



Press Release
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Kathryn Abbott Takes the Helm at Serve Alaska

December 19, 2016 ANCHORAGE – Serve Alaska welcomes Kathryn Abbott as its new executive director. Ms. Abbott will fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Paula Pawlowski. Ms. Abbott comes to Serve Alaska from the United Way of Anchorage where she served as a senior manager for the Education Impacts Partnerships team. She has also acted as a Serve Alaska commission member since March 2013. With almost a decade of professional experience in the field of volunteerism and national service, Ms. Abbott is passionate about developing partnerships to create innovative solutions for Alaska.

“Our deepest gratitude goes to Paula Pawlowski for her years of service as the executive director of Serve Alaska,” said Deputy Commissioner Fred Parady. “Paula can rest assured in her retirement that the program will continue to thrive under Ms. Abbott’s leadership.”

Serve Alaska seeks to foster the ethic of service and volunteerism among Alaskans to build healthy communities. Serve Alaska is the largest single vehicle for channeling federal resources for national and community service in in the state. Serve Alaska is funded through the Corporation for National and Community Service in partnership with the State of Alaska. The program’s funds are used to help recruit, train and mobilize AmeriCorps members to address locally identified needs. Serve Alaska sub-grantees operate in almost every region of the state, bringing much needed support and training to rural and urban Alaska. Serve Alaska is overseen by volunteer commissioners appointed by the governor to three-year terms. The commission is served by two staff—the executive director and a program coordinator.

Serve Alaska is administered by the Division of Community and Regional Affairs (DCRA). DCRA is a division that advises and assists local governments within the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED). DCCED is tasked with promoting a healthy economy, supporting strong communities, and protecting consumers in Alaska. For additional information about the Division of Community and Regional Affairs, visit commerce.alaska.gov/web/dcra. For information about the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development and its other agencies, visit commerce.alaska.gov.

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