

Arth Brown III

Alaska Postsecondary Access & Completion Network

Nomination Biography

I dropped out of college the first time and joined the Carpenter Joint Apprenticeship. During my apprenticeship, I quickly realized that the more knowledge gained, the more opportunities opened. Rising through the ranks, I went from the field to the office as an estimator and project manager. The office required a new set of skills and I needed more credentials. I returned to community college some ten years after the first time. Nervous but determined, I registered for a full load. My employer said, no raises until I earned a degree. Working full time, family and children at home, I was determined not to fail.

After three years of evenings, online, and Saturday classes, I did it! My AAS was now transferrable to the next step. After three years without a raise, I was faced with, "That's not a real degree." Now even more determined, I pushed forward. I completed my bachelor degree in four consecutive semesters, again working full time.

A career shift and using my new degree, received an Alaska Type M Teaching certificate for vocational education. My new found peers were quick to remind me, that I was "not a real teacher" since I did not have a teaching degree. Challenge accepted. Attending UAS, I completed the MA in Teaching program.

After a few not-so-stellar educational leaders, it was time for additional skills and education. In twelve months, I completed my MA in Educational Leadership. All of this has lead up to my current position as Dean of Vocational Education and Workforce Development at Ilisagvik College. I have a strong desire to give back to those who started in the same shoes. Everyone deserves an opportunity to thrive in life. At Ilisagvik College we say; More education, More options, More out of life.