Engaging members through Alaska Chamber outreach

By Pete Nolan

Membership outreach is one of the critical factors we strive for to engage Alaska Chamber members. Through our weekly Capitol Notes during the legislative session to our It's Your Business updates we work to give our members important information in a timely fashion that they need to operate their business in Alaska.

The Chamber also engages members through events that occur throughout the year. The Legislative Fly-In brings members to the heart of the Alaska political arena in Juneau and helps them to meet and share their concerns with the legislators who will make important decisions for all Alaskans.

Our Fall Forum is a time for members to meet and agree on Chamber priorities for the coming year and partake in the social interactions during our Top Business Awards. These and other events are an important aspect of Chamber membership outreach. Recently our Chamber President, Curtis Thayer, "hit the road" to meet with members throughout the state. You could call it a listening tour.

While Curtis hasn't been the President and CEO of the Alaska Chamber for very long, landing the job this past November, he brings a wealth of political and economic experience in leading the Chamber's efforts to promote and support Alaska businesses.

But good leaders know that sometimes, to get a clear picture of the task at hand, it takes getting out of the office and spending some time on the front lines. From the Sitka Chamber to the Kenai Chamber and points in between, he has been the featured speaker at many local chambers in communities he has visited.

This outreach to promote the message of the Chamber continues with Wasilla, Palmer, Seward and Fairbanks Chambers on the speaking agenda for the near future.



The Chamber works very hard to reach out to our members and listen to their concerns and issues. But the greatest outreach of all must come from Chamber members themselves. It's your Chamber. Its effectiveness depends upon you.

We encourage you to reach out to the staff and the board members. Let your voice be heard. And then encourage business people you know and work with to join us as we continue to work for the best interest of business in Alaska.

After all, members are the greatest source for outreach that we have.

Pete Nolan is the Membership Director for the Alaska Chamber. He can be reached by phone at (907) 278-2733 or by email at pnolan@alaskachamber.com.

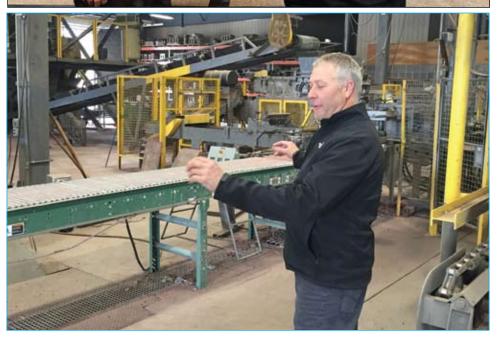
PHOTOS COURTESY ALASKA CHAMBER

TOP: Chamber President and CEO Curtis W. Thayer presents to the Kenai Chamber of Commerce and Visitors' Center members at their weekly luncheon. MIDDLE: Thayer visits with the Soldotna Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center's Executive Director Tami Murray. BOTTOM: While in Soldotna, Davis Block & Concrete President Scott Davis provides a tour of his manufacturing plant to President and CEO Curtis W. Thayer and Membership Director Pete Nolan.

Upcoming Luncheon Presentations

Wasilla Chamber of Commerce: June 21 Palmer Chamber of Commerce: July 6 Seward Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center: July 15 Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce: August 2





OUR MISSION & VISION

President's message: The story continues

By Curtis W. Thayer President and CEO

Greetings Chamber members and to our friends who have yet to join the Chamber's pro-business efforts — welcome.

In this issue, we give recognition to a host of new Alaska Chamber members. When you encounter representatives of these great Alaskan companies,

thank them for their efforts. They are the newest of a strong group of champions for Alaska's economy.

And speaking of champions, we also need them in elected office. The 2016 election season may prove to be one of the most eventful Alaska has seen in a great many years; possibly one of the most important for Alaska's economy, as well. Chamber board chair, Casey Sullivan will map the landscape for the upcoming election cycle in his Message From The Chair.

Historically, this edition of our quarterly Business 2Business publi-



Thayer

cation is where our policy team would summarize the end result of the legislative

However, we must put an asterisk on the Legislative Wrap-Up in this issue. We are far beyond the scheduled close of session as lawmakers and the Governor doggedly try to wring \$6 billion in spending out of \$2 billion

of annual revenue.

And even though we continue to advocate for pro-business policy outcomes from the Governor, state legislators and our federal delegation this year, we must also prepare for 2017

The Chamber's policy platform is created by you — the workers, patrons and employers that allow Alaskans live and thrive. Each year at our Annual Fall Forum, the general membership of the Chamber convenes to adopt the policy positions that shape our advocacy efforts.

