

eComment
Ordinance 2021-19

Adam Dunstan

Location:

Submitted At: 4:59pm 05-18-21

Good afternoon. My name is Adam Dunstan. I am writing to support the Borough's continued generous funding of Kenai Peninsula College. I am writing as a KPC professor, but also as a parent and property owner in our community. I have been able to see first hand the excellent purposes for this funding. In particular, I wish to comment on how this funding allows us to support local veterans through our Veteran Services program. In a recent course of mine, over half of the students were active duty military, military veterans, or in military families. I am honored to teach these students, and Veteran Services (which the Borough allows us to fund) enables us to meet the needs of these students who have sacrificed so much. As well, these funds support the JumpStart program for local high schoolers, and I have seen in my courses how this allows Borough students to start early, and start well, on their college and career journey, as well as a host of other important services for the advising and support of local students. Thank you for your time.

Leslie Byrd

Location:

Submitted At: 4:49pm 05-18-21

May 28, 2021

KPB Assembly Members,

Hello. I am wrapping up my 8th year as a KPC staff member, previously I coordinated the day to day operations of the residence hall. Now I am the New Student Success Coordinator. I am writing to ask that you continue to support KPC and students with borough funding. Though my role is very different now, many of my responsibilities to students remain the same: connecting students to vital services such as: financial aid, counseling and academic advising, veteran services, and faculty, as well as helping them with personal business that connects them to community resources, sometimes even job opportunities. Now I also help them navigate the online learning environment including admissions, testing, registration, course content, textbook procurement, and new student orientation, among other things. Through COVID these tasks have been vital, so vital that many of my colleagues, whose positions are funded by the borough monies we receive, also perform the same or similar duties. Our students receive a very high level of personalized care and guidance, regardless their experience with higher education. I have had the privilege of answering our main phoneline many times this academic year, and I am continually humbled and honored by the amount of community engagement we still experience, despite COVID precautions. Folks are still turning to the college for leadership and knowledge. I helped a local resident connect with a geologist to determine if a rock was a meteor or not. I have connected a local interested in writing her memoirs to the Kachemack Bay Writer's Conference out of the Homer campus. I receive compliments from so many of the individuals and families we help. I know the borough needs us. And we need you. The impact of your generous funding cannot be overstated. I even have several past students of KPC who still check in with me, keeping me updated on their life as well as continuing to ask for advice and guidance. I think that is a great testament to the role we at KPC play in the lives of Alaskan students.

Thank you for your time and I hope for your continued support. Sincerely,

L. Byrd

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Reid Brewer

Location:

Submitted At: 4:27pm 05-18-21

Having come in as the new Kachemak Bay Campus director almost two years ago to date, I can tell you its been an interesting and challenging few years. Budget cuts, the pandemic, perception and hesitancy, distance education and Zoom. KPC has thrived because of people like our staff and faculty, and also people like you. I wish that you could see the faces of our GED graduates as they move to the next phase of their lives. I wish you could witness the JumpStart students that start out taking one class from our college and then transition into a college program. I wish you could hear the affection that our students have for our advisors and tutors here in Homer. All of these things happen behind the scenes, but they are truly the reason we do what we do. Thanks to the continued support of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly, KPC is able to do all of these things and more. Please support the continued funding of KPC and Ordinance 2021-19 so that we can continue to educate and train the future of the Kenai, but also to allow its people to achieve their academic dreams.

Michelle Fellows

Location:

Submitted At: 4:16pm 05-18-21

Greetings. I am writing in support of the proposed funding for Kenai Peninsula College. Many things have changed in the past 14 months, but KPC's dedication to delivering high-quality education is not one of them. In addition to the benefits that come from the JumpStart program, there are many other important aspects of the college that will benefit from these monies, such as the library, vet service, and student support. Each of these contributes to the important work of the college and student success. Please vote in support of this ordinance as an investment in our community. Thank you for your time, consideration, and service.

