

eComments  
Ordinance 2020-19

**Sondra Shaginoff-Stuart**

Location:

Submitted At: 12:57am 06-03-20

Assembly Members,

I am writing this comment in support of ordinance 2020-19, funding for Kenai Peninsula College (KPC). I too grew up here in Kenai, and graduated high school in Kenai and was able to take careful steps toward a college career by attending KPC. KPC was able to support me like no other school with their staff and faculty support. I had such a positive experience that when I received my BA and MA degree I returned back to Kenai and I am now working as a staff and Adjunct Teacher for KPC. Teachers like Dr. Alan Boraas and Diane Taylor taught me to give back to our community by supporting the next generation and how our Kenai Peninsula is worth encouraging students to start and finish in our community. KPC is an important place of learning and growing for young students but also for our non-traditional students. I remember my first day walking in the doors of KPC and how scared I was, but I also remember how supported and encouraged I was too. Staff and faculty wanted me to succeed, no matter what level of learning I was at, there was someone there who could help and move me

forward. They have taught me to do the same for new students and encourage them to find their voice. I hope that you are able to continue your support of our local college, it is so vital for the next generations and our community.

Tsin'aen siigu - Thank you so much,  
Sondra Shaginoff-Stuart

### **Jesus Trejo**

Location:

Submitted At: 12:53am 06-03-20

As a parent of seven the jump start program is very To my family as it significantly reduces the cost of making a college education available to our children.  
Also the Maritime technology training program at our Homer campus provides valuable job training to our residents in town without having to relocate.

### **Jenny Rasche**

Location:

Submitted At: 12:49am 06-03-20

Thank you, members of the KP Borough Assembly, for the opportunity to submit comments on this important issue. My name is Jenny Rasche, and I am the Registration Specialist at Kachemak Bay Campus in Homer, which is part of the Kenai Peninsula College. I've worked here for 9 years, and I absolutely love my job. The KP Borough provides some of the funding for my job, for which I am tremendously grateful. I believe in the power of education to transform people's lives, and I have seen it firsthand. I am the person who does registration at our small campus, which means I get to interact with students every day as part of my job. One of the greatest things I get to witness is when a young student comes to us to take a class through the Jumpstart program (which is possible only through KP Borough funding), and it transforms his or her life. I've seen this over and over again. The students tell me their stories. I can tell when I meet some of them that they are shy, that they don't believe they are capable of success in school, that they expect to fail, that they expect to be told they are bad students. And what happens? Many of them find a path to break through that false perception, and suddenly an entirely different future opens up for them. It is amazing. I feel so proud of them, and I feel so happy that they can envision a more positive and hopeful path. It becomes a positive feedback loop. A student has success in his/her class, gets encouragement from an instructor, tries something totally new and outside his/her comfort zone, achieves more success, and it just builds on itself. These students will become positive forces in their communities, which means I as a community member benefit from their education as well. When I think about what would happen to some of these students if there was no college here and no Jumpstart program, I know that their ideas about their future would have remained small, hopeless, fruitless. They might never know what they are missing, and that too would be a tragedy. We are building better communities when we offer opportunities for education and experience to young people who might otherwise not find them. Please support KP Borough funding for the Kenai Peninsula College. Thank you.

### **Christina Stuive**

Location:

Submitted At: 12:44am 06-03-20

Dear Madam President, Mayor, and Kenai Borough Assembly,

I am an Associate Professor of Counseling and Kenai Peninsula College (KPC) and Chair of Counseling and Advising at KPC, Kenai River Campus. I live in Kenai and would like to state a wholehearted thank you to the Kenai Peninsula Borough and the students and residents for the continued support of KPC. I would like to state my support for 2020-19 continued funding of Kenai Peninsula College. KPC is our local educational cornerstone. So many students enter KPC unsure of their academic goals and use KPC to jump into other programs. High school students benefit from the Jumpstart program even if their goals are to complete school outside. They often complete their entire suite of General Education Requirements (GERs) prior to transferring after High School graduation. I value that Jumpstart tuition assistance for students. It allows high school students of all socioeconomic levels the access of a high-quality post-secondary education experience while beginning to amass college credits. Several students have completed a two-year Associates degree and graduated high school and college during the same semester.

In addition, the financial support of the borough assists with advising students in Homer and also with the

developmental advisor here. This advising helps students vision new futures and connect skills and interests to career pathways and education. Students often have a sense of what they like but sometimes have not been exposed to broader educational experiences and life experiences. Attending college for a course or an entire degree can radically shift a person's perspective, increase civic engagement, and propel a student into a different life path.

KPC continues to be a top producer of process operators and instrumentation technicians. We produce workers who start at Adult Basic Education and graduate to well-paid stable positions like process operators and instrument techs. Our students trained in health care take positions at the hospital as nurses and radiological technicians and in Emergency Services and at the Fire Department after graduating from the Paramedical Technology program. Most of our students seek out education at KPC because they want to stay in-state and want to continue to live and work out of this area. This creates quality employees and directly benefits our economy and our community.

KPC is a place where everyone can start an educational plan and will have local community support. So often, as an advisor, I have students who are "non-traditional" or who have previous schooling that went poorly. We are the MOST accessible option for people afraid to return to school or who need some encouragement after a poor college experience. KPC has white-glove service because we are community-focused and value each student who walks through our doors. Regardless of where a student is at, KPC strives to meet each student individually to create a unique plan of success and connect students with faculty mentors who can guide students to the completion of their goals.

During the Covid-19 changes we had outreach calls to students whose classes were converted to online and I was impressed by how many students conveyed their thanks for "KPC caring about them." I had several students explain that their faculty showed overwhelming support and concern for their success. KPC is a place where relationships matter. Whether distance-delivered, or F2F courses, our faculty and staff bring the right balance of academic rigor and supportive services. Please support the continued funds of your community institution, KPC.

Thank you for your time.  
Christina Stuve

### **Don Eide**

Location:

Submitted At: 12:04am 06-03-20

Assembly Members,

I am writing this in support of ordinance 2020-19, funding for Kenai Peninsula College (KPC). I grew up here in Kenai, and graduated from KPC a couple of different times, as my interests led me to further education that I not only enjoyed, but helped to employ me here in Alaska. I have taken classes on and off there, since 1986, where it was known then as KPCC (Kenai Peninsula Community College). The faculty and staff have always been very helpful to those that wanted to better themselves, to learn something new that would help them support their families, and to become active in their local areas as a community - a place where everyone looks out for each other. I was a student worker different times throughout the years, tutoring where I was qualified, and waiting to be able to someday join the people working to enrich others by working at KPC doing whatever I was allowed to help. To have such a place that the local people could have such pride and support is a wonderful thing, and during these times, can use all the help that can be given.

