

Message from the President: Make your voice heard

By Kati Capozzi
President and CEO, Alaska Chamber

First and foremost, I wish to relay to the Alaska Chamber membership and broader public that I am honored to represent Alaska's business community in this new and challenging role, and I'm incredibly excited for what our future holds.

By the time this message reaches you, I will have surpassed my second month on the job at the Chamber — and what a whirlwind two months it's been!

From traveling around the state meeting with members, to visiting with legislators in Juneau and our congressional delegation in Washington D.C., to participating in our Community Outreach Trip in Denali late last month, I am truly energized by the enthusiasm of so many Alaskans I've met with who share our mission to promote a healthy business environment in Alaska.

Just before I came on board, the Chamber conducted its annual statewide public opinion survey. Last month, I shared some insights from that survey in an op-ed that was published throughout the state and re-printed on page 3 in this edition of Business to Business.

The annual survey provides policymakers, business leaders, and Alaskans with another set of data points to track public perceptions of our economy, policies being debated in Juneau, and other issues of importance to our membership.

I encourage you to take a look at the full results of the survey, available on our new and improved website at alaskachamber.com.

Over the last month I've also "hit the road" to present the results of the survey to local Alaska chambers of commerce and delve deeper into the findings. During these presentations, I've also devoted time to explain how our policy positions are set each year.



CAPOZZI



Each year during the policy forum, members vote to adopt policy positions that shape the Chamber's advocacy program.

Many are surprised that the positions we champion are submitted and voted on directly by the membership.

One of the most impactful ways you can contribute in shaping Alaska's economic future is by participating in our

Upcoming Survey Presentations:

Thursday, July 11: Seward Chamber of Commerce
Wednesday, July 17: Kenai/Soldotna Chamber of Commerce
Monday, July 22: Anchorage Chamber of Commerce
Wednesday, July 31: Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce

policy-setting process. The time to participate in that process is...now! Here are key points on who can participate and how:

- The Chamber is open for policy submissions from Wednesday, July 24 to Friday, September 6.
- The policy process is available to for-profit members in good standing.
- Positions must be submitted by Friday, September 6 to allow the Legislative Affairs Committee (LAC) time to review and 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, positions are retained from year-to-year until the policy objective is accomplished or the LAC recommends the position for update or removal.

For more information on the process, principles and frequently asked questions, visit our Position Submission page under the Advocacy tab on our website.

I look forward to meeting with you and working together to promote a vibrant business environment in Alaska.

From the Chair: Fall Forum returning to beautiful Girdwood

By Cory Baggen
Board Chair, Alaska Chamber

I'm so blessed to live in a place like Sitka. It's the kind of bucket list destination that people wait their entire lives to visit, and I get to call it home. Alaska is full of once-in-a-lifetime locations and my work with the Alaska Chamber has brought me to places that many only dream of visiting.

Two years ago, I was proud to host Chamber members at home in Sitka for the 2017 Fall Forum. As much as I enjoyed showing off Alaska's First City to business leaders from across the state, I'm really looking forward to bringing the annual conference back to one of my all-time favorite venues.

This fall, we are returning to the beautiful Hotel Alyeska in Girdwood for the Chamber's premiere education, policy, and awards events. It's been five years since we last visited Girdwood. I am still putting into play lessons learned from the Heritage Foundation's Dr. David Azzerad's keynote lecture.

The marijuana debate was raging across the state. And long-time Fairbanks businessman and miner, Roger Burggraf, was named Alaskan of the Year.

I expect this fall's lineup to be equally impactful, and I encourage all of you to join us



BAGGEN

I encourage all of you to join us this October 28-30. Together we will plan for a productive 2020 while celebrating the best of 2019!

this October 28-30. Together we will plan for a productive 2020 while celebrating the best of 2019!

Registration for the event will open mid-July but your opportunity to participate starts now. Chamber members nominate all of our business award winners, so we need to know the Alaska companies and professionals that mean the most to you and your business.

Submission for the Top Business Awards begins Monday, June 24 and runs through Friday, September 6. Help get the amazing businesses in your life the recognition they have earned.

As we do every fall, the Chamber will

award the William A. Egan award to one outstanding Alaskan of the year. We also want to hear about the best small and large companies for the Bill Bivin Small Business and Rita Sholton Large Business awards. And, of course, we'll recognize one local Alaska chamber that is knocking it out of the park for their community.

