today's economy.

Through his building trades class, Don has made a profound impact on his students, colleagues, and the community. His curriculum is designed not only to teach practical carpentry skills but also to instill essential work habits that will serve students well in both their professional and personal lives. By focusing on these skills, Don is equipping his students with the tools they need to thrive in the job market.

As we celebrate the contributions of educators like Don Mirosh, we recognize the vital role of CTE in shaping the futures of our students and communities. His efforts to merge education with real-world application exemplify the need for vocational training. With skilled instructors like Don leading the way, the future of CTE in Alaska looks brighter than ever.

