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Press Release

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Bishop Appoints Thomas Nelson Deputy Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development

JUNEAU, Alaska—Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Click Bishop has named Thomas Nelson of Juneau as Deputy Commissioner.

“Tom’s extensive background in workforce development will serve Alaska well,” Bishop said. “He has been an exemplary public servant and his leadership will help move the department forward in its efforts to prepare more Alaskans for rewarding careers.”

Nelson has worked for the department of labor since 2000, most recently as the director of the Employment Security Division, which promotes employment and economic stability by responding to the needs of employers and job seekers. Prior to being appointed ESD director, he was the regional manager for the Anchorage/Mat-Su area job centers and the vice chair of the Anchorage/Mat-Su Local Workforce Investment Board.

“I’m excited about the opportunity to help Governor Parnell and Commissioner Bishop create paths of opportunity for Alaska workers and meet the workforce demands of the future,” Nelson said.

Nelson served with distinction in the U.S. Army and in the private sector. He earned a doctorate in education, master of science in administration and bachelor of arts in management, and is a Defense Language Institute-trained Turkish Linguist.

The deputy commissioner position has been vacant since David Stone was named chief of staff for Lt. Gov. Mead Treadwell. Ole Olson will serve as acting director of the department’s Employment Security Division.

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