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Press Release

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Alaska Launches “Earn and Learn” Campaign with Community Organizations *State partners with diverse community groups to recruit for Registered Apprenticeships*

ANCHORAGE: The Alaska Departments of Labor and Transportation have launched “Earn and Learn,” a Registered Apprenticeship outreach program, in partnership with community organizations including AKPRIDE, the Anchorage NAACP, the Polynesian Association of Alaska, Global Block Foundation, Forget Me Not, the Hispanic Affairs Council of Alaska, Mexican Consulate, St. Mary’s Native Corporation, and several Joint Apprenticeship Training Committees. Earn and Learn (www.earnandlearnak.org) is a multi-lingual outreach campaign to increase minority participation in Registered Apprenticeship programs, and is part of the state’s efforts to expand engagement and boost wages among Alaska’s increasingly diverse population. The launch event today was hosted by Moa Tosi’s organization AKPRIDE at the Anchorage Northway Mall.

“Working with community stakeholders, we can expand training opportunities and boost wages for Alaska’s increasingly diverse workforce,” said Commissioner Heidi Drygas.

“Registered Apprenticeships are a great opportunity to raise wages for hard working families, and we will be working in partnership with the state to expand minority participation,” said Mao Tosi of AKPRIDE.

Research indicates that, on average, graduates of Registered Apprenticeship programs more than double their salaries. Alaska has the highest-in-the-nation hourly median wages, partly as a result of strong participation in Registered Apprenticeship. The state is working with community organizations to boost minority participation in Registered Apprenticeship, making the pipeline of workers more representative of Alaska’s diverse population.

The Earn and Learn campaign will reach Alaskans through digital and traditional media, and is wholly funded by the federal government. It includes multi-lingual materials in Yup’ik and other languages. Outreach about Earn and Learn will occur in partnership with employers and Joint Apprenticeship Training Committees.

Earn and Learn is just the latest state effort to expand multi-lingual materials and constituent services, following Department of Labor publication of “Know Your Rights” guides to labor rights in numerous languages, as well as Department of Labor outreach meetings with community groups.

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