Chamber members also set the policy platform for pro-business advocacy in Alas-

ka. Member-driven policy is a big part of why the Chamber is the most credible advocate for business in Alaska.

Now is the time to team with like-minded professionals throughout the state to tackle business issues together.

We're stronger when we speak with a unified voice, but that starts with one person voicing a business challenge. So let your voice be heard.

The online policy submission system is available for members starting on Wednesday, July 24 and ends Friday, September 6, allowing staff and committee members a chance to prepare positions for presentation to the statewide business community at the Policy Forum in Girdwood.

Get those award nominations and policy suggestions in early. And make plans to attend this October in Girdwood. Do your part to ensure participation and representation for all Alaskans and each region's unique needs.

If you would like to discuss the upcoming event, or what the Chamber is working on, please do not hesitate to call on me. I enjoy hearing from all of our Chamber members..

OUR VISION & MISSION

To be the leading voice advancing Alaska Business. | To promote a healthy business environment in Alaska.

Welcome New Members

Alaska Employee Benefits

Serving Fairbanks and the local area since 2002, Alaska Employee Benefits provides a variety of insurance policies, including health insurance, short or long term disability, dental, vision, and life insurance. Whatever your insurance need is, they'll point you in the right direction. Visit them online at alaskaemployeebenefits.com.

American Relocation Services

For over 20 years, American Relocation Services has met Alaska's commercial and residential moving needs. They provide cost-effective, timely and secure transport of personal effects and household goods and is certified to handle military relocation. Visit them online at americanrelocationservices.com.

Elite-VB LLC

Elite-VB helps Alaska employers with no-cost solutions that will turn a "vanilla" benefit plan into dream dessert. With over 40 years of combined experience in voluntary, benefits communication and enrollment experience, their goal is to combine PEOPLE with TECHNOLOGY to improve the overall benefit experience in organizations with 5+ employees. Visit them online at elite-vb.com.

Northern Adjusters, Inc.

Founded in 1951, Northern Adjusters, Inc. serves all of Alaska with multiline claims handling and administration. For over six decades, they've traveled to remote villages and crossed glaciers to get the job done. Visit them online at nadj.com.

Perkins Coie LLP

A leading international law firm, Perkins Coie LLP provides strategic solutions on matters vital to their clients' success. With more than 1,100 lawyers in offices across the United States and in Beijing, Shanghai, and Taipei, they provide a full array of corporate, commercial litigation, intellectual property and regulatory legal advice to a broad range of clients. Visit them online at perkinscoie.com.

Turo

A peer-to-peer car sharing marketplace, Turo lets you book any car you want, wherever you want it, from a vibrant community of local hosts across the US, Canada, the UK, and Germany. Guests choose from a totally unique selection of nearby cars, while hosts earn extra money to offset the costs of car ownership. Visit them online at turo.com.

University of Washington

One of the world's preeminent public universities, the University of Washington (UW) is a leading research university with three campuses, a world-class academic medical center and extensive continuing education programs. Ranked No. 14 in the world on the 2018 Academic Ranking of World Universities, the UW educates more than 54,000 students annually. Visit them online at washington.edu.

Woodbury Financial Services

A full-service financial services firm, Woodbury Financial Services is committed to helping people pursue their financial goals. Offering a wide range of financial products and services to individuals and business owners, Woodbury Financial Services believes you will be better able to identify your goals and make sound decisions to help reach them by our providing sound financial information. Visit them online at lanetspence.com.

Zenith American Solutions

Since 1944, Zenith American Solutions has provided high-quality administrative services to its clients. With 45 offices across the country, Zenith manages benefit plans as a third-party administrator (TPA) serving over 900,000 health plan members and dependents, and over 925,000 retirement plan participants for Taft-Hartley trust funds, trade associations, government entities, and corporate employers. For more information, email sblack@zenith-american.com.

Save the Date Plan to Participate!

2019 Alaska Business
Week Summer Camps
July 8-12
Anchorage

July 22-26
Mat-Su

2019 Fall Forum
October 28-30
Girdwood

Mark your calendars
and check our website
for more information at
alaskachamber.com.



Member Milestones

The Alaska Chamber would like to recognize the following Chamber investors celebrating milestone anniversaries this quarter. We appreciate their ongoing commitment to Alaska and their investment in the Chamber – together we are the voice of Alaska business!

35 YEARS

Alaska Power & Telephone Company
BDO USA, LLP
Lynden, Inc.
Port of Bellingham

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Alaska Travel Industry Association
Alaskan Brewing Company
Altria Client Services LLC
Construction Machinery Industrial, LLC
Wells Fargo Bank Alaska
Westward Seafoods, Inc.