Thank you for considering this comment,  
Don Eide, Jr

### **Lia Calhoun**

Location:

Submitted At: 11:52pm 06-02-20

Madame President, Assembly Members, and Mayor Pierce,

My name is Lia Calhoun, Assistant Professor of English and Communication at KBC. I am a lifelong Alaskan and live in Fritz Creek (99603) with my KPB-raised husband and our two young sons. Thank you for your steady support of our students in years past. I am writing in support of full funding for Kenai Peninsula College, Ordinance 2020-19. I have taught at KBC for 4 years, and I can attest to the fact that each item provided by borough funding is essential to the citizens of our borough who seek to improve their lives through education. These positions are at the forefront of reaching and supporting our most vulnerable students.

I'll speak here about two of these positions as a snapshot of the whole. At the end of each semester my writing students compile an ePortfolio demonstrating their growth as writers and reflecting critically on their progress during the semester. These are required general ed courses; if students do not pass these, they do not continue. Each semester, students attribute their success in completing the course to our writing tutor, Caroline Venuti, and our librarian, Chris Thorsrud. These are two positions funded by the borough. Let my students vouch for the value of these positions:

1. "Before this class, I had written very few research papers, these of which I was not proud of and were not credible. I always had that mindset of, 'I hate research' and 'I suck at it.' In this class though, I have improved immensely in my research process....I went to Chris for help. We sat down for an hour and she found one article after another skimming and analyzing them briefly. Before I knew it she had emailed me a dozen articles.... I could finally understand the information and find it. This immensely helped form and organize my paper in a clear and beneficial manner. This also helped hone my ability to find articles and skim. I am going to continue to use this process for every research-based paper I write.

2. "During this exhaustive journey, I met Chris, the librarian. If it were appropriate to encompass her name in hearts and smiley-faces, I absolutely would. Chris helped me find relevant and compelling articles, was full of useful insights and recommendations, reassuring when necessary (often), and over time has become my treasured personal editor. I have valued her help so much.... Her patience and efforts have offered invaluable support."

3. "I hadn't gotten far into my research when I hit a roadblock. I had always dealt with these pesky bouts of writer's block on my own since all of my previous writing classes had been online. This time was different. I took my mindmap to Caroline Venuti and asked for her advice. After discussing my working thesis and the direction of the paper, she helped me to reach a revelation....Thanks to Caroline I also learned another valuable lesson. I have to be open to tossing out ideas."

4. "As an online student, I had often felt frustrated at the unavailability of my instructors and tutors. These classes stood in stark contrast to Writing Across Contexts in which...Caroline Venuti stood ready to tutor any in need of assistance."

In my short four years at KBC, I have accumulated extensive concrete evidence of the impact on students made possible by borough funding. Please support Ordinance 2020-19, so that we can continue to strengthen our borough through education.

### **Jeffrey Johnson**

Location:

Submitted At: 11:48pm 06-02-20

Greetings assembly members,

My name is Jeffrey Johnson, a mathematics professor at Kenai Peninsula College. I am writing in support of funding for KPC, not because I am an employee, but for our students and community. I'm relatively new to the peninsula - my family and I moved here just three years ago. Even in this short time I've learned the essential role our college has in the community. The stepping stone we provide for advancement in professional work, or a skilled trade, is transformative for students and their success shines. Here we can offer top-quality education from local instructors that students can get to know, trust, and admire. As you know, this is quite different from the experience students have in larger cities or at large impersonal online institutions, many of us have been in.

I understand your support has been generous in the past and I ask that you continue the support through this difficult time for the sake of the future of our learning community.

Sincerely,  
Jeffrey Johnson

### **Jennifer Pedersen**

Location:

Submitted At: 11:40pm 06-02-20

Mr. Mayor, Members of the Assembly-I am writing in support of 2020-19, funding for Kenai Peninsula College. My name is Jennifer Pedersen and I run the Educational Technology Team at KPC. I believe in the transformative power of higher education, and having that available in one's community is invaluable! Borough funding touches every program at KPC and reaches each and every one of our students. Earning a degree empowers students to be the best version of themselves and positions them to become agents of positive social change in their community. Your investment in KPC is an investment into the lives of future Borough leaders. I urge each of you to vote yes to 2020-19 and continue to invest in the Peninsula's greatest resource-our students.

### **Joel Isaak**

Location:

Submitted At: 11:40pm 06-02-20

I am writing today to express my support for funding Kenai Peninsula College and ask that the Assembly vote to fund KPC through borough funding. KPC is an important cornerstone of our community. KPC provides valuable learning, training, and education so that our local business can hire local highly skilled employees. It also provides the education for local individuals and families to obtain the skills they need to start businesses. I took my first college courses at KPC when I was in high school. This gave me the opportunity to learn how to navigate college while working and going to school. After graduating from high school, I had several general education courses completed saving me money, time, and paving a pathway for me to be more successful as a full time college student. I completed my undergraduate degree at UAF but during the summer continued taking courses at KPC. I completed my MFA in sculpture at Alfred University, New York, and returned to Soldotna to live and work in my home community. In 2018 I was accepted into the indigenous studies Phd program at UAF. I have taken classes at KPC to help meet my degree requirements because KPC offers classes that are not offered anywhere else in the world. I now adjunct teach at KPC. I see the value that KPC brings to our community, the educational rigor and excellent it provides, and fiscal responsibility the leadership demonstrates. Investing in KPC helps build our community. Chiqinik-Thank you for taking the time to accept this testimony.

Joel Isaak

### **Henry W Haney**

Location:

Submitted At: 11:40pm 06-02-20

My name is Henry W. Haney. I am an instructor at the Kenai Peninsula College.

The Kenai Peninsula Borough funding that is supplied through KPB Ordinance 90-47 has been a powerful resource and help to enable Kenai Peninsula College to address specific needs for the residents of the Kenai Peninsula.

Some specifics include:

The Jump Start Program (Tuition Waivers) which has helped numerous KPB students to transition into and excel in a college learning environment.

Adult Basic Education/ General Education Development which has been a tremendous program helping many who did not have the opportunity to complete education and received a High School Diploma.

These are just two of the areas that have returned dividends through investment in people. There is a total of twelve areas identified in the Kenai Peninsula College funding request and they all have proven their worth in helping people to achieve success and ultimately benefit the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

I would request the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly look forward and again invest in the people of the Kenai Peninsula and vote to approve this request in its entirety.

Sincerely, Henry W. Haney

### **Jennifer DePesa**

Location:

Submitted At: 11:33pm 06-02-20

Madame President, Assembly Members, and Mayor Pierce, I am writing today to ask that you support the funding request for FY 21 for the Kenai Peninsula College.

My name is Jennifer DePesa and I have worked for the university for 15 years, both at UAA and now KPC. In my tenure working on the peninsula I have seen first-hand students who would not normally have the opportunity for higher education not only graduate but also gain employment as a result - giving back to their communities and

economy.

