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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

February 22, 2017

No. 17-07

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Alaska Workforce Investment Board Recognizes David G. Stone Award Recipients

JUNEAU, Alaska— The Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB), a volunteer board that supports education and training that leads to employment and careers, presents awards each year to K-12 and postsecondary education professionals who have made significant contributions to career and technical education or apprenticeship in Alaska. This year, the AWIB added a new category of recognition. The Employer of the Year Award recognizes a private sector employer whose efforts and initiatives have had an extraordinary impact on the community.

The awards are named for David G. Stone, a former Deputy Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development and long-time vice-chair of the AWIB. During his career in public service, Mr. Stone was instrumental in advancing career and technical education and workforce development opportunities for all Alaskans. Since his death in 2012, the awards have carried his name in recognition of his dedication to workforce development and promoting Alaska hire.

“It is important to recognize the role career and technical education plays in Alaska’s economy and education system,” said Larry Bell, Chair of the AWIB. “The recipients of the David G. Stone Awards are providing Alaskans with the skills, training, and confidence necessary to gain meaningful careers across the many industries that are essential to Alaska.”

This year’s award recipients are:

David G. Stone K-12 Career and Technical Education Instructor/Administrator of the Year

Adrienne Voss, a school nurse, teaches the Personal Care Attendant (PCA) curriculum at King Career Center in Anchorage, and is a trainer for Alaska Core Competencies, a training program tailored specifically to direct service providers in health and human services fields. With creativity and innovation, Ms. Voss has been able to enhance her PCA curriculum with the Alaska Core Competencies content, allowing her program graduates to receive recognized training that builds their resumes.

David G. Stone Postsecondary Career and Technical Education Instructor/Administrator of the Year

Wendell Whistler is the Apprentice Coordinator at the Kornfeind Training Center, a labor-management electrical apprenticeship training center in Fairbanks. Mr. Whistler is dedicated to the awareness and improvement of career and technical education in his community. He has provided training opportunities to many Alaskans in the electrical industry and has increased the number apprenticeships in underrepresented and hard to serve populations.

David G. Stone Employer of the Year

Kaladi Brothers Coffee has invested time, money, and energy in a partnership working with the diverse, high-risk youth population at McLaughlin Youth Center. What began as a paid vendor training evolved to Kaladi Brothers donating their training services for free. Volunteers share their expertise and support, including attendance at award ceremonies for the youth engaged in the program. Many youth participating in the training obtain barista positions in the facility as well as with other employers in the community.

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