

# News Release



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

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## Governor's Committee Honors Employers, Organizations, and Individuals with Disabilities

FAIRBANKS— Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Greg O'Claray and North Pole Mayor Jeffery Jacobson led a group of state and local leaders presenting awards at the annual awards ceremony of the Governor's Committee on Employment and Rehabilitation of People with Disabilities. The ceremony was held Thursday, October 13, 2005 in the Edgewater Ballroom at the Fairbanks Princess Riverside Lodge. Teisha Simmons of Fairbanks, a former award winner, was the guest speaker.

The event coincided with activities across the nation recognizing October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

Governor Frank H. Murkowski sent his congratulations to the recipients stating, "Their courage in overcoming barriers exemplifies service to the Alaskan community in identifying and meeting the needs of persons with disabilities, and the strength to overcome their challenges."

The awards honoring individuals, employers and organizations were:

**The Governor's Award** - Ted Burke, manager of the Juneau Job Center, Employment Security Division, Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development

**Small Employer of the Year** - Ty Kuiper, national account manager for MSDS Pro in Anchorage

**Large Employer of the Year** - U.S. Army Colonel Donna Boltz of the Fort Richardson Army Post

**Youth Award** - Erin Kelahan, Chugiak High School student

**Carolyn Peter Volunteerism Award** - Amy M. Bumanglag of Palmer

**Chairperson Award** - Brandy "Roxanne" Hoskins, care provider in Fairbanks

**Hewitt Memorial Award** - Kent Ireton, former program coordinator for Blind Services with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

**Removal of Attitudinal Barriers Award** - Randy Miller, supported employment specialist with ALPA in Fairbanks

**Alaskan of the Year Award** - Jerry Kainulainen, coordinator of Southeast Alaska Independent Living

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