In these uncertain and scary times it is even more important to have resources and opportunities for students to continue their education - both of which depend on Borough funds.

I ask that you support the full request of funds for the Kenai Peninsula College, and thank you for your continued support.

Jennifer DePesa

Kachemak Bay Campus

Kenai Peninsula College

### **Carrie Couey**

Location:

Submitted At: 11:25pm 06-02-20

Mayor Pierce, President Cooper, members of the assembly:

My name is Carrie Couey, I am director of administrative services for Kenai Peninsula College. My department manages the business operations for the college which includes the funding KPC receives from the borough. We take our job very seriously and ensure funds are spent in accordance to our agreement.

Looking back through history KPC received its first funds for the borough in 1992 in the amount of \$38,000. \$15,000 was for tuition waivers and \$23,000 for adult basic education and GED support.

As of today, \$3,375,619 in tuition waivers has allowed just under 9,400 Kenai Peninsula Borough high school students attend KPC at a much discounted rate. Originally the program was only for seniors but was expanded to include juniors in the summer of 2014. Students now graduate from high school with college credits and in some cases an associate's degree. Tuition waivers, adult basic education and GED instruction continues to be a major focus of our request along with support for staff that provide direct services to all of our students.

KPC is the largest community college in the entire University of Alaska system. Its students, staff and faculty are residents from Cooper Landing to Homer to Seward. These residents pay property, sales tax, and shop at local small businesses. Funding for KPC churns through our local economies over and over.

The KPC budget allocation is based on 1/10th of a mill of the annual total taxable property values. The FY21 proposed taxable values is just over \$8.498 million. KPC is eligible to receive 1/10 of this amount or \$849,848.

Your continued support is vital to our citizens of all ages, backgrounds, educational needs and aspirations. Students attend KPC to improve themselves and to prepare for their future. An investment in a KPC student will pay dividends for generations to come.

Thank you for your support of Kenai Peninsula College.

Carrie Couey

P O Box 2373

Soldotna, AK 99669

### **Kathi Overpeck**

Location:

Submitted At: 10:53pm 06-02-20

My name is Kathi Overpeck. I am writing concerning funding for Kenai Peninsula College and I do want to say thank you for all the past years of sharing in the vision of higher education for Kenai Peninsula residents. Please don't stop now. I work for the college in financial aid and here's what I know; in these very uncertain and trying times, Kenai Peninsula College provides an anchor of stability and hope for the future in the hearts of our local people as well as a path to a more productive living situation for many. Many of our local firefighters, nurses, CNA's, oil field workers, welders, and small business owners got their start at KPC so please do not cut funding to KPC. Lives are being changed for the better and our Peninsula is a better place to live because of our partnership with you.

**Cam Choy**

Location:

Submitted At: 10:23pm 06-02-20

Madame President, Assembly Members, and Mayor Pierce,

My name is Cam Choy, Associate Professor of Art at KPC; I live at 36973 Migrate St., Kenai, AK 99611. I am writing in support of Ordinance 2020-19 Appropriating Funds for Fiscal Year 2021; in particular is the generous annual support for Kenai Peninsula College.

Education, and in particular Higher Education is a foundational component of any community. KPC serves as a resource for curious minds to explore possibilities which in turn molds their futures. It is very common in my experience to hear students say they are afraid to take art courses because they claim they are not "good" at it. With direction and encouragement, many begin to exhibit skills and abilities which were not there before due to their original mindset.

Students not only learn, but they grow due to their new found confidence; the doors to a brand new world are unlocked. Their world expands.

I am sure this happens across the board in all disciplines. The funding provided by this Ordinance is an investment in the next generation of peninsula citizens.

KPC serves as a community hub by hosting events such as art exhibits, live music, open houses, native crafts workshops, and numerous other events. The sum total of these events nurtures strong bonds between students, faculty, staff, community members, and visitors; which is so critical in our current climate. KPC is a unifying entity which serves all member of the peninsula.

Finally, the funding provided by this Ordinance will honor the memory of Dr. Alan Boraas who we lost in November of 2019 after a career of 47 years of teaching at KPC. I cannot think of a better way to ensure the legacy of a man who believed in the mission of KPC as a community resource.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Cam Choy

**Reid Brewer**

Location:

Submitted At: 9:00pm 06-02-20

My name is Reid Brewer and I am the new Kachemak Bay Campus Director in Homer. As I started in this position in June 2019, almost a year ago, I have been a part of some fairly challenging times for our college and region of which most of you are well aware.

In light of what we are seeing with Covid19 and the closures and slow reopening of many of our important industries including restaurants, tourism, airlines, and lodging, many Kenai residents are looking for employment and many need training and/or education to meet those needs. The Kenai Peninsula College is targeting programming and training to meet the needs of the Kenai in this difficult time. KPC trains the future nurses, CNAs, EMTs, oil field workers, welders, maritime workers, and the list goes on and on. In addition to those looking for a new career or skill set, we also help high school students get a jump start on these careers.

I would like to personally say thank you for your dedication over the years and ask that you continue to invest the future of the Kenai by supporting the FY21 Funding Request from the Kenia Peninsula College.

Reid Brewer  
KBC Campus Director

**Victoria Trujillo**

Location:

Submitted At: 8:11pm 06-02-20

Hello Mr. Mayor and Members of the Assembly. My name is Victoria Trujillo and I have been a resident of the

Kenai Peninsula since 2000. I currently reside at 48665 Bernice Ave, Soldotna, AK 99669 . I support full funding for Kenai Peninsula College (KPC), Ordinance 2020-19. Kenai Peninsula Borough funds support many valuable programs at KPC, including tutoring, Adult Basic Education programs, English as Second Language courses, and Jump Start program. I personally took classes at KPC as part of my University of Alaska degree, and utilized resources available to students at the Learning Center on a regular basis.

I now work at KPC in Administrative Services department and see first-hand how programs that are supported by the Kenai Peninsula Borough benefit the students. It is imperative for students to have the support resources to succeed in college and in life. Borough funding provides that support. I personally know many members of the community whose native language is not English, and Learning Center was often the starting point for them to learn the language and help them integrate into the community, find friends, or improve job skills.

My 75 year old mother eagerly attended ESL classes at KPC and enjoyed friendly and supportive atmosphere, and inclusiveness of ESL instructors and Learning Center staff. Many of the former ESL students went on to pursue careers and become valuable members of the community. Please support full funding for Kenai Peninsula College. Thank you for your support of the Kenai Peninsula College!

Sincerely,  
Victoria Trujillo

**Lynda Raymond**

Location:  
Submitted At: 7:54pm 06-02-20

I encourage the Assembly to pass Ordinance 2020-24. Voting by mail is essential at this time with increasing numbers of Covid-19 cases here on the peninsula. Voting by mail is essential for the safety of BOTH the voters and election workers and to insure there is a fair election.

