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Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
No. 17-011

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Economic Development Week Underscores Ways to Increase the Resiliency of Alaska's Economy

May 4, 2017 ANCHORAGE – Alaska will join communities around the world in recognizing the importance of economic development from May 8 through 13, 2017 during the second annual Economic Development Week. The week highlights well-managed economic development programs that create wealth through investment and reinvestment in the community.

This year, Alaska's Economic Development Week events will feature the five-year statewide economic development strategy, [Northern Opportunity: Alaska's Economic Strategy](#), which was crafted over the past eight months. A draft of the strategy will be released for public comment during Economic Development Week. By cultivating a robust business climate, strengthening economic development initiatives that create jobs and investment, and positioning Alaska to thrive in the global economy, the economic future of communities across the state can be more sustainable and resilient.

Additionally, until May 15, the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development is accepting nominations for the [Manufacturer of the Year](#) award. Nominees must be a current [Made in Alaska](#) permit holder exemplifying the high quality products made, manufactured, or handcrafted in Alaska. Nominees should demonstrate hard work, business growth, job creation, innovation, and community spirit.

2017 Economic Development Week events include—

- [Anchorage Chamber of Commerce "Make it Monday" Forum](#)
Hosted by the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce
Monday, May 8 from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m.
Dena'ina Center (600 W. 7th Ave, Anchorage)
\$30 members, \$35 non-members, \$15 students; register online or purchase tickets at door
Britteny Cioni-Haywood (State of Alaska, Division of Economic Development Director) and Ethan Tyler (State of Alaska, Economic Development Manager) will discuss the draft of the five-year comprehensive economic development strategy. Hear about the plan and how you can provide your thoughts on Alaska's economic path forward.
- [World Trade Center "Meet and Brief" Luncheon](#)
Hosted by the World Trade Center Anchorage
Wednesday, May 10 from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m.
Sullivan's Steakhouse (320 W. 5th Ave #100, Anchorage)
\$40 members, \$45 non-members; register online or purchase tickets at the door

Ethan Tyler (State of Alaska, Economic Development Manager) will summarize the draft statewide economic development strategy. He will also provide details regarding how to submit comments on the priorities and goals set forth in the plan.

- **[Funding Economic Development Training](#)**

Hosted by the University of Alaska Center for Economic Development

Thursday, May 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

UAA Gorsuch Commons, Room 107 (3700 Sharon Gagnon Lane, Anchorage)

\$100; pre-registration recommended

The one-day seminar will discuss multiple avenues for financing economic development projects as well as sustaining organizations. Topics will include fees for service, membership and sponsorship, federal grants, foundations, and lending. The format will be discussion based and will feature guest speakers.

- **[Alaska Regional Development Organizations Annual Meeting](#)**

Hosted by the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

Friday, May 12 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon

Atwood Conference Center, Room 106 (550 W. 7th Ave, Anchorage)

For more information contact Ethan Tyler, Development Manager at ethan.tyler@alaska.gov

Alaska Regional Development Organizations (ARDOR) champion economic development planning for regions and communities across Alaska. The annual meeting is an opportunity for ARDOR representatives to come together to discuss economic development in their regions, learn from one another, and receive an update on statewide issues.

- **[Innovate Arctic](#)**

Hosted by the Alaska Arctic Council Host Committee as part of the [North by North Festival](#)

Friday, May 12 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Anchorage Museum (625 C Street, Anchorage)

\$95, pre-registration encouraged

Innovate Arctic is a full day of TEDx-style talks, interactive exhibits, and topic-driven break-out sessions on Arctic topics including cold climate housing, northern agriculture, tourism, renewable energy, telecommunications, and education. Join the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development in the gold track during the morning session to learn about raising equity for your Alaska business through crowdfunding.

Housed within Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, the Division of Economic Development supports the growth and diversification of Alaska's economy through business assistance, financing and promotion. The Division of Economic Development works closely with the private sector and other state agencies. For additional information about the division, visit commerce.alaska.gov/web/DED. For more information about the department and its other agencies, please visit commerce.alaska.gov.

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