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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 31, 2008

No. 08-64

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U.S. Department of Labor Recognizes Anchorage Construction Academy

JUNEAU, Alaska— The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development has been recognized for excellence for its partnership efforts to create the Anchorage Construction Academy, which attracts and trains young people and adults to first jobs in the construction industry.

The department received an honorable mention in the U.S. Department of Labor's nationwide Recognition of Excellence awards presented during the 2008 Workforce Innovations Conference in New Orleans.

The awards recognize talent development programs from around the nation that have achieved outstanding success. The Department won in the "Leveraging the Power of Partnerships" category.

"With continued support from the administration and the Alaska Legislature, we're working hard to develop sustained partnerships among workforce development organizations, businesses, community organizations and education," Labor Commissioner Click Bishop said. "This award recognizes the success and hard work of many, many people."

More than 1,000 high school students and about 200 adults have participated in construction trades classes such as carpentry, plumbing, electrical, welding and drywall finishing. The training takes place at the Anchorage School District's King Career Center.

Anchorage Construction Academy partners include the Alaska Department of Labor, Alaska Works Partnership Inc., Anchorage School District, Alaska Apprenticeship and Training Coordinators Association, Associated General Contractors of Alaska, Alaska State Home Building Association, Anchorage Home Builders Association and Cook Inlet Tribal Council.

"We built on the strengths of the Anchorage Construction Academy to create academies in Fairbanks, Juneau, Kenai Peninsula, Ketchikan and the Mat-Su Valley," said Kathleen Castle, director of the Alaska Construction Academies. "We're working to build a skilled workforce for Alaska's home and commercial builders."

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