It is an issue also of equal access since many would be discouraged from voting because doing so could significantly jeopardize their health.

Voting by mail has worked in many other states, other parts of Alaska, and even in our own Borough. It is not new. There is the knowledge and means to make this happen with your consent. It is possible to have a fair election and keep our citizens safe if you will approve Ordinance 2020-24.

Thank you.

Lynda Raymond  
Homer, AK

**Andrea Ivanoff**

Location:  
Submitted At: 7:12pm 06-02-20

Dear Mayor & Assembly,

My name is Andrea Ivanoff, I am a resident of Kenai and have lived on the Peninsula on and off for 14 years. I am responding in support of ordinance 2020-19 for full funding of KPC. I was a student at KPC in 2006, and currently work as an adjunct instructor. They serve a greater area than just the Kenai Peninsula residents, and have drawn a large numbers of students from the rural areas. KPC is an amazing campus with great staff and programs, and I hope that you will continue to support out local higher education. Thank you for your past support and for the opportunity to voice our support as well.

**Alasha Brito**

Location:  
Submitted At: 6:43pm 06-02-20

Dear Mayor and Members of the Assembly,

I am writing in support of ordinance 2020-19, funding for Kenai Peninsula College (KPC). My name is Alasha Brito and I am the Advancement Programs Manager for KPC. I started at KPC as a student where a found a



welcoming and encouraging community. As a student, I worked as a Peer Ambassador with Emily Knight, the KPC recruiter, and in the Advancement Department. After I graduated with a Bachelors's degree I became a full-time employee.

One of my favorite parts of my job is seeing students achieve their educational goals. As community campuses we get to know our students. I have had the chance to watch many students achieve their goals. More specifically, I have had the opportunity to watch students who started in the JumpStart program graduate and go on to do great things. The Jumpstart program gives students a financially accessible path to their career and education goals. KPC offers many important educational resources to residents.

Thank you for your past support and I urge you to continue providing support so residents can have access to vital educational services.

Sincerely,  
Alaska Brito

### **Emily Knight**

Location:

Submitted At: 8:28am 06-02-20

Dear Mayor and Members of the Assembly,

My name is Emily Knight and I have been a resident of the Kenai Peninsula for the past 8 years, residing with my family at 36420 Northern Lights Blvd, Soldotna. I am writing in support of ordinance 2020-19, specifically for full funding for Kenai Peninsula College (KPC).

For the past four years, I have served as the KPC Student Recruiter. While my position is one several funded by Borough contributions, I would still be submitting this eComment as a member of the community because I believe in the importance of higher education and hope that Kenai Peninsula College will be around for many years to come.

In my role as the college recruiter, I have a unique opportunity to interact with a wide range of community members. On February 28, just before COVID-19 shut down the State of Alaska, KPC hosted its youngest group of visitors - 86 fifth-grade students from Kenai's Mt. View Elementary. This was part of Kids2College, a nationwide early college awareness program, and after completing a 6-lesson curriculum in their classrooms, these elementary students had the opportunity to visit a college campus, many for the very first time. During their visit, the students attended mock classes taught by our amazing staff and faculty. They received hands-on instruction, explored a variety of career pathways – welding, paramedicine, physics, psychology – and had the chance to ask questions about the college experience. At the end of the day, these students left with a positive outlook on postsecondary education and the reassurance that they can pursue a college degree in their home town!

Thank you again for the past contributions to our local community campus and please consider continuing to support the college in its efforts to educate the future of the Kenai Peninsula and Alaska.

### **Brian Partridge**

Location:

Submitted At: 12:08am 06-02-20

Dear Mayor and Assembly Members,

My name is Brian Partridge. My family and I have been residents of Homer since 2000. The last decade of that I have been a professor of psychology at the Kachemak Bay Campus of the Kenai Peninsula college. I am writing, both a professor and a father of five sons, to thank the Borough for its past support of KPC and to advocate in support of the Borough continuing to fully fund KPC.

Over the last two decades, I have watched our Borough citizens come to KPC in search of a future. Some are non-traditional aged students coming to further their education and marketable skills so they can improve their lives and the lives of their families. Some are students just out of high school, or still enrolled in high school and making use of the fantastic Jumpstart program, just beginning to explore the possibilities that are out there for them. These are our neighbors, friends and family who are making use of the invaluable resources provided by KPC. And, when they have completed their education journey, they remain our neighbors, friends and family. Investing in KPC is an investment in the future of our Borough. KPC has, and will continue to, provide the

education and training for Alaskan careers. Whether it is the training for jobs in the oil industry, marine trades, business or a baccalaureate, these individuals will take their skills and talents and utilize them for the benefit of Alaska.

I believe so strongly in the mission and quality of KPC that three of my sons have been students of our fantastic little college and I have every expectation that my last two will follow.

I thank you again for your support and ask that you continue to do so for all of our future.

“Education is what survives when what has been learned has been forgotten”. B. F. Skinner

### **Thomas Dalrymple**

Location:

Submitted At: 10:31pm 06-01-20

Dear Mayor, Madame President, Members of the Assembly

My name is Tom Dalrymple. My address is 33943 Keystone Drive, Soldotna. I am a long-time resident of the Kenai Peninsula Borough. I am also a member of the Faculty at Kenai Peninsula College. I wish to voice my support in favor of the proposed funding for KPC in the amount of \$849,848.

For the past 35 years I have paid property taxes to the Borough, with the bulk of those funds going towards the education of our young people. While I have no children of my own, I have nonetheless considered my annual financial contributions - in the form of property taxes - among the best investments I have ever made.

My desire to participate in the ongoing funding of education in general – and KPC in particular – is rooted in my own personal experience. When I was a youngster there were certainly many taxpayers who were unselfishly contributing towards my education. Far more to the point here, there were also meetings where community leaders – who were undoubtedly also facing tough fiscal choices – made my future one of their top priorities.

I firmly believe the future of our Borough – as well as our state and country – depends on the same dedication and commitment towards the education of our youth, including the critical transition between high school and our local community campus, which is perhaps best exemplified by the unquestionably-wonderful opportunity provided through the Jump-Start program.

To that end I thank you for your past recognition of the contribution our local community campuses have provided to our young people, and I encourage and support your continued commitment in that regard.

Thank You.