But the work doesn't begin at the Policy Forum. Each Chamber policy position is carefully researched and crafted by one or more of our for-profit member

Positions are then vetted by representatives from larger business community by way of the Chamber's Legislative Affairs Committee.

A strong advocacy platform relies heavily on the strength and accuracy of each individual policy position. It takes work to develop meaningful, actionable policies and we take that work very seriously.

Over the next several weeks, you will likely receive guides and reminders from Chamber staff on how to participate in policy process. For many companies, this is a defining benefit of Chamber membership.

As always, we encourage all members to participate in the Policy Forum this October in Kenai, Alaska.

As we enter into the process this year, here are a few points on who can participate and how.

- The Chamber is open for policy submissions from July 1 to August 12.
- The policy process is available to for-profit, General Members in good standing.
- Positions must be submitted on or before August 12 to allow the Legislative Affairs Committee time to provide recommendations to the membership at the Policy Forum.
- Policies are adopted by vote of the assembled general membership at the Policy Forum. Each member — regardless of size — receives one vote. One member. One vote.
- If adopted, policy positions are retained from year-to-year until the policy objective is accomplished or the Legislative Affairs Committee suggests the recommends the position for update or removal.

For more information on the process, principles and FAQs, visit our Position Submission page under the Advocacy tab at alaskachamber.com.

Message from the Chair: Monumental election upon us

By Casey Sullivan

Can you remember a time when Alaskans – across all age levels and regions of the state - were more aware of State government?

If so, it was probably 1959 when Alaskans pulled together to win our bid for statehood. Or maybe it was 1980 when Governor Jay Hammond did away with Alaska's income tax and the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation was established.

Those are both cornerstone, defining moments in Alaska's history. And it's looking like we'll Sullivan



need an equally monumental movement to preserve the blessings that statehood and our oil-funded cash reserves have brought us. To do that, we need the right people in Ju-

The Alaska Cham-

ber does not endorse individual candidates.

It does, however, grade each House and Senate member, as well as the Governor, on how supportive they are of Alaska's private sector businesses.

These grades are a powerful historical resource for voters. They show very clearly which lawmakers perform well on business issues and who falls consistently short of the mark.

This fall, we need to support our pro-business incumbents by getting out the vote and filling in the oval next to their names in the ballot booth.

As for the others, Alaska quite literally can't afford lawmakers who don't make the grade.

Earning the grade

At the beginning of each legislative session members of the Alaska Business Report Card group meet with legislators to give advanced notice of the issues we'll be following.

We walk new lawmakers through the process. We show them how they'll be evaluated not only on how they vote, but also on how they perform in committee meetings, which bills they sponsor, and what leadership they provide - positive or negative - on key business issues.

The legislature runs on a two-year cycle. So after the first year, we meet with lawmakers again to privately provide them with an unpublished, interim grade.

It can come as no surprise if a legislator earns poor marks at the end of their term in office. And yet, we have some chronic anti-business incumbents who linger in office. Sometimes running unopposed or re-elected on name recognition alone.

When opportunity knocks

Presidential elections always draw high numbers of voters to the polls. The hyper-contentious nature of this year's presidential race is likely to generate higher voter turnout than Alaska's seen in a very long time.

We need to harness that turnout to send 60 pro-business legislators to Juneau with a mandate to put Alaska on a sustainable spending path, to ensure stability and efficiency in our tax and regulatory processes, and to foster a healthy business climate in Alaska.

Sure. That sounds great. But how do we do that?

We start with education.

We're going to see some serious changes in the make-up of the Senate and the House, with some notable, long-term legislators retiring from office.

It may be easy to get drawn into the pageantry surrounding the presidential race, but take time to follow along with local debates and primaries.

Look for candidates that understand the value and importance of Alaskans employing other Alaskans.

The best way to support those candidates is with financial contributions.

Campaigning for office is hallenging work and it's also expensive, particularly this year when national elections threaten to dominate the media.

If you aren't comfortable giving directly to a candidate, consider contributing to the Alaska Business Political Action Committee or another probusiness PAC.

And lastly, let's do our best to encourage our family members, co-workers and friends to vote. For government to be truly representative of the people, we need to participate individually - in our communities and in our state as a whole.

Meet the candidates that will represent your interests and those of your company during their term of service. Support the ones that share your views. And I'll see you at the polls in November!