20 YEARS

Sunshine Custom Promotions, LLC

10 YEARS

Denali Foods, Inc.

5 YEARS

Anchorage Chrysler Dodge Center
Davis Block & Concrete, Inc.



The time is now to limit spending

By Kati Capozzi

As Alaskans, we face these fiscally uncertain times together. With the private sector's success inextricably linked to how the rest of the economy fares, we must ensure that we continue to grow our businesses.

After all, investment and job creation are mandatory to the state's future success. Yet as long as significant state budget deficits remain, economic growth is in jeopardy.

The Alaska Chamber represents 100,000 Alaska employees and businesses large and small.

Smart spending habits and pro-business policies that grow our economy are the cornerstones of the Chamber's advocacy efforts.

As the voice of Alaska business, our membership votes every year to determine our public policy positions.

The positions naturally change with time, but one key issue has consistently remained a priority for more than 20 years, both when the state was flush with cash from high oil prices and when it was struggling through economic recession: the need for a sustainable fiscal plan focused on Alaska's future.

Every year, we also look outside our diverse membership to better understand Alaskans' attitudes

about the state's much-discussed fiscal situation.

Recently, the Chamber conducted its annual statewide poll — and the 2019 numbers are in. Unsurprisingly, state spending and

the state economy as good, an improvement of nine points from last year.

That said, when asked in a separate question if they felt Alaska was on the "right track" or "wrong

track" economically, 64% of Alaskans still think the state is on the wrong track.

That number is virtually unchanged from last year, indicating that Alaskans want closure on the public policy debate that has been raging in our state for nearly five years now.

One key issue has consistently remained a priority for more than 20 years, both when the state was flush with cash from high oil prices and when it was struggling through economic recession: the need for a sustainable fiscal plan focused on Alaska's future.

the Permanent Fund dividend remain the overwhelmingly dominant issues on Alaskans' minds.

Alaskans have spoken. They want reasonable restraints on government spending and a final say in big budget decisions.

Based on the data, without a doubt, Alaska's fiscal dilemma remains residents' top concern. Interestingly, 47% of Alaskans rate

track" economically, 64% of Alaskans still think the state is on the wrong track.

That number is virtually unchanged from last year, indicating that Alaskans want closure on the public policy debate that has been raging in our state for nearly five years now.

The good news is opportunities exist now for state leaders to

stabilize — and improve — the health and direction of the Alaska economy.

It is clear Alaskans have paid close attention as the new governor and Legislature tackle tough is-

ues related to budgets. We asked Alaskans where they stand on current proposals meant to fix Alaska's budget dilemma.

The proposals of particular importance to Alaska Chamber members that enjoy majority support:

- 61% support a constitutionally mandated state spending cap.

Other policy issues that saw majority support:

- 69% support a work requirement for Medicaid recipients.

- 65% support exploration and production in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Over the remaining days of the legislative session and interim, we will share insights and meaningful trends from the 2019 polling data with partners and communities across Alaska.

The data we present is pulled from one of the largest surveys conducted in the state, and representative of Alaska's unique electorate.

While Alaska continues to climb out from under a record-breaking recession, the good news is that we may have turned a corner. Especially encouraging is the revelation that many issues still unite Alaskans, even in challenging times.

While the voices that seek to divide us are loud, we look forward to people and businesses uniting around public policy that Alaskans from across the state can support. Clearly, civil conversations on the merits of the proposals on the table are a good place to start.

Kati Capozzi is the president and CEO of the Alaska Chamber.



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Local companies bring business learning to Kotzebue students



TOP: ABW participant Brian Stalker of Kotzebue providing financial leadership to his team, turning in one of the best simulation performances we've seen in years!. **BELOW:** Some business skills are more applicable than others! (Photos/Courtesy/Alaska Business Week)

By Andy Rogers

Since 2009, hundreds of Alaska high school students have learned how to run a company at Alaska Business Week (ABW) summer camps. This April, the Kotzebue community helped ABW kick off a tenth year of operations when students walked through the doors of the University of Alaska Fairbanks Chukchi Campus. ABW is a weeklong camp where high school students learn how to run a business profitably and ethically. There are a number of activities and lectures throughout the week that teach concepts like leadership and teamwork, grit, and responsibility. However, the core of the business week camp is a management competition where student groups compete in an intense business simulation.