### **Mitch Michaud**

Location:

Submitted At: 10:02pm 06-01-20

I ask the borough assembly to look both 40 years into the past and 40 years into the future when it considers continued funding of Kenai Peninsula College. We all know the present situation. All the fiscal strains that communities are feeling are being felt four fold by the University of Alaska system. The cuts done in the name of forcing efficiency and frugality are removing the options of a local education for many in Alaska. The borough funding of KPC is only a small portion of the KPC's budget but it allows for a local options for residents and allows for real community buy in. KPC doesn't attract many out of state students. What it does do is provide an option of Alaskans for a small town experience. KPC as come a long way in the past 40 years. They have/had housing, state of the art simulators and class room and a jump start program that we all know and hear about often. It saved my family thousands of dollars in tuition for my children. But what was 40 years ago isn't what is today. It once had a larger community interest classes such a forestry and natural resource management. It had agriculture and botany. It once had a fishing academy that other institutions are seeking to develop. Today, I take continuing education credits out of state to meet professional certification due to lack of applicable classes. Today it is a staging establishment for students moving on to 4 year programs. Degree options at KPC are limited and continue to decline. The college struggles with its identity, a bachelor and associates degree program in and also trying to be a community college with certificate programs. This duality confuses many in the community, and many more in public office. These struggles will continue as the UA system seeks to consolidate, merge and cut programs. One may ask, why have a college today if we move to distance education in the future. We need to look back to why and how KPC was founded, and look at what is occurring today at the

UA level and then take an educated guess at what KPC will look like in 40 years. Things are different today but I suspect the reasons for establishment are the same as the reason to continue forward. Currently there are 3 members of the assembly on the KPC community council. These individuals should be take a visionary approach to this situation. They should be active members for charting the course for KPC and advocating for it future development.

If funding is cut or eliminated the message sent to UA is clear, lack of local support. This only serves to support future funding declines and eventual transition of KPC to a distance ed. learning center supporting the university economy located in our largest cities. My vision of KPC is clear without borough funding. Continued funding of KPC allows the Kenai Borough to continue to advocate for both at college council level and also at the legislative level. KPC can be better than it is today and can survive only if we support it. For the record, I am a part time temporary employee at KPC working a day a week when school is in session as an international student support staff. Funding for this program is from a student support funding that is outside of borough funding. I have two adult children that took classes at KPC and my wife is a 20 year employee at the college. Staffing in her department has been reduced to less than two individuals with hours of service to student decreased over the past 10 years. Our household financially contributes annually to KPC and other institutions of higher learning. We have true buy in and support education at all levels in Alaska and continuing education for all those that wish to have long life of learning.

Mitch Michaud, 43973 Shirley Way, Soldotna Alaska

### **Susan Browning**

Location:

Submitted At: 8:32pm 06-01-20

I'm writing in support of ordinance 2020-19, funding for Kenai Peninsula College (KPC). My name is Susan Browning. I'm a UA alum and I've worked for the University for more than 10 years, 8.5 of those have been at KPC. First, let me just say thank you so much for your many years of support. Your choice to invest into our college and thus our community has been invaluable. As you know, the KPC campuses are an integral part of our communities and the services we provide have paid tremendous dividends in advancing business opportunities and education here on the peninsula. So many students need the challenging coursework that KPC provides because they just can't get that kind of learning in high school. Many students come to us who have had not had the benefits of education being a priority in the households they grow up in. All they want to do is finish their high school coursework by obtaining a GED. Often these GED students, because of the support they receive at KPC, go on to take college classes, complete a degree or certificate program and become responsible, contributing citizens of the peninsula. Our Veterans are returning from the battlefield in a condition often very different from when they entered into the service. Because of your investment into our service men and women through KPC and the Veteran Services Coordinator, you help fund the liaison who assists these students with navigating the VA and university policies and procedures. This position is essential for our veteran students who are often in academic or personal distress and provides them with the appropriate resources so they don't become another horrible statistic involving drug abuse, homelessness and worse.

We are obviously in an unprecedented time in history. This is not the time to turn away because you're afraid of what might happen. This is the time to invest in what will happen. Your continued investment into the communities you live and work is the opportunity to receive dividends that will enhance our community exponentially. This is the time to invest in those who are just beginning their academic careers beyond high school. This is the time to invest in those who desire to complete high school so they can qualify to get employment. This is the time to invest in those community members who have lost their jobs and are looking for new skills and more education to help them get back to work. All of these investments pay back into the Kenai Peninsula Borough bottom line.

Again, I thank you for your investment into the college and for choosing not to be afraid; but to move boldly in support of an organization and programs which benefit all of us as neighbors of our Kenai Peninsula Borough.

### **Richard Kochis**

Location:

Submitted At: 7:28pm 06-01-20

Hello Assembly members,

I am asking that each of you vote to fully fund KPC. The KPC budget is already being reduced by the state at an unprecedented level and further impacted by the financial burdens resulting from the pandemic. Of course we are

all experiencing difficult times in terms of health, safety, and the unemployment impacts the pandemic has created for every one of the residents in our Borough, our state and our nation. I cannot emphasize enough my thanks for the support that the Kenai Peninsula Borough funding has provided over the years for individuals on the Peninsula and the communities that KPC serves. I do not believe the support has ever been more important to our communities than it is right now. The Borough funds support several important programs that I have been, and continue to be, part of and I have seen first hand the positive impacts these resources have provided to individuals in our communities who would otherwise struggle to complete degree and certificate programs that contribute to high demand employment and independence. Among the many programs your support provides through KPC are JumpStart and the Veterans Services counselor. Both are vitally important to the future of our citizens. I teach the Electronics program at KPC and have celebrated the success of many students who were JumpStart students or Veterans as they completed their certificates and degrees and moved smoothly into the workforce while still living, shopping, and giving back to our communities. Please continue to provide your full support, especially in these difficult times, so that our Borough remains strong and resilient through our investment in our greatest resource - our people. Thank you in advance for supporting KPC.

Regards,  
Rich Kochis

### **Clair Kochis**

Location:

Submitted At: 7:26pm 06-01-20

My name is Clair Kochis. I am an assistant professor of mathematics at KPC's Kenai River Campus. For the past 10 years, I have been working extremely hard to build KPC's reputation as a campus that offers high quality online courses in mathematics that college students need to achieve academic and professional goals for careers ranging from business to engineering and medicine. The Kenai Peninsula Borough funding that KPC has been so fortunate to receive has been a key factor in my success in those efforts and I sincerely thank you for your support of the citizens of our Borough who are working to begin careers and complete degrees. Students rely on the services that this funding provides, which include math tutoring, help with adult basic education, support for students whose native language is not English, help for military veterans returning to the workforce, and in providing Jump Start support for bright young minds in our communities to begin working on their college degrees while still enrolled in high school. Several of the Jump Start students I have had in my classes have gone on to pursue careers in mathematics, science, engineering and medicine. Their success is in large measure due to the fact that they live in a Borough that understands the value of investing in education and the economic benefits this investment will return to the Borough as these students return to live, work, and give back to the community that believed in them enough to provide this funding. Please know how much I appreciate what you have done to help our students and myself achieve success in our individual career pathways. I believe your support is more important now than it has ever been as we learn how to navigate in a post-pandemic world. It is the bright minds your funding supports who will be in the front lines discovering new solutions to future crises. If COVID-19 has taught us anything, it is that investing in people who will be able to solve problems that threaten our well-being is never misplaced.