Alaska Business Week 2016

July 16 - 23, 2016 **Alaska Pacific University** Anchorage, AK



Alaska Business Week (ABW) is a one-week summer program teaching Alaskan high school students the basics of business, leadership and entrepreneurship. Participants live on a college campus, and work as teams with the guidance of a mentor from the business community. After completing the program, students have a competitive edge on workplace readiness, college preparation, and overall life success.

Learn more at alaskachamber.com/ABW



For More Information Contact: Nicole Schuh, Program Director

BusinessWeek

(907) 278-2744 or nschuh@alaskachamber.com

Wrapping up 2016 and the 29th Legislature... so far

The Alaska Chamber is pursuing three state and two federal priorities in 2016.

2016 State Priorities

- Support reduction of spending to sustainable levels
- Support comprehensive workers' compensation reform
- Oppose a natural gas reserves tax

2016 Federal Priorities

- Support oil and gas exploration and development in Alaska's federal areas
- Support repeal or mitigation of the 'Cadillac Tax' provision of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable

Detailed statements on each priority and a full listing of all Chamber policy positions are available on the Chamber's website at alaskachamber.com.

Advocacy in action

The Chamber provided testimony on five federal issues. Most notable are concerns regarding the federal government over-extending its control on the use and management of Alaska lands and resources.

The Chamber is working with our national delegation on timber management, permitting efficiencies, and to oppose prohibitive interpretations of policies like the Waters of the United States. We will continue to advocate for responsible management of our Arctic waters where important resource developments are threatened by lateterm actions from a federal administration that continues to erect barriers against Alaska's economic wellbeing.

Budget dominates discussions

The Chamber took action on 54 individual bills during the 29th Legislature, supporting 25 pieces of state legislation and opposing 29.

The State's unwillingness to bring spending into alignment with revenues created a 2016 regular session that was dominated by a host of new, poorly defined tax proposals from the Walker administration.

Despite the overwhelming nature of the State's budget shortfall, several bills supported by the Chamber were passed into law.

Notable successes include a bill establishing a State Arctic Policy for Alaska, increase in timber sales, streamline regulations to allow business opportunities, recognition of the success of tax credits for new oil exploration, and a series of resolutions endorsing resource lease sales and opposing wilderness designations.

Also included in the list of 2016 successes is the latest in a long list of incremental reforms to Alaska's cumbersome Workers' Compensation system; a system that is perpetually ranked last in the nation.

The Chamber has long supported a comprehensive restructuring of the entire program. Members of the legislature - under the guidance of longtime Soldotna House member Kurt Olson – have approached this challenging issue cautiously, opting for a piecemeal approach to reform. Lawmakers have yet to tackle the most difficult shortfalls of the

To this end, our proposals for comprehensive workers' compensation reform address the following broader topics within workers' compensation:

- Improving Administrative Inefficiencies
- Reducing Medical Costs and Improving Medical
 - Revising the Dispute Resolution/Legal Process
 - Amending the Reemployment Benefits System

 Addressing Legal Decisions and Precedent • Modify Indemnity Benefits to Reflect Original

• Strengthen the fraud statute to reduce benefit fraud

A second summer of special sessions

Governor Walker called the legislature into special session on May 23. This is the fourth special session called in the past two years as the administration pressures lawmakers to pull money for state operations and a gasline project from Alaska businesses and the Perma-

The Chamber has opposed recent attempts to address the spending gap with a host of new taxes and cuts to economic investment. We will continue to bring the focus back to long-term, sustainable state spending. Now more than ever, Alaska is in urgent need of leadership.

Due to falling oil prices and unsustainable spending, we face a fiscal cliff here in Alaska that, if not addressed decisively, is a real threat to the livelihoods of all Alaskan

- Budget policy should focus first and foremost on reversing the unsustainable state budget growth of the past decade. A multi-year series of annual reductions in the state operating budget — including entitlement reform will be required.
- Create an endowment model or similar framework to use the Permanent fund earnings to support essential services, and do so in a timely manner (2016) to avoid liquidating excessive amounts of state financial reserves.
- Only after a reduction in spending, and the implementation of a long-term, sustainable plan for use of permanent fund earnings should other revenue be consid-

A listing of all legislation the Chamber supports or opposes — including bills introduced during special session —is available online at **alaskachamber.com**.

Welcome New Members

Alaska Gasline Development Corp.

