



alan delarosa

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIST

Alan DelaRosa, currently working as a medical technologist, is a perfect example of a traveler on the health care career pathway. He began his health care career as a certified medical assistant at the Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC) in Anchorage. He later got a job working as a medical laboratory assistant for the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation, where he started taking online courses through the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) to earn his degree in medical laboratory technology.

After moving back to Anchorage, Alan completed UAA's two-year associate's degree program in medical laboratory technology, and immediately began working toward his bachelor's degree in medical technology. He completed that degree about two-and-a-half years later.

Alan also attended a professional health conference in Denver, Colorado called Pathways into Health, which was focused on health professionals who have a Native heritage and are currently working in the medical field.

"My education and training was important because it helped prepare me for the work force," said Alan, who was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, moved throughout the Lower 48 during his childhood, and graduated from Mountain Village High School in 1992. "I enjoy this field a lot

and was curious to know why I was running patient tests and what their results meant."

In his current job as a medical technologist at ANMC, Alan runs tests with patient samples to help physicians make diagnoses. "The enjoyable part of my job is making sure I give out accurate results and working with a nice staff," he said. "The tough part of my job is that it can get extremely busy, since we do have a limited work force, but it does make the time go faster."

Alan's education isn't over. He said he hopes to begin pursuing a master's degree, perhaps in public health, from UAA next year.

"Start the basic classes right away and take summer classes, which will help you to get done sooner," Alan advised other students interested in the health care field.