Anchorage School Business Official Recognized for CTE Collaboration

Ashburn, VA — June 27, 2020 — Jim Anderson, chief financial officer for Anchorage School District in Alaska, is being honored by the Association of School Business Officials International with its Pinnacle of Achievement Award for a two-district collaboration that provides housing for rural high school students to attend academic and career and technical education classes in Anchorage.

Anchorage School District partnered with rural Lower Yukon School District (LYSD), which was experiencing dwindling quality of accessible teachers and higher operational costs, to increase the rural students’ student career and technical education (CTE) opportunities. Rural schools with low enrollment do not have the opportunity to build a large variety of CTE classes that can provide certifications, so this partnership opened up significant opportunities for students.

LYSD purchased and renovated a vacant hotel in Anchorage to provide housing for 50 rural high school students to attend nine-week sessions. The LYSD students take online courses in the morning and industry classes at King Tech High School in the afternoon.

The CTE program provides instruction in such areas as welding, construction, electrical, metals, small engines, cosmetology, medical/health sciences, hospitality/tourism, technology, aviation, and business.

The project required extensive involvement by district staff with superintendent and school board support in both districts for this program to be launched successfully in November 2019, Anderson says.

“CTE builds hope for the future through acquired skills and develops confidence in students to be successful adults,” Anderson says.

The Pinnacle Awards showcase replicable projects and practices that allow district business leaders to exchange and implement new ideas to better support their schools and communities. The awards are sponsored by Virco, Inc.

For more information about ASBO International’s Pinnacle Awards, visit asbointl.org/Pinnacle.