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The Official Denali Commission Newsletter



## A Message from Federal Co-Chair *George Canelos*

### Dear Friends of the Denali Commission,

#### ***Lu Young:***

On behalf of the Commissioners and staff at the Denali Commission, we extend our deepest sympathies to Congressman Don Young and the entire Young family at the passing of Lu Young. She will be missed as a wonderful advocate for all Alaskans. On a personal note, I will miss Lu's warmth and kindness that she always gave during my visits to Congressman Young's office.



#### ***FY10 Denali Commission Funding***

This will be a challenging year for Commission funding. Thanks go to Senator Lisa Murkowski and her staff for championing our Health Facilities and Training Programs during a difficult funding environment in Congress. We should know final numbers for all our programs by the end of September.

#### ***President Obama's Listening Tour of Rural America***

Senator Mark Begich led four cabinet secretaries – Agriculture, Education, Energy and Housing & Urban Development on a historic visit to Bethel and Hooper Bay as part of the administration's nationwide focus on rural America. The secretaries were surprised by the extent of third-world conditions – Hooper Bay is the largest community in the United States without a piped water/sewer system, for example – but also by the eloquence and civility of the discussions offered by everyone they encountered. Please see our website for updated briefing material we provided Senator Begich's office for this visit.

#### ***Denali Commission project openings and community visits:***

Several years of planning, design and hard work have come

### August 2009

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

**August 22, 2009** - Chena Hot Springs Resort is holding the *4th Annual Chena Renewable Energy Fair*. See their [website](#) for details on this event.

**August 27, 2009** – The *Denali Commission Training Advisory Committee* will meet. See our [website](#) for details and an [agenda](#) . For more information contact [Ms. Adison Smith](#).

**August 29 – September 1, 2009** – The [National Association of Development Organizations \(NADO\)](#) will meet at Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers in Chicago, IL.

**September 1 - 3, 2009** - The [Northern Forum 9th General Assesmbly](#) will meet in Whitehorse, Yukon, Candada. See their website for details.

**September 7, 2009** – Denali Commission offices closed in observance of *Labor Day*.

**September 10 – 12, 2009** – The [Institute of the North](#) will hold their Fall Dialogue in Talkeetna, Alaska at the Talkeetna Alaska Lodge.

**September 14 – 16, 2009** – [Philanthropy Northwest](#) will hold their 2009 Annual Conference in Stevenson, Washington.

**September 15-17, 2009** – [Southeast Conference](#) with hold their Annual Meeting in Haines, Alaska at the Karl Ward Gymnasium.

**September 24, 2009** - The Denali

together this summer for many Denali Commission projects. This week I joined leaders in Hooper Bay to open their new sub-regional clinic, and visited the new training campus in Bethel for Yuut elitnaurviat (The People's Learning Center). On August 21st, I'll join village leaders in Kake for the opening of their new clinic.

We've also recently helped open the sub-regional clinic in Chignik Bay, clinics in Akhoik, Goodnews Bay and Pilot Point, expansion of the Community Health Center in Kodiak, elder housing projects in Cooper Landing, Meadow Lakes, Galena and Haines (set for September 3rd). We also helped dedicate a major new hydroelectric project near Skagway at Kasidaya Creek, and inspected new wind turbines and an upgraded power plant under construction in Chevak.

We've also escorted a number of VIP groups to rural Alaska. I joined several program partners from the Federal Highway Administration visiting villages throughout the Yukon-Kuskokwim delta reviewing essential surface and waterfront transportation projects. Next week Denali Commission will facilitate site visits for congressional staff and the state Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to include Kotzebue, Selawik, Noatak, Nome, Teller, Brevig Mission, Unalakleet, Bethel, and Akiak. These transportation-related visits will bring attention to the basic necessities for road improvements and the urgent need for basic waterfront improvements to better connect rural residents through critical waterways.

Educational visits like these are critical to the success of our efforts to partner with organizations across the state to educate policy makers in Washington D.C. on the unique challenges and opportunities facing rural Alaska.

### ***Busy Fall Schedule:***

Watch our calendar for important events coming this fall. Denali Commission staff will be available at the Bristol Bay Energy Summit in Dillingham and the Alaska Federation of Natives annual conference in November, for example. We look forward to seeing you there.

Best Wishes,



George J. Canelos,  
Federal Co-Chair

Commission *Planning Workgroup* will meet at the Denali Commission offices at 10:00 a.m. Watch the [Planning Workgroup web page](#) for an agenda and meeting details.

**September 29, 2009** – The *Denali Commission Energy Advisory Committee* will meet. See our [website](#) for details and an agenda. For more information contact [Ms. Jodi Fondy](#).

**October 8 - 10, 2009** – The [Bristol Bay Native Association](#) will hold the *Bristol Bay Energy Summit* in Dillingham, Alaska. Watch for the Denali Commission booth at this event.

**October 12, 2009** – Denali Commission offices closed in observance of *Columbus Day*.

**October 14, 2009** – The *Denali Commission Health Steering Committee* will meet. Watch our [website](#) for details and agenda. For more information, contact [Ms. Nancy Merriman](#).

**October 21, 2009** - The Denali Commission *Planning Workgroup* will meet at the Denali Commission offices at 10:00 a.m. Watch the [Planning Workgroup web page](#) for an agenda and meeting details.

**October 22 – 24, 2009** - [Alaska Federation of Natives](#) annual conference to be held in Anchorage at the Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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[George Canelos elected President for 2010 of the Alaska Federal Executive Association.](#)

See a recent [Denali Commission Brief](#) on our current activities.

[2009 Distressed/Non-Distressed Communities](#) - Updated Report is posted on our website. See our [home page](#) for details.

[Alaska Clearinghouse](#) at the Denali Commission. Visit our website and learn more.

## **PROGRAM UPDATES**

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See current [updates](#) for all our program areas

on our new [website!](#)

- [Energy](#)
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**Denali Commission**

510 L Street, Suite 410. Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Phone: (907) 271-1414 | Fax: (907) 271-1415 | Toll Free: 1-888-480-4321

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