### **Natasha Sison**

Location:

Submitted At: 7:23pm 06-01-20

Dear Assembly Members,

I am writing this eComment in support of ordinance 2020-19, funding for Kenai Peninsula College (KPC). I became a member of this community in 2012. It was the opportunity of continuing my education at the Kenai Peninsula College that has me in this very moment speaking up in regards to the ordinance 2020-19. Seeing that these roles, functions, positions, and programs are at risk of being cut has me surprised. It is almost as if we are underestimating the impact and opportunity education brings to the members of the community. If we want to have the quality of our community thrive, that same mission and support are to be there for the persons that wholeheartedly serve with passion, heart, and purpose. The removal of funds, in turn, removes the individuals that genuinely care to see the positive changes education makes. Cutting such programs then becomes another "life-improving activity" from the community. What will become the alternative "keep the youth busy" action? I pray and hope for the continued investment our leaders make towards the JumpStart program and the Veterans Services because if removed, the duties then load onto the next available staff member, that with all power and hope to serve at the same high quality and standard. But most likely fall short to do so because of the dates and

deadlines of their primary tasks and responsibilities weigh down the quality to serve. The mental/emotional health takes a toll that leaks and trickles out from them into the work, at home, and in private. That then becomes the cultivating culture, representation of an institution whose great want and purpose to this community are to uplift the members, equip them with the opportunity to pursue greatness. These programs, the staff members that work them, and the students that excel from them are all part of that Investment of Improving our Community and Culture. Please consider the continuance of such great investments by funding all the vital components that support that mission.

Sincerely,  
Natasha Sison

**Christine Godfrey**

Location:

Submitted At: 6:52pm 06-01-20

Hello Borough Assembly members,

This is an eComment in support of Ordinance 2020-19 and specifically fully funding Kenai Peninsula College.

Part of my duties at KBC is to proctor tests for our students, both distance learning and face to face students, and very importantly members of our community. Proctoring members our community and surrounding areas provide them with a service so they can get jobs or advance their careers. It provides significant revenue for our campus and those folks don't have to drive to Anchorage to take these exams. I am always looking for new testing opportunities to serve our students and members of our community.

I also work closely with the Adult Education Dept. I proctor several GED tests during the academic year. When these folks pass all four of the GED tests you can only imagine their pride. They now have the opportunity to move out of their cars, feed their family, and show their own kids the value of an education. They can get jobs and begin contributing to the community.

I am also a point of contact of students. I suggest classes they may be interested in taking and then steer them to our very capable advising staff. I provide support for our faculty. Our faculty at KBC are hard-working and very intelligent and do all they can to educate and reach out to our students. Many of them drive to Soldotna regularly to conduct face-to-face instruction to those students as part of the video classes (V/C) they teach from Homer. I also work with KRC faculty who also do V/C classes with our Homer students.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this. I know you are busy and these are hard times. But I am proud that you choose to support the education opportunities of the residents of this borough. Your financial support has helped my three sons, who were all Jumpstart students, go on to successful careers in our great state.

Christine Szymoniak Godfrey  
1103 Highlook Court  
Homer, AK 99603  
907-399-1690

**Jane Fuerstenau**

Location:

Submitted At: 6:39pm 06-01-20

Dear Borough Assembly Members,

I am writing to express my support for the funding in ordinance 2020-19 designated for Kenai Peninsula College. In the 20 years that my family and I have been residents of the Kenai Peninsula, we have benefited from programs available at KPC through borough funding.

Both of my children took advantage of the Jump Start program during their final years of high school. This program enabled them to enroll in college-level math and science classes while satisfying high school course requirements. Through the Jump Start program, they were able to get a sense of how college courses function and experience the extra level of responsibility expected of college students. They both entered college degree programs at the University of Alaska after high school graduation with college credits on their transcripts. When my daughter returned to Soldotna after her first year away, she was still able to benefit from programs at

KPC, by taking a course over the summer that transferred into her degree program at UAF. Tutors from the KPC Learning Center helped her get through that course, and improved her study skills for return to the University in the fall.

Overall, I view KPC as an asset to our community, and support borough funding being allocated to the support of KPC programs.

Sincerely,

Jane Fuerstenau  
43973 Shirley Way  
Soldotna, AK

### **Jackie Marshall**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:58pm 06-01-20

I would like to thank you in advance for your continued funding of the JumpStart Program for fiscal year 2021. Seward High, Seward Connections and Seward IDEA students have benefited greatly over the years from affordable access to college classes offered through KPC and subsidized by the JumpStart Program. As we are a small community, a limited number of AP classes (typically one AP class per year) is available to high school juniors and seniors. The JumpStart Program has provided Seward students with the opportunity to take challenging and beneficial classes face-to-face in their own community. We hope to continue to offer this opportunity to the high school students of our community with the continued funding support of the JumpStart Program. Respectively, Jackie Marshall

### **Royce Bird**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:37pm 06-01-20

I am writing in regard to ordinance 2020-19, funding for Kenai Peninsula College (KPC). My name is Royce Bird. I am the Veteran Services Coordinator (VSC) at KPC.

I would first of all like to thank you for the support that the Kenai Peninsula Borough has continually provided. The Veteran Services Coordinator among other positions at KPC is pertinent to serving our students and our community.

Veteran Services provides a main point of contact for veteran students or potential students. The VSC provides in-person and assistance to all veterans who are taking courses at KPC. The VSC assists veteran students troubleshoot issues and navigate VA and university policies and procedures. The VSC also provides VA funded, part-time jobs to veteran students through the VA Work-Study program. The VSC travels to Homer and Seward to provide assistance to student veterans in communities in all locations of the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

The VSC also becomes an essential contact for Veteran students while they are attending KPC. The VSC is routinely the first point of contact for Veteran students who are in academic or personal distress. This has included students with TBIs, PTSD, MST, suicidal ideations, substance abuse, and acute financial issues/homelessness. As a member of KPC's Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT), the VSC then notifies appropriate leadership on campus and assists with referring the student to appropriate resources within KPC and in the community. The VSC allows acts as a case manager for veteran students that need additional support within KPC.

The VSC also coordinates events for veteran students and the community. The VSC has hosted events for Veteran's Day where a meal is provided by local restaurants or food vendors and National Vietnam War Veteran's Day in which the VFW Post 100 Honor Guard attends annually.

Having a position dedicated to veteran students allows the VSC to build relationships with KPC's veteran population. Without the support of the Kenai Peninsula Borough, KPC's VSC would not be able to attend to our local veterans in such a personal manner.

