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Commissioner

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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 18, 2009

No. 09-12

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Nominations for Alaska Apprentice Awards Due April 3

JUNEAU, Alaska—The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development is now accepting nominations for its second annual Apprenticeship Awards Celebration, Showcasing Real Success.

The Apprenticeship Awards recognize outstanding achievements toward building a skilled Alaska workforce through registered apprenticeship. The Alaska Department of Labor will present awards for Apprentice of the Year (one award), Sponsor/Employer of the Year (three awards) and Instructor of the Year (two awards).

Registered apprenticeship is a national training system that combines paid learning on-the-job and related technical theoretical instruction in a skilled occupation enabling employers to develop and apply industry standards to training that can increase productivity and improve the quality of the workforce.

“Our Department of Labor economists worked with the USDOL to create a first-of-its-kind study in the U.S. that evaluated the performance of Alaska’s registered apprenticeship programs. The numbers indicate that workers who complete an apprentice program earn nearly twice as much as those who canceled out of an apprenticeship – on average \$65,342 compared to \$33,435,” Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Click Bishop said.

“The study also found that since 1996, 90 percent of those who completed an apprenticeship are still working in Alaska. The data back up what we’ve known for some time: registered apprenticeship works. With this workforce development training model, we can help improve Alaska hire and give hope to our most valuable asset – our youth.”

Applications must be received by April 3. Applications will be reviewed by a committee of peers and chosen by Commissioner Bishop. Winners will be announced on Thursday, April 30 at the second annual Building Alaska’s Future Apprenticeship Conference in Anchorage at the Hotel Captain Cook.

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Information About Apprenticeship

Think Apprenticeship!
<http://www.jobs.state.ak.us/apprentice/index.html>

2009 Apprenticeship Awards Information and Nomination Forms
<http://jobs.alaska.gov/apprentice/09apps.html>

Alaska Economic Trends, February 2009
<http://www.labor.state.ak.us/trends/feb09.pdf>