An independent, public corporation of the State of Alaska with a legal existence separate and distinct from the state, Alaska Gasline **Development Corporation ensures** that Alaska's vast North Slope natural gas resources are available for the maximum benefit and use of Alaskans. Visit them online at

Alaska Maritime Agencies

Alaska Maritime Agencies is an acknowledged industry leader in providing ship agency services in the Alaskan Region. Founded in 1956, Alaska Maritime Agencies serves owners and operators of cargo and passenger vessels calling at any point along the 47,000 miles of Alaskan coastline. Visit them online at alaskamaritime.com.

Chris Birch for Alaska

A pioneer Alaskan, Chris is a

for the state legislature. He and his wife, Pam, have been married since 1978 and have two grown children and four grandchildren born and raised in Alaska. Visit him online at chrisbirch.com.

Denali Occupational Health

Denali Occupational Health facilitates the placement of workers according to their physical, mental, and emotional capabilities. With pre hire physicals, functional exams, drug and alcohol testing we provide both employee and employer with a general assurance that they are qualified to perform the job in which they were hired. For more information call (907) 677-1013.

Dimond Center Mall

Founded in 1977 by Joe & Patty Ashlock, it started out as a two-level interior mall of 180,000 square feet. Today, the Dimond

restaurants, professional offices, a bowling alley, ice chalet, athletic club and movie theaters and covers about 8½ blocks. Visit them online at dimondcenter.com.

Financial Reality Foundation

Formed in 2015 by the Matanuska Valley Federal Credit Union, the Financial Reality Foundation offers consumers of all ages the opportunity to learn about finances in a fun, realistic and memorable way. Visit them online at financialreality.org.

The leader in Pacific shipping, Matson's transportation offerings span the globe delivering a wide range of multi-modal services throughout North America. Matson has completed the acquisition of Horizon Lines' Alaska service and is excited to bring more than 130 years of Pacific shipping experformance sets their service apart from other ocean carriers. They also serve more locations in Alaska than any other carrier. To book freight to Alaska or find out more about their Alaska service, please contact 1 (877) 678-SHIP.

My Place Hotel

The new three-story, 64-room My Place economy extended-stay hotel feature's the My Kitchen, complete with 2-burner cooktop, microwave, and full refrigerator. Affordable daily, weekly, and monthly rate options are available, stay longer and save more at My Place! Visit them online at myplacehotels.com.

Saltwater Safari-Fishing in Seward

Saltwater Safari is a fishing lodge that offers deep-sea fishing charter adventures. Saltwater Safari maintains its reputation as the Seward charter service consulting engineer and candidate Center is home to retail stores, pertise to Alaska. Their on-time that targets big halibut, lingcod, at eliashospital.com.

rockfish and salmon shark. Visit them at saltwatersafari.com.

Sleep Centers of Alaska

Utilizing state-of-the-art equipment and highly trained and skilled professional staff, Sleep Centers of Alaska offers complete diagnosis and treatment of sleep disorders with state-of-the-art equipment in a comfortable environment. Visit one of their four locations across the state or online at sleepcentersofalaska.com.

St. Elias Speciality Hospital

Located in the heart of Anchorage, St. Elias is Alaska's first Long Term Acute Care Hospital. A Providence Partner, St. Elias provides customized, physician-driven programs for patients requiring longer stays in an acute care environment due to multiple or complex medical conditions. Visit them online

ALASKA CHAMBER STAFF

Curtis W. Thayer PRESIDENT/CEO cthayer@alaskachamber.com

Nicole Schuh

Brandy Dixon ALASKA BUSINESS WEEK PROGRAM DIRECTOR COMMUNICATIONS & EVENTS DIRECTOR

bdixon@alaskachamber.com

Crystal Norman MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

pnolan@alaskachamber.com

Pete Nolan

cnorman@alaskachamber.com

ANCHORAGE

nschuh@alaskachamber.com

471 W 36th Ave., Suite 201 • Anchorage, AK 99503 • 907.278.2722 • 907.278.6643 FAX

JUNEAU

9301 Glacier Hwy, Suite 110 ● Juneau, AK 99801 ● 907.586.2323

EMAIL

info@alaskachamber.com • www.alaskachamber.com

Holland America Line celebrates grand opening of Denali Square

By Pete Nolan

On June 3, I attended the Grand Opening of the Holland America Line "Denali Square" development at Denali National Park. This addition to the McKinley Chalet Resort is truly magnificent.

I encourage everyone who has not been to Denali National Park to visit this amazing place and stay in this wonderful hotel and enjoy the Denali Square.