### **Shane Bostic**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:51pm 06-01-20

Good Evening Mayor and KPB Assembly Members. I am a parent of three students in the KPBSD and a proud citizen of Nikiski. The resources that are provided to KPC by the funding Ordinance 2020-19 are highly impactful for our Borough's current and future Alaskan citizens by providing a skilled workforce and community centered perspective. The FY21 Funding request will provide an incentive for students to study at our Kenai Peninsula College, complete their training at an Alaskan trade school or university after high school and then fill

high need positions in our Alaskan communities. After reviewing the positions that would be supported by Ordinance 2020-19, it is apparent that they support many stakeholder groups including Active Duty Military, Veterans, local high school students, and current industry employees. These positions will support Alaska in building a sustainable workforce and healthy communities. I highly support Ordinance 2020-19 as it is leveraging KPB funding for the betterment of our citizens and our communities.

### **Evgeniya Malakhova**

Location:

Submitted At: 8:00am 06-01-20

My name is Evgeniya (Jenya) Malakhova. I am the bookstore manager at Kenai Peninsula College. I am very happy that I am a part of KPC family for over 13 years now.

I started as an International student taking ESL classes, graduated with two Associate degrees, and earned a Bachelor degree.

I know that without KPC people and their help and personal approach to each and everyone of us I would not become who I am today.

Please continue to support and fund Jumpstart program and those positions that help educate and better our students.

### **Sujinan Srisakphet**

Location:

Submitted At: 9:52am 05-31-20

As a KPC part-time employee at KPC bookstore. I saw many students from jump start program that had the opportunity to learn and get discounted. I really appreciate the fund to helps these students attending classes. Please consider to remaining this fund for the jump start program. I believe that could help students a lot.

### **Andreas Veh**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:07am 05-31-20

KPC appreciates these funds in order to provide, among other items, the jump start program (partial tuition waiver) for KPBSD juniors and seniors.

As a father of kids who will go to college soon, I know that these are funds that are important to parents.

As a KPC physics instructor I see many high school students in my classes who are thus able to take college classes and also apply them as high school credit.

There are also several positions that are funded with these monies, e.g. library support in Homer, tutors in Soldotna's learning centers (with whom I work directly as I tutor math as well), KPC night coordinator, as well as support costs and positions for the ABE program.

Sincerely,

Andreas Veh

34506 Commerce St.

Soldotna, AK 99669

260-4669

### **Gareth Chesley**

Location:

Submitted At: 3:36am 05-31-20

This is an eComment in support of Ordinance 2020-19 and specifically fully funding Kenai Peninsula College. My name is Gareth Chesley and I am a lifelong Homer and Kenai Peninsula resident. Kachemak Bay Campus, Kenai Peninsula College and the University of Alaska as a whole have had a significant positive impact on my life through my long-time association with these institutions. My first exposure to a collegiate environment was through the wonderful, borough funded JumpStart program as a student at Kachemak Bay Campus. My association with university continued as I earned a BS and MS from UAF before I was fortunate enough to return to Homer and begin working, and occasionally teaching, at Kachemak Bay Campus. Each step of my journey has shown me how important KPC is for our community and how critical KPB's generous funding is for making many elements, such as JumpStart and student advising, possible. In these troubling times education is becoming ever more important and I believe that fully funding KPC is one of the very best investments our local government can

make in our community's future. Thank you for your consideration of this comment and KPB's longtime support of KPC.

### **Cheryl Brock**

Location:

Submitted At: 1:29am 05-30-20

Dear Assembly Members,

I am writing this eComment in support of ordinance 2020-19, funding for Kenai Peninsula College (KPC). I came Alaska four year ago for the purpose of going back to school and starting a new career path. Of all the places that I could have gone, I specifically chose KPC because of everything that it offers as a community college that is part of a University system. As I saw it this was the best of both worlds.

Fortunately for me, my high expectations for Kenai Peninsula College were met with even greater results. In KPC, I found a welcoming place with helpful and knowledgeable staff and faculty. A campus that wraps it arms around you, inspires and encourages you to dream big and succeed. In order to aid in their student's success there are many tools, classes and opportunities that KPC provides to assist them in their academic journey. Many of these tools to success Kenai Peninsula College is available to provide to its students is through the funding provided by Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB).

While I was taking classes at KPC, I experienced first-hand the invaluable help of the KPC Learning Center in the Adult Basic Education, Math Lab, Testing Center and the help of the KPC Library Staff. The Math Lab and its knowledgeable and helpful staff played a big part in helping me to not only pass but get an A in many of my classes. I spent many hours in the KPC Library studying with classmates and cramming for tests. One of my classmates is from the Philippines. When I met her she was new to the United States and had only been living in Alaska about a year. The Adult Basic Education program at KPC helped her tremendously with her English in both writing and speaking. She is also a big advocate of the Math Lab. She is now in her second year of the Registered Nursing program at KPC and works at our local hospital as a Certified Nursing Assistant. I know she is very appreciative of all the assistance KPC has been able to provide her through her educational journey.

I am currently an employee of Kenai Peninsula College. I started out working as a student worker three years ago while attending classes, then was hired into a part-time position and have now been in a full-time position for a year and a half. As an employee of KPC, I get to see the impact every day that the funding provided by Kenai Peninsula Borough helps KPC be the great community college that it is today. From the High School JumpStart program providing high school juniors and seniors to take classes at a discounted rate allowing them to get ahead in their college career before graduating high school. To the Developmental Student Advisor at KPC who helps new students navigate through the complicated process of going to college with placement tests, what degree programs are offered, and which classes to take.

I am proud and honored to be a part of a college and community that cares so much for its people. Thank you for all the support that has been provided to KPC over the years. Please continue to fund KPC to the full 1/10th mil of property taxes to ensure that these services and programs will continue to serve our community.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Brock

33289 Colson Street.

Soldotna, AK 99669

### **Jd Quartly**

Location:

Submitted At: 11:48pm 05-29-20

As a parent whose child took advantage of the Jump Start program and later went to KPC / UAA and obtained a nursing degree, I firmly believe it is imperative that we as a Borough and as a borough Tax Payer fund FY 2021 . It is an important step up for our kids in the borough to further their post secondary education. Allowing our kids this resource may keep them in the borough after they have completed their education so we will not suffer a brain drain by them leaving for a more suitable post secondary education at a lesser cost.

### **Robert Lewis**

Location:

Submitted At: 11:32pm 05-29-20

Dear Assembly Members,

My name is Robert Lewis Jr. and I have been living on the peninsula for 11 years. All 11 of those years have been



spent with Kenai Peninsula College in various capacities. I went from full time student, to student worker, to part time staff, to full time staff, and now I also teach a class as an adjunct. Almost all of my growth in my adult life has been with KPC. Through my time at KPC I have learned, made friends, and loved so many things about KPC. I am writing today regarding ordinance 2020-19, specifically for funding of KPC programs. Every year we have received incredible support and in so have been able to provide services and staff programs that I feel are not only important for the future of education but also the future of our community. I would like to take the time to visit some of what this funding allows us to do and how I have seen it personally impact myself and others.

