

Heidi Drygas
Commissioner

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Press Release

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Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Appoints Cashen and Thomas as Deputy Commissioners

JUNEAU, Alaska—Commissioner Heidi Drygas is pleased to announce the appointments of Greg Cashen and Joe Thomas as deputy commissioners of the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

"I am thrilled to have Greg and Joe join our team as we work to improve the lives of Alaska's workers and increase opportunities for workforce development in our state," Drygas said. "With deep ties to Alaska, both of these gentlemen are committed to our state and the mission of this department. I could not ask for two more qualified individuals to join me as we endeavor to strengthen and empower Alaska's workforce, and ready Alaska's workers for the future employment demands of our state."

Cashen, a lifelong Alaskan, most recently served as administrative services director for the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation. Before joining AGDC, Cashen spent nearly eight years with the Department of Labor, including serving as assistant commissioner under the leadership of Commissioner Click Bishop. Cashen also served as executive director of the Alaska Workforce Investment Board, the 26-member board that provides policy oversight of state and federally funded job training and vocational education programs.

Cashen graduated from Juneau-Douglas High School and earned his bachelor's degree from Northern Arizona University.

Thomas, born and raised in Fairbanks, served as a member of the Alaska Senate from 2007 to 2013. In that capacity, he served as co-chair of the Education Committee, served on the Finance Committee and served as chair of the Finance Subcommittee on Labor and Workforce Development. He also served as chair of the Natural Resources Subcommittee and vice-chair of the Labor and Commerce Committee.

Thomas began his career working as a general laborer out of Laborers' Local 942 in Fairbanks, where he later served as a business agent and as business manager/secretary-treasurer for 23 years. He was a longtime trustee on the Alaska Laborers' Health and Security Fund.

Thomas' extensive public service includes leadership positions on the Alaska Workers Compensation Board, Resource Development Council of Alaska Executive Board, Alaska AFL-CIO, Fairbanks Development Authority Executive Board, Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation Executive Board, Main Street Fairbanks/Downtown Association and the University of Alaska Board of Regents.

Thomas graduated from Lathrop High School in Fairbanks and earned his bachelor's degree from West Virginia University.

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Photos of [Greg Cashen](#) and [Joe Thomas](#)

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