As Holland Group President Stein Kruse said, "the vacation of a lifetime happens here every day." Come and enjoy. The following press release tells the story:

Guests on Holland America Line's award-winning Alaska Land+Sea Journeys can now experience new dining, entertainment and amenities at the Denali Square complex located in the heart of the company's McKinley Chalet Resort at the gates of Denali National Park.

To celebrate the grand opening, Holland America Line presented the Denali Borough School District with a \$20,000 check that will be spent on modernizing interactive classroom technology.

Holland America Line President Orlando Ashford welcomed attendees to Denali Square and unveiled the geomarker that was installed to commemorate the opening of the facility.

Special guests included U.S. Senator for Alaska Lisa Murkowski; Superintendent of Denali National Park and Preserve Don Striker; Denali Borough School District Superintendent Dan Polta; and Ken Karstens, grandson of Harry Karstens, first superintendent of Denali National Park and namesake of the new Denali Square restaurant, Karstens Public House.

Carnival Corporation President and CEO Arnold Donald and Holland America Group Chief Executive Officer Stein Kruse also attended.

"For nearly 70 years Holland America Line has been at the forefront of Alaska exploration, and the opening of Denali Square is another exciting moment in our company's history because it elevates the way our guests will experience Denali and Alaska," said Ashford.

"A complex like Denali Square is unrivaled in our industry, and it brings more facets of the region to our guests





ABOVE: Holland America Line President Orlando Ashford cuts the ribbon to commemorate the grand opening of Denali Sqaure. Among those participating were U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski and Carnival Corporation President and CEO Arnold Donald. TOP RIGHT: Carnival Corporation President and CEO Arnold Donald with Alaska Chamber Membership Director Pete Nolan enjoying Denali Square reception. RIGHT: Denali Square grand opening ceremony.

by showcasing local cuisine, art, entertainment and so much more. Denali National Park has been and will continue to be the centerpiece of our incredible Land+Sea Journeys."

A highlight of the ceremony was a performance by the local Tri-Valley High School choir from Healy, Alaska. Husky dogs from the National Parks Service at Denali National Park were also at the event with handlers for guests to learn more about and enjoy.

Over the past three years Holland America Line has been refining the guest experience at the 60-acre McKinley Chalet Resort, and last year an enhanced property layout and freshly remodeled guest rooms were unveiled.

Holland America Line's Land+Sea Journeys feature up to three nights at Denali, with an included Tundra Wilderness Tour deep into the Park for all multiple



night guests.

Alaska-based companies heading up the McKinley Chalet Resort's enhancement project include general contractor Dawson Construction and Stantec, which is providing engineering services. Additional firms involved are lead and landscape architect

The Portico Group, restaurant architect Heliotrope Architects, structural engineering company Michael Leonard Associates and project manager Costigan Integrated, all of Seattle, Wash.

For more information about Holland America Line, contact a travel professional, call 1-877-SAIL-HAL (1-877-724-5425) or visit hollandamerica.com.

Pete Nolan is the Membership Director for the Alaska Chamber. He can be reached by phone at 907-278-2733 or by email at pnolan@alaskachamber.com.

Arctic Information Technology ranked globally as a leading MSP provider

Arctic Information Technology (Arctic IT) has been recognized as the top managed services provider in Alaska and ranked number 196 in Penton Technology's ninth-annual MSPmentor 501 Global Edition — a distinguished report identifying the world's top 501 managed service providers (MSPs). The complete 501 list is currently available on the MSPmentor website.

"We are honored to be recognized by MSPmentor as one of the top managed service providers globally," said Steve Dike, President of Arctic IT. "This ranking is a true testament to the excellence of our team and how we serve our customers in Alaska."

The 2016 MSP 501 list is based on data collected by MSPmentor and its partner, Clarity Channel Advisors. Data was collected online from March through April 2016. The MSP 501 list recognizes top cloud service providers based on metrics including recurring revenue, growth and other factors. In addition to a ranking on the MSP 501 list, every company that participated in the study has been assigned a score reflecting its intrinsic value. The measure, known as the Total Service Provider (TSP) score, evaluates an MSP's mix of revenue from various activities, including consulting, cloud, reselling and managed services.

About Arctic IT

Founded in 1998, Arctic Information Technology, Inc., a Doyon Government Group Company, has been providing integrated technology solutions and network management and support services to small and medium-size business and enterprises – including non-profit, commercial, tribal and local government organizations – for nearly two decades. Visit us at www.arcticit.com or follow us on Twitter @ArcticIT.

For more inofaiton about Arctic IT contact Mark Mathis, Senior Account Manager at mmathis@arcticit.com.