Firstly, as most are aware, KPC's Jump Start program is very dependent on this funding. The Jump Start program, cleverly named as it is, allows for High School Juniors and Seniors to take classes at a reduced cost and in advance of High School Graduation. This allows students to get a leg up in their educational goals and removes some of the financial burden that most students experience in early college years. I was already out of high school by the time I attended KPC but in my first year there were an incredible amount of jump start students. In fact a few of the students moved on to accept staff positions at KPC and are using what they have been able to accomplish to pay it forward to new students. Many of the people that I now have the privilege of calling friends started out with Jump Start and have only accomplished more great things from there.

The second topic is the staff positions that can flourish from this funding. It is hard for me to be impersonal with this topic as the time I have spent at KPC has caused a bit of attachment so some of the people in these positions. Not only do these people provide a great service at KPC but they are also great people to have in our community. I can not think of a single person that I know that only has a position because of this funding that our community would be devastated to lose. The Adult Basic Education staff are not only assisting those with education in mind but also provide a space where many who live in unfortunate circumstances have an escape to interact with others in their position. The Evening Coordinator allows for the campus to remain open after normal working hours and provides a safe place for students to focus on their education. Sometimes KPC is the only escape these people have from home life. The Veteran Services Coordinator is an important asset for some of the most vulnerable people of all, our veterans and military members that have been given little assistance in other aspects of life after service. Our Recruiter not only allows KPC to reach students that may not be aware of how important education is, but they also assist with local community events and even do work with Project Homeless Connect. Each aspect of this funding not only allows KPC to provide needed services it allows for good people to continue to do good.

Thank you so much throughout the years for providing support for KPC and we all thank you for taking the time to understand why KPC is important to so many people.

Robert Lewis Jr.  
1502 Kiana Lane,  
Kenai AK  
99611

**Julie Cotterell**

Location:  
Submitted At: 7:21pm 05-29-20

Dear Assembly Members,

I am writing in regards to ordinance 2020-19, funding for Kenai Peninsula College (KPC). My name is Julie Cotterell and I am the Student Services Director for KPC. I want to thank the assembly for their tremendous support of KPC over the years. It is greatly appreciated and has done so much for our community.

While borough dollars support a range of positions and programs, I would like to focus my testimony on the JumpStart program. As you are aware, the JumpStart program allows Kenai Peninsula Borough junior and senior high school students to take college courses at a discounted rate, giving them a head start on their post-secondary careers. It is widely documented that high school students who participate in dual enrollment programs such as JumpStart are more likely to attend college after they graduate and are more likely to be successful in college.

To give an idea of the impact of this program, during academic years (AY) 2016 through 2018, JumpStart enrollment for the fall and spring semesters totaled 1,022. During that time period, JumpStart students enrolled in 4,600 credits.

Furthermore, KPC JumpStart students are more successful in their college classes than the University of Alaska (UAA) student population as a whole. Between AY 16 through AY 18, the rate of UAA students who were successful in their courses, earning a grade of A, B, C or P, was, on average, 77%. The rate of JumpStart students who were successful in their courses during the same time period was, on average, 84%.

The success of the JumpStart program is also a testament to the importance of the resources that KPC is able to provide due to borough funding, such as the borough-supported advising positions at both the Homer and Soldotna campuses and the KPC Recruiter, who does tremendous work with high school students and counselors.

Thank you, again, for funding these worthwhile positions and programs. We at KPC are committed to continue to serve our community with your enduring support.

Sincerely,

Julie Cotterell  
33426 Mid River Ave  
Soldotna, AK 99669  
(907) 947-6753

**Robert Knapp**

Location:  
Submitted At: 4:45pm 05-29-20

This is an eComment in support of Ordinance 2020-19. As an employee of Kenai Peninsula College in the Student Accounts Technician position, I personally see the students who submit the High School JumpStart program documents. I have watched this program grow since being employed at KPC for over six years and realize the value provided to the high school juniors and seniors who take advantage of it.

Also being a Veteran I am able to help my fellow Vets with their student accounts. This funding also supports the position of Veterans Services Coordinator (VSC). The VSC is essential in helping the Vets coordinate their schedules and submission of documents required to obtain VA funding for their classes. Continued funding of the full 1/10th mil of property taxes to Kenai Peninsula College will ensure that these two programs remain to help members of our local communities better themselves by obtaining a college education.

**Ginger Rose**

Location:  
Submitted At: 11:51pm 05-28-20

Dear Assembly Members,

In regards to ordinance 2020-19, funding for Kenai Peninsula College, I would like to thank you for your support in the past and implore you to continue providing these resources to ensure our residents have access to essential educational services.

As a KPC alumni and current employee, I have experienced first-hand the impact these funds have had in our community. The Jumpstart program enables local high school students to take courses they may not have access to at their school while affording them the opportunity to bank these earned credits toward a future degree. I have watched timid high school juniors register for classes with the intention of fulfilling specific requirements, and return to register for more classes as they gained the skills and confidence to complete a full Associate of Arts degree before their high school commencement. Each semester we build relationships with Borough parents as they enroll their teenagers in the program for the first time; they continually express how thankful they are for the Jumpstart discounted tuition waiver and encourage other parents to take advantage of this great opportunity.

This funding also assists in supporting staff who provide vital services to the public. Please consider the importance of maintaining support to KPC. Although our future is uncertain, the education of future generations doesn't have to be.

Thank you for your time,  
Ginger L. Rose  
44556 Kylee Ct.  
Soldotna, Ak 99669  
907-953-9553

**Delores Ruiz**

Location:

Submitted At: 7:13pm 05-28-20

I am currently an employee of Kenai Peninsula College in Soldotna. During my junior and senior years of high school, I was blessed by the opportunity to take Jumpstart classes, adding up to almost a whole year's worth of college credits. I was then able to take a year off from studies to reflect on what direction I wanted to take with my career path and education.

I decided to finish my degree at Keiser University in Nicaragua to broaden my cultural perspectives and learn Spanish. I was able to complete a bachelor's degree in three years. Since then, I have completed an additional associate's degree as well as a master's degree. I consider the leg up I was given by the Jumpstart program to be pivotal in completing all three of these degrees completely debt-free.

While I was finishing my master's degree online, I moved back to the Kenai Peninsula in 2018. I hope you consider the borough's money to be well spent as I have now returned as a valuable and contributing member of the community. Thank you for giving a "jump start" not only for my education and future but also for the education and future of our community.