Students often begin the ABW program with limited functional knowledge of how a company works. In five days and two-years of simulated business they learn how and why successful companies do what they do. Early afternoon on the final day of camp, students delivered financial presentations to members of the local business community. They demonstrated a new understanding of concepts that many adults struggle with; concepts like profit, asset management, depreciation, and debt. Students now recognize that sales, production, and administration are all necessary components of success.

They are comfortable with common financial reports like Profit and Loss, Balance Sheet, and Cash Flow statements. The realize the importance of bringing their personal ethics into their professional lives and the value of corporate citizenship. And — importantly — they showed that they had a ton of fun learning these valuable life skills. “We were given a company that we have owned for two years,” said Virginia, a Magnet School student from Chevak. “My part of the company was being the CFO. I’ve learned about other positions, and they’re all working as a team. It sort of changed my thoughts of the future.”

Volunteer mentors from the host community guide ABW students to success. Kotzebue-area professionals committed a week of their time to tutor camp participants. These talented mentors — and their generous employers — are champions for entrepreneurship learning in Alaska and very deserving of our appreciation. Thank you to Ann Howarth of OTZ Telephone Cooperative, Fred Smith of Wolf Creek Sales & Services, and both Nina Lie and Kristina McCall

(Anchorage) of NANA. ABW camps are only possible with support from local business partners. The program is entirely funded by private sector companies that are passionate about providing access to business learning, a subject that can be hard to find in traditional education. This program is Alaska companies educating future business leaders face-to-face in the most grassroots way imaginable. In Kotzebue, contributions from regional employers like NANA, Akima, and Northwest Arctic Borough created this opportunity, and many more contribute to statewide operations.

ABW participants are very aware of the companies that make their camp experience possible. In a personal note to her sponsors, Sierra from Kotzebue wrote, “This week was fun. We had laughter, smiles, and a lot of progress. ABW was worth a lot of my time. I’d like you to continue sponsoring the program.” Volunteers and sponsors provide young people with the skills and confidence needed to realize professional aspirations, students like Kate McWilliams who attended ABW in 2014.

Kate signed up to learn the skills necessary to pursue a career in fashion in her hometown of Bethel. Kate’s strategy to realize her passion was to open a consignment clothing store. She operated the shop through high school and today, while attending college in Oregon, Kate employs her neighbors to operate the store in her absence.

The 2019 Kotzebue Business Week camp is the first of what will be an annual program in the region. This year, four students from Ambler, Chevak and Noorvik participated in the Kotzebue-based camp. With proper planning and growing excitement about the opportunity, ABW expects to include an increasing number of visiting students.

There are two remaining ABW camps scheduled for the 2019 summer seasons. An Anchorage camp runs from July 8-12 at Romig Middle School. The MatSu program will be hosted at Colony High School and runs from July 22-26. More information and registration opportunities are available online at alaskabusinessweek.com or by calling (907) 278-2744.

Alaska Business Week is a 501(c) dedicated to delivering business learning to Alaska high school students. To volunteer or financially support ABW students contact Andy Rogers, Executive Director at andy@alaskabusinessweek.com or (907) 278-2744.

Chamber welcomes new Administrative Assistant

The Alaska Chamber is pleased to welcome the newest member of its team, Piper Eskridge. Born and raised in Orlando, Florida, Eskridge joined the chamber team as an administrative assistant in April.

In 2017, Eskridge graduated from the University of Central Florida with a Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management.

Looking to put her hospitality skills to work while exploring the world, she first visited Alaska in the summer of 2017 to work for Holland America Princess in Healy. She spent the remaining year traveling and working abroad. Seven countries later she returned to Alaska this time to Anchorage and has called it home ever since.

Eskridge said of her travels highlights include shark-cage diving, swimming with dolphins, learning to mush, and viewing the Paris skyline from the Eiffel Tower.

“I’m excited to be part of the Alaska Chamber,” Eskridge said. “Please feel free to contact me with any questions and stop by to say hi when you’re in the office. I’m looking forward to getting to know and help as many of the members as possible!”

In addition to various administrative and support duties, Eskridge will be a primary point of contact between Chamber visitors, its members, and the business community.



