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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Sept. 24, 2010

No. 10-58

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2010 Access Conference Set for Sept. 27-30 in Anchorage

JUNEAU, Alaska—Private, non-profit and government organizations are teaming up to focus on the field of access and universal design. Usability is central to the lives and work of all Alaskans and there is an increasing need to coordinate accessibility for the nearly 15 percent of Alaska's population that experiences some physical or mental limitation.

"We have more veterans with disabilities and more senior Alaskans," Labor Commissioner Click Bishop said. "You can't build community without access, and this conference gives people the right tools for the job."

The 2010 Access Conference will be at the Egan Center in Anchorage on Sept. 29-30 with a free preconference on employment access Sept. 27-28. Most conference sessions will be streamed live online and content will be archived for viewing after the conference at www.Alaska.Gov/ADA.

The conference will address how new technologies, tools and standards are reshaping Alaska's communities, providing a comprehensive forum for access, usability and universal design issues – including programs, services, housing, websites, education, transportation, outdoor recreation and buildings.

Preconference sessions will focus on emerging access issues in employment.

"Just about every aspect of what we do is governed by some accessibility standard," said Jason Burke, State Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator and conference organizer. "Access 2010 will provide a forum for policy makers, designers, access experts, and people with disabilities to apply standards in a way that makes sense for everyone."

Awards will be presented for design areas to showcase promising practices. Forums will also be provided for policy makers to understand and address significant access changes. Sessions will help communities and organizations support their ADA coordinators and value their efforts in this complex field.

"Bringing together these diverse groups is what community is all about," said Cheryl Walsh, Director of the Alaska Department of Labor's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. "Universal access helps everyone participate in jobs and services."

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Access 2010 "Alaska's New Frontier"
www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?eventid=873300