With gratitude,
Michelle Fellows

Henry W Haney

Location:

Submitted At: 4:15pm 05-18-21

My comment is for the KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH FY2022 MAYOR PROPOSED BUDGET I would like to strongly encourage the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly to continue the Borough Funding support for the Kenai Peninsula College. This funding has allowed needed programs and services to operate that would not be possible otherwise. Such programs as Jump Start for High School students to begin their college education, Adult Basic Education for those who were never able to complete a high school diploma, for Tutors to provide academic help to a wide variety of students so they can successfully complete their courses, plus many more areas such as Veterans, Recruiting, Advising, and many others. The Kenai Peninsula Borough funding has made the difference and enabled Kenai Peninsula College to serve the people of the Borough with higher education opportunities in a proactive and caring manner.

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Mikayla Clark

Location:

Submitted At: 3:37pm 05-18-21

I am in support of proposed funding for the Jumpstart program. As a former Jumpstart student, I recognize the importance of this program. It allowed me to graduate from college early with a Bachelors of Science. It also allows for students to gain college experience while in the presence of their local support system which is extremely important for the mental health of students and aids in building their confidence before moving to their school of choice whether that be in or out of state.

Bridget Clark

Location:

Submitted At: 3:25pm 05-18-21

Good afternoon. My name is Bridget Clark and I am the President of the Alaska Adult Education Association. I am also the parent of three JumpStart students, and an adult education instructor at Kenai Peninsula College. I am asking that you support Kenai Peninsula College's budget request for \$851,714. These funds are vital to the adult education programs at the Kenai River, Kachemak Bay, and Seward campuses. As an adult educator, I work with many individuals from diverse groups across the Kenai Peninsula, from our high school students to our economically disadvantaged and displaced workers. Our programs help students prepare for the GED exam. But that is only one part of what adult education programs do. Our programs also provide numeracy, literacy, English language skills, work readiness, job training, digital literacy and the "soft skills" employers desire, in addition to numerous wrap-around services. Adult education programs change lives. Our students go on to seek more training and better jobs, which translates into a more stable economic environment for them and their families. The money invested in adult education programs is money well spent. According to a study by COABE (The Coalition on Adult Basic Education), 100 hours of participation in adult education programs translated into a wage increase of \$9,000. In addition, for every dollar spent on adult education, "a community receives \$60 back in increased income, property taxes, and savings on welfare and legal system expenses" (COABE, Congressional Justification (2019). Career, Technical, and Adult Education Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Request. U.S. Department of Education.) The money the borough allocates to KPC returns to the community in the form of a higher skilled, financially stable workforce. As residents of Kenai Peninsula Borough, we must continue to make these investments in our people through our adult education programs, in our students through the Jump Start program, in our veterans, and in Kenai Peninsula College. This investment strengthens our community, and I can think of no better way to spend \$851,714.

Sincerely,

Bridget Clark

Walter Partridge

Location:

Submitted At: 3:05pm 05-18-21

My name is Walter Partridge. I am retired and have lived in Homer, Alaska for the last 16 years. I am also a member of the KPC Advisory Council. I am writing to first thank you for supporting the Kenai Peninsula College campus programs in the past. That support has resulted in education opportunities that have aided High School students, employed adults seeking continuing education and the businesses of the Peninsula in tangible ways I am further writing to request that you continue this support by adopting Ordinance 2021-19. This \$851,747 supports high school student use of the Jumpstart Program, adults achieving their GED, as well as other student facing positions on both campuses

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Thank you for your time. Thank you for your service.

Jane Fuerstenau

Location:

Submitted At: 2:56pm 05-18-21

I am writing as a parent whose children benefitted from the availability of JumpStart classes at Kenai Peninsula College. In this program, my daughter was encouraged to take higher level math classes that applied to her degree when she entered college. The college coordinated with her high school, making it easy and affordable for her to enroll in college courses while still in high school. I believe that her success in her first year at UAF was due to the experiences she had at KPC. Participating in JumpStart requires a higher level of independence and self-discipline than attending regular K-12 courses. College was less of a shock to her when she moved to a larger campus and attended classes as a freshman. This was partly due to the JumpStart program, and partly due to the support staff (tutors and student success advisors) that are funded at KPC through the Kenai Peninsula Borough budget. Thank you for the funding that KPB has provided to this program in the past, and thank you for your consideration of funding in the FY22 proposed budget to support students enrolling in courses at KPC campuses in the future.