ESKRIDGE

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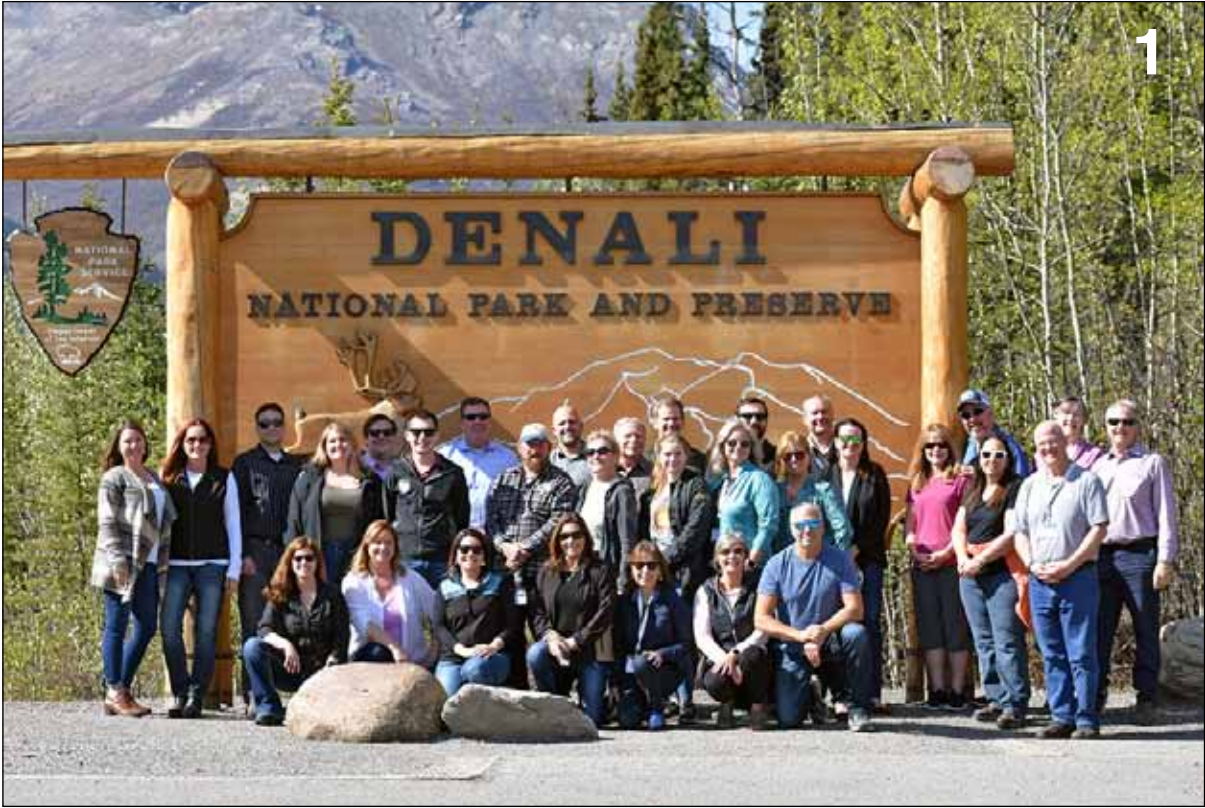
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Members explore Denali during Community Outreach Trip



1. Alaska Chamber members at the entrance of the Denali National Park and Preserve, which encompasses 6 million acres of Alaska's interior wilderness. 2. Alaska Chamber members get a VIP tour of Golden Valley Electric Association's Healy Power Station. 3. Alaska Chamber President and CEO Kati Capozzi and board member Portia CK Babcock cuddle with a puppy at Husky Homestead, home of four-time Iditarod Champion Jeff King. 4. Denali National Park and Preserve Superintendent Don Striker narrates during on a bus ride into the Park, which averages over 600,000 visitors every year. 5. Denali Borough Mayor Clay Walker shares the positive economic impacts the area continues to see from the visitor industry. He cites that due a steady the 2-3% growth rate they haven't raised any taxes in the Denali Borough since 1995. 6. Alaska Chamber members enjoy a tour of the only operational coal mine in Alaska, Usibelli Coal Mine (UCM). A fourth-generation own business, UCM produces an average of between 1.2 and 2 million tons of coal per year. (Photos/Alaska Chamber)

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Chamber launches new, redesigned website

The Alaska Chamber is proud to launch our newly redesigned website at alaskachamber.com. We have redesigned it with you in mind: making it mobile-friendly, streamlining menus, simplifying navigation, and building a responsive layout for all platforms.

It is now much easier to find information about the Chamber's upcoming events and services, as well as details about joining the Chamber as a new member. The revised website is also a great resource for our Alaska's visitors and newcomers, with helpful links about our state.

