



MEDIA ADVISORY

AFN Launches New Initiative to Fight Rural Poverty *Impressive Private & Public Partners Investing in Alaska Marketplace*

WHAT: *Alaska Marketplace Launch*

WHEN: **Friday, October 21, 2005 at 11:20a.m.**

WHERE: **AFN Convention 2005, Carlson Center, 2010 2nd Ave., Fairbanks**
Alaska Marketplace Launch in the Main Convention Hall, Carlson Center
Press Briefing to follow in the North Star Room, Carlson Center

WHO: Initiated by the Denali Commission, *Alaska Marketplace* is supported by a growing list of inaugural partners, including the State of Alaska, Alaska Federation of Natives, Alaska Growth Capital, Alaska Manufacturing Extension Partnership, Alaska Village Initiatives, BP, College of Rural Alaska UAF, ConocoPhillips Alaska, and the Telecommunications Development Fund.

QUOTE: “All kinds of folks have tried many different strategies to stimulate rural Alaska economies, but the *Alaska Marketplace* is based on a successful model that’s worked in countries around the globe facing similar poverty and unemployment challenges that we’re facing here.” -- AFN President Julie Kitka

Alaska Marketplace is an initiative to spur economic development in rural Alaska by soliciting creative ideas from entrepreneurs across the state in an ‘innovation competition.’ The application period opens Friday and runs to December 15, 2005. A diverse panel of jurors from various sectors of the Alaska economy will evaluate proposals from across the state. Cash investments will be awarded to the top proposals in April 2006. The *Alaska Marketplace* website will launch on Friday as well, which contains specific details about the competition. On Friday, visit www.alaskamarketplace.org to learn more about this exciting new initiative.

CONTACTS: Kathleen Russell: 415-459-9211, ext. 28 or 415-250-1180 cell
John Tetpon: 907-229-0899 cell

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