Jacob Clark

Location:

Submitted At: 2:34pm 05-18-21

Good evening, my name is Jacob Clark and I'm a former student and Valedictorian of Ninilchik School. I am here to support Kenai Peninsula College budget request for \$851,000. As a Jumpstart student I was able to take KPC courses at half the cost, which saved my family thousands of dollars, and I was able to get started on my college career. I'm currently entering my Sophomore year at the University of Alaska Southeast, where I'm majoring in Marine Biology. Jumpstart is a great program which helps high school students further their education without putting a great deal of financial stress on our families. Therefore I ask that you support KPC and the Jumpstart program for this year's budget.

Sincerely,
Jacob Clark

Jennifer DePesa

Location:

Submitted At: 2:14pm 05-18-21

Funding from the KPB allows many of our neighbors who would not have access to higher education the opportunity to further their careers, education and training. Your support has allowed life and career changing experiences for countless families of this area - including Jumpstart, veteran and GED students. By supporting the full funding requested by the Kenai Peninsula College, the KPB allows KPC to fulfill its mission to excellence in education, training and life-long learning by offering accessible opportunities in a supportive environment. Thank you for your past and continued support of KPC students, faculty and staff.

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Richard Kochis

Location:

Submitted At: 1:56pm 05-18-21

Greetings,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public testimony to the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly regarding the funding that the Borough has so generously provided to Kenai Peninsula College in prior years to support many important programs that serve our community and its citizens. As an assistant professor of electronics at KPC, it has been my pleasure to see how these vital funds contribute to success for students who are military veterans or young students who are looking for careers that will allow them to continue to live and thrive here on the Peninsula. The Borough's funding allows KPC to provide an advocate for Veteran's who are beginning new careers in oil field related fields. Jump Start programs have given high school students the opportunity to enter into high demand professions immediately after graduation from high school. These are only two of the vital programs and support your funding makes possible.

The support the Borough provides through their funding has allowed motivated veterans and Jump Start students to be successful in achieving their academic and career goals, and I have had the pleasure of working with many of these bright and capable individuals as they have worked to meet and exceed their own expectations. Many of these students would have found college success incredibly difficult or unachievable without the support you provide for those programs.

It is my belief that when individuals have the support of their community in pursuing academic and professional goals, they will achieve those goals and go on to enrich the communities that have believed in them. Please continue funding the programs at KPC that demonstrate the faith our community has in the potential and of our citizens.

Regards,
Rich Kochis

Jenny Rasche

Location:

Submitted At: 1:04pm 05-18-21

I write you today, as a member of the Kenai Peninsula College's Kachemak Bay Campus staff, in support of KPC's request for KP Borough funding for FY 2022. Additionally, I would like to thank you wholeheartedly for your generous support of KPC over the last three decades. The Borough's funds help us to provide some incredible services to our community. As a member of the Student Services staff in Homer, I see and talk to students every day (mostly on zoom, this last year). I cannot tell you how many of our local students express to me their gratitude for our Jumpstart program, which is funded by the Borough. So many of them tell me that without this program, they would have dropped out of high school. They attribute their renewed interest in education and their future to the Jumpstart program. It is beyond inspiring to hear these stories. As a staff person, I am proud of every single one of these students, and I believe that they will go on to make wonderful contributions to our community and to Alaska. I often ask myself, where would these young people be today if they had dropped out of high school? The difference is stark. The Jumpstart program is an investment in the future of our community and our state. Please vote in support of continuing KP Borough funding for Kenai Peninsula College and our Jumpstart program. Thank you so much for your time.

Respectfully,
Jenny Rasche, Registration Specialist, KBC

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Andreas Veh

Location:

Submitted At: 12:50pm 05-18-21

KPC relies on KPB funds for several programs. We're thankful that we have received them throughout the years.

Jeff Laube

Location:

Submitted At: 12:41pm 05-18-21

I support the full funding proposed for the Kenai Peninsula College \$851,7147

Respectfully,

Jeff Laube

Nikiski, Ak

Brian Partridge

Location:

Submitted At: 12:37pm 05-18-21

I would like to start by thanking you for your past support of KPC and to advocate for your continued support. The Kenai Peninsula College offers our communities a phenomenal service and opportunity. The opportunity offered to our highschool students through the Jumpstart program is a fantastic investment in the future of Alaska.