We encourage everyone to visit and explore the site, discovering the full spectrum of the Chamber's offering for our members. Find out about our advocacy for 2019, our annual and recurring events, and the programs we offer. Keep an eye on our recent news postings, as well as our upcoming events calendar.

We will continue to expand and maintain the Chamber website to deliver the most updated and relevant information for our Chamber members. If you have any questions or feedback you would like to share with our team, please contact us info@alaskachamber.com or give us a call at (907) 278-2700. We look forward to staying connected!



Alaska Chamber Association Health Plan Update

Offering health insurance as an employee benefit to recruit or retain quality employees is essential for many of our small business members, therefore, we wish to provide a status update on the Alaska Chamber's effort to create an Association Health Plan (AHP).

On March 28, a Federal court ruled against the major parts of a federal regulation allowing health benefits coverage through AHPs.

At that time, we made our members aware that we would be looking at every option to bring an AHP to life in Alaska to help business owners and employees.

Since many of the new AHPs were sponsored by chambers of commerce, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce publicly de-



nounced the court decision and remains committed to provide solutions for the 20,000 workers who are currently cov-

ered under AHPs and the more than 300,000 workers who were expected to enroll within the year.

For this reason, the U.S. Chamber filed an Amicus brief, which we joined along with dozens of other chambers of

commerce across the country.

Since then, the U.S. Department of Labor filed a notice of appeal and, on Monday, May 13, 2019, the D.C. Circuit granted the administration's request for an expedited schedule.

The U.S. Chamber hopes that the court will hold arguments during the first week of September and issue a decision by early November.

In the meantime, we are working in consultation with our attorneys, the Alaska Division of Insurance, Premier Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alaska, our General Agent and Local Brokers to determine if there is an alternate path forward.

We will provide a status update to our members as new information becomes available.



ALASKA CHAMBER



2019 FALL FORUM

October 28-30, 2019
The Hotel Alyeska, Girdwood, Alaska

SAVE THE DATE

34th Annual Washington-to-Washington, D.C. Conference



ABOVE: U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski addresses the delegation during the “Ties that Bind Washington and Alaska” panel. **TOP RIGHT:** From left to right: Alaska Chamber President and CEO Kati Capozzi, U.S. Congressman Derek Kilmer, D-Wash., U.S. Chamber of Commerce Executive Director for the Northwest Region Chris Eyler, and Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Tom Pierson. Congressman Kilmer was bestowed the Spirit of Enterprise Award, given by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in recognition of his support for pro-economic, pro-growth policies. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce delegation enjoy a tour of the Capitol at night. (Photos/Alaska Chamber)



In late April, Alaska Chamber President and CEO Kati Capozzi joined members of the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce during their 34th annual conference in the nation’s capital. The annual event offers business leaders and civic officials the chance to participate in meetings with Congressional members, federal agency representatives, and military officials.

“Participating in the Tacoma Chamber’s trip to our nation’s capital is invaluable as it keeps Alaska in the forefront of the minds of our friends and partners from the Pudget Sound area. Additionally, it provides the opportunity to meet with decision-makers and remind them that when Alaska prospers, Washington State prospers — whether related to resource development, national defense, or the critical maritime industry that links us,” said Capozzi. “It was exciting to be part of the 60-person strong delegation that flew to D.C. and a great opportunity to further strengthen relationships with our Chamber counterparts.”

The delegation discussed and advocated on a number of issues including energy, healthcare, transportation and infrastructure, cybersecurity, defense, public lands, and the ties that bind Alaska and Washington.



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2019 SUMMER CAMPS

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- ANCHORAGE**
July 8 - July 12
8am - 5pm, Monday - Friday
King Tech High School
- MAT-SU**
July 22 - July 26
8am - 5pm, Monday - Friday
Colony High School

Alaska Business Week offers weeklong summer camps for high school students

Alaska Business Week is a fun, intensive entrepreneurship experience for high school students. ABW runs one-week programs teaching the basics of business, leadership and entrepreneurship.

Participants compete as teams in a dynamic business simulation with the guidance of adult mentors from the business community. After completing the program, students have a competitive edge on workplace readiness, college preparation, and overall life success.

At ABW, students get personal experience working with real business leaders, company founders and CEOs. At the start of each camp, students form dedicated teams or ‘companies’ to compete in a gamified business simulation. The curriculum is designed to promote leadership, ethical decision-making, public speaking, collaborative teamwork, and profitable entrepreneurship for Alaska communities.

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