PHOTO COURTESY ARCTIC IT



Richard Schok, President & Owner, Flowline Alaska



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Richard Schok

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We Believe in Alaska

June 9 Member Appreciation Reception a hit

Alaska Chamber members arrived at the home of Governor Bill Sheffield for a Member Appreciation Reception on what proved to be a stunning Alaskan evening.

The reception was a thank you to both long-standing and new Chamber members for their support in promoting a healthy business environment in Alaska.

In addition to Chamber members, we were pleased to welcome Governor Bill Walker and his wife Donna, and many members of the Alaska State Legislature.

PHOTOS BY FLAVIN PHOTOGRAPHY FOR ALASKA CHAMBER

RIGHT: Chamber Chairman Casey Sullivan and President and CEO Curtis W. Thayer recognized Chamber members for their long-standing support. BOTTOM RIGHT: Governor Bill Sheffield welcomes Chamber members to his home. BELOW: Governor Walker and his wife Donna visit with Chamber members.







ACCOUNTANT

The Accountant reconciles balance sheet accounts, provides accounting department oversight for circulation and advertising departments and assists with month end close processes. This is a full time position that will deliver mid-level accounting support to MPG Alaska properties, principally in South Central Alaska (Anchorage and Kenai Peninsula). There may be the opportunity for occasional travel between locations. Duties may be modified as the needs of the accounting department and organization shift.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Reconciles balance sheet accounts on a monthly basis
- Assists with month end closing procedures and journal entries
- Enters finalized cash receipts in the Circulation System
- Processes credit card deposits and run billing for subscribers
- Researches and processes customer disputes and adjustments • Answers accounts receivable billing calls and follows up
- Calls or mails correspondence as needed for customers
- Works with credit sales team on customer issues
- Investigates billing adjustments and billing overrides for sales department
- Special accounting projects and other duties as assigned

JOB REQUIREMENTS:

- Bachelor Degree preferred, will consider demonstrated experience in lieu of education
- 3+ years accounting experience
- Experience with SAP or similar accounting software a plus • Strong customer service, written and verbal communications skills
- Ability to function in team environment
- Strong computer skills, including Microsoft Office, particularly excel
- Good mathematical aptitude

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Qualified candidates may send their resume to: deedie.mckenzie@morris.com

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Save the Date ATTEND!

2016 Fall Forum

October 11-13, 2016 Kenai, Alaska

2017 Legislative Fly-In

January 25-26, 2017

Juneau, Alaska

Mark your calendars and check our website for upcoming details at alaskachamber.com.

AECOM makes leadership changes in Alaska

AECOM, a premier, fully integrated global infrastructure firm, announced today that it has made several leadership changes within its Alaska operations to enhance the impact of the organization in the region.

Laura Young assumed the role of technical services manager. In this new role, Young will oversee engineering, geographic information system and computer-aided drafting disciplines.

Young will also continue to serve as the federal business development lead for Alaska. Young joined AECOM, through legacy Dames & Moore, in 1995.

Elizabeth Bella, PhD, was named planning group manager. In this new position, Bella will continue to manage projects and will also serve as strategic and business development lead for the planning group.

Bella has 15 years of applied ecology and regulatory experience, and she joined AECOM in 2015.

Joy Wakefield-Gonzalez was named business manager. In this new role, Wakefield-Gonzalez will be responsible for project management improvement, business management and financial planning.

Wakefield-Gonzalez joined AECOM, through legacy firm Tryck Nyman Hayes, in 2008.

"We are excited to welcome Laura, Elizabeth and Joy into their new roles. They are very capable and experienced in their fields and will continue to be an asset to our team," stated Joe Hegna, AECOM Alaska operations manager and vice president. "I am looking forward to seeing all they accomplish in their new positions."

About AECOM

AECOM is built to deliver a better world. We design, build, finance and operate infrastructure assets for governments, businesses and organizations in more than 150 countries. As a fully integrated firm, we connect knowledge and experience across our global network of experts to help clients solve their most complex challenges.

From high-performance buildings and infrastructure, to resilient communities and environments, to stable and secure nations, our work is transformative, differentiated and vital.

A Fortune 500 firm, AECOM had revenue of approximately \$18 billion during fiscal year 2015. See how we deliver what others can only imagine at aecom.com and @AECOM.

Washington to Washington



Senator Dan Sullivan welcomed Alaska Chamber and Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber members during their 31st Annual Washington to Washington trip in May.



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Together we if go lai