

August 11, 2011 CRSD P.O Box 108 Glennallen, AK 99588 www.crsd.k12.ak.us 907-822-3234

The Strategic Plan... is it on the shelf?

BY KATRINA CHURCH-CHMIELOWSKI,
VICE-PRESIDENT CRSD BOARD OF EDUCATION

Are you familiar with the Copper River School District mission and vision? The mission—the basics—is “Providing a Quality Education in a Rural Environment.” The vision—the big picture—is “To equip students for current and future success through performance excellence.” These phrases should be becoming familiar to you. Each school has posters prominently displayed for students, staff and community members to see.

We started the strategic planning process two years ago by identifying a new mission, vision and goals. Our five focus areas are 1) Student Learning, a focus on each individual student’s learning, 2) Stakeholder Satisfaction, a focus on meeting the needs of all those who participate and benefit from a quality education so that they, in turn, can support student learning, 3) Employee Development, a focus on meeting the needs of every employee so that their daily work results in student learning, 4) Support Systems, a focus on policies and procedures that facilitate student learning, and 5) Fiscal Responsibility, a focus on aligning all resources to provide support for student learning. We are now in the second phase of the plan, using data to evaluate systems.

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Future Educators of Alaska



CRSD photo

The Copper River Valley’s future educators of Alaska pose with Sonta Hamilton, Alaska’s FEA Director, during the spring Student Gathering.

Report from Michael Johnson

Copper River School District

Future teachers in training: FEA in the CRSD

BY TAMARA VAN WYHE,
CRSD DIRECTOR OF TEACHING &
LEARNING SUPPORT

In the big picture of one's life, high school is but a tiny "blip" on the screen. However, a student's high school experience should serve as a period of preparation for possible future careers and endeavors.

The development of a Future Educators of Alaska chapter in the Copper River School District began during the 2010-11 school year, and will be back during the new school year with renewed vigor and emphasis. Alaska needs good teachers, and what better way to ensure that our schools have quality educators than to "grow them" ourselves?

Six CRSD students, representing Kenny Lake and Glennallen High School, joined nearly 90 other Alaska students at the spring 2011 FEA Student Gathering in Juneau to further explore education as a post-high school career goal.

During their few days in our state's capitol, the students listened to speakers who emphasized the

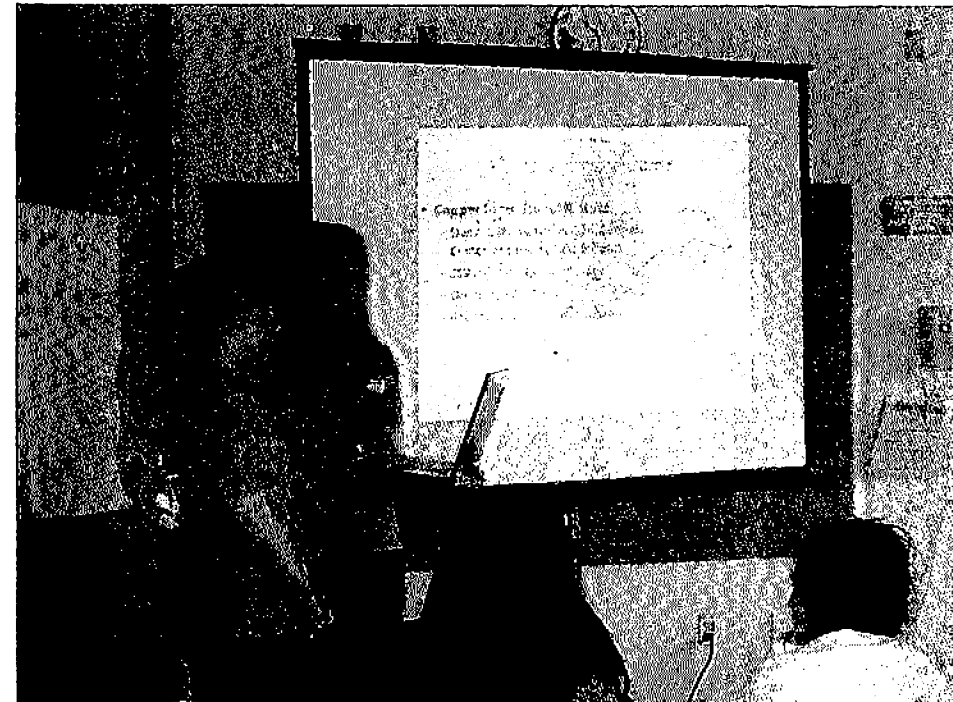
importance of highly-trained, quality educators, toured the UAS campus, and spent time learning about state government. They also participated in interactive sessions with other FEA students from across the state, sharing demonstrations and presentations about chapter activities and topics in education.

The fall 2011 semester will offer students interested in pursuing post-high school training in the field of education with additional opportunities to learn and grow as pre-service teachers. The district will be one of a handful in Alaska offering a new course entitled "Exploring Education Careers" as an elective, through which students may earn dual college and high school credit while working as teaching assistants in our district's classrooms, reading and learning about what it takes to become a teacher, and participating in FEA workshops, conferences, and student gatherings.

As we work to further enhance student "pathway" training through four-year high school plans and college and career readiness activities, the CRSD wishes

to ensure that *all* students are prepared to confidently take the next step after graduation, thanks to an aggressive and meaningful program of studies for each and every student, regardless of their post-high school plans.

For more information on FEA, four-year plans, or career and technical education (CTE) programs of study, please contact the CRSD district guidance counselor Jim Lorence, or CTE coordinator Ron Langseth.



CRSD photo

CRSD students Robben Taylor (Kenny Lake) and Lillie Anderson (Glennallen) present a session to other FEA students during the spring Student Gathering in Juneau. Both Taylor and Anderson hope to become teachers one day, and see involvement in FEA as a way to prepare for their future careers during high school.