

CITY OF BETHEL

Resolution #09-39

CITY OF BETHEL RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE STATE OF ALASKA'S PARTICIPATION TO FINANCIAL AID STUDENTS VETERINARY MEDICINE THROUGH THE PROFESSIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM OF THE WESTERN INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

- WHEREAS,** The Bethel City Council has a vested interest in supporting career opportunities for our constituents; and
- WHEREAS,** The City of Bethel is the largest community on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, and in Rural Alaska; and
- WHEREAS,** Bethel, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, and Rural Alaska have a need for professional healthcare professionals of many kinds including Veterinary Medicine; and
- WHEREAS,** Bethel, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, and Rural Alaska have many young people interested in health care professional careers of many kinds including Veterinary Medicine; and
- WHEREAS,** The State of Alaska is a formal member of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) and participates in its Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP) through the Alaska Commission of Postsecondary Education; and
- WHEREAS,** Services WICHE offers is its Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP) which reduces out of state tuition, guarantees seats for residents of participating states, and assures a level playing field for admission to students from WICHE states, allowing them to receive professional education in a variety of health care fields at participating colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, The State of Alaska quit participating in the Veterinary School component of the WICHE program in the early 1990's, (at which time it had up to 20 Alaskan students it supported); and

WHEREAS, Without being a resident of a state with a Veterinary School, or with a state supported formal sponsorship program such as WICHE, applicants have less than 5 to 10 % (depending on year) of being accepted to an out-of-state Veterinary School; and

WHEREAS, The University of Alaska offers some Pre-Veterinary courses of study ("pre-requisites") The State's lack of support for professional Veterinary Medicine (DVM) studies through WICHE's PSEP makes it extremely difficult for an Alaska resident student to be accepted to a School of Veterinary medicine under reasonable competition and tuition standards; and

WHEREAS, This lack of support for Alaskan students in the field of Veterinary Medicine through WICHE's PSEP, makes the pursuit of veterinary medicine studies unaffordable for Alaskan residents, thereby discouraging Alaskan residents who might otherwise pursue a career in Veterinary Medicine; and

WHEREAS, The State of Alaska needs Doctors of Veterinary Medicine not only for the health and well being of its residents' companion animals, but also for the health and welfare of its residents (public health), given their important roles in food inspection, epidemiology, rabies transmission prevention between humans and animals, and biosecurity issues.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bethel City Council supports the State of Alaska's funding of students in the field of Veterinary Medicine enrolled through the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education's Professional Student Exchange Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bethel City Council respectfully requests Senator Hoffman and Representative Herron to consider statutory changes and budget appropriations, including legislation of PSEP support fees for each PSEP student, to allow Alaska to become a "Supporting and Sending State" and educate its residents in Veterinary Medicine through WICHE's PSEP.

Introduced by: Council Member Hoffman
Date: October 13, 2009
Public Hearing: October 27, 2009
Action: Passed
Vote: 5-1

Supporting Documentation

Examples of Admission Rates to Veterinary Schools			
WSU			
			% of applicants accepted
Class entering August 2008	#applied	#admitted	
Washington Residents	148	58	39.2%
Non-Wiche, Out of State	642	6	0.9%
Class entering 2005-2006			
Washington Residents	115	59	51.3%
Non-Wiche, Out of State	434	18	4.1%
Colorado State 2005-2006			
Residents	246	75	30.5%
WICHE	198	33	16.7%
NonSponsored	1,000	26	2.6%

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 13th DAY OF OCTOBER 2009, BY A VOTE OF 5 IN FAVOR AND 1 IN OPPOSITION.


Joseph Klejka, Mayor

ATTEST:


Cathy Cope, Acting City Clerk