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March 12, 2025

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Alaska Workforce Alliance Advances Workforce Plan with DOL, Industry and Statewide Partners

Public-private collaboration moves from planning to action

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – Following the release of *Alaska’s Workforce Future*, the **Alaska Safety Alliance (ASA)** is proud to announce the next phase of action by introducing the **Alaska Workforce Alliance (AWA)**—a dedicated initiative to drive implementation efforts in partnership with the **Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development (DOLWD)**, the **Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB)**, and industry leaders.

The development of *Alaska’s Workforce Future* was made possible through initial funding from the **Denali Commission**, along with contributions from ASA and DOLWD. Through a statewide task force and cross-industry collaboration, ASA helped shape a plan that identifies key workforce challenges, sets strategic goals, and provides a framework for action. The result is a roadmap to strengthen education and training opportunities, enhance career pathways, and ensure more Alaskans are prepared for quality jobs in the state.

“The Alaska Workforce Alliance will be instrumental in transforming this vision into real opportunities,” said AWA Executive Director Mari Selle. “By establishing systems that can support collaboration between industry, educators, and communities, we can create lasting workforce solutions that connect Alaskans with meaningful careers, support businesses, and drive economic growth across the state.”

With *Alaska’s Workforce Future* finalized, AWA is moving into action, working with state agencies, industry partners, and workforce organizations to implement strategies that address Alaska’s workforce challenges. Priorities for 2025 include launching initiatives that expand career awareness, improve access to workforce data, and strengthen employer-led training programs. AWA will also support efforts to retain Alaskans in the workforce, attract skilled workers to the state, and connect employers with all available talent pools, including rural communities and legal immigrant workers.

One of AWA’s early focus areas will be the development of a statewide workforce information hub to help employers, educators, and policymakers make informed decisions about labor market trends and training needs. Additional efforts will include collaborations with industry partners to promote high-demand career opportunities and launch new or expanded workforce programs designed to address skills gaps in key sectors.

“Employers throughout Alaska have been heavily involved in shaping this plan from the beginning, and our engagement doesn’t stop there,” said José Owens of American Marine Corporation, an Alaska Workforce Alliance Industry Advisory Committee member. “With its strong network and expertise, AWA provides an efficient way for businesses to stay engaged in workforce development without navigating complex systems. Workforce challenges impact every industry – investing in this effort today means building the skilled workforce businesses need for long-term success.

AWA will continue working closely with DOLWD, AWIB, employers, and private sector partners to ensure workforce initiatives remain adaptable, responsive, and aligned with the needs of businesses and job seekers. The collaborative approach behind *Alaska’s Workforce Future* reflects the shared commitment to strengthening the state’s economy through workforce development.

For more information about AWA and the next steps in implementing *Alaska’s Workforce Future*, visit www.alaskaworkforcealliance.org