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## A Message from Federal Co-Chair

*George Cannelos*

**Dear Friends of the Denali Commission,**

### ***Break-up Brings Flooding to Villages***

While many in Alaska have been enjoying an unusually warm spring, the resulting annual "break-up" of ice has caused Alaska's worst flooding in decades. Many villages along the Yukon, Kuskowkim and Koyukuk Rivers have been affected. Governor Palin has issued a disaster declaration for many of these communities.



While communities assess the damage and begin the process of rebuilding, the Denali Commission, with our partners will continue to focus on solutions that have lasting results. Our major energy program partners, the Alaska Village Electrical Cooperative (AVEC) and the Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) report that, except for some temporary service disruptions, all of the Denali Commission funded bulk fuel and power plant systems are unharmed at this time. We will keep you updated on the progress of these communities.

### ***MOU Federal and State Partners Meeting***

The Denali Commission and the State of Alaska hosted a coordination meeting of federal and state agency leaders on May 18th. We covered urgent issues regarding the upcoming 2010 census, the latest demographic trends, recommendations from the State's Immediate Action Workgroup, updates from the Alaska Clearinghouse (see below), updates on the State Energy Plan and Railbelt utility issues.

June 2009

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**June 4 & 5, 2009** – The Denali Commission will hold its next *Quarterly Meeting* on Thursday, June 4, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Friday, June 5, 2009 from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. in Fairbanks, Alaska at the University of Alaska Elvey Building on Koyukuk Drive in the Globe room. Details about the meeting, including an agenda can be found on our [website](#).

**June 15, 2009** - Deadline for proposals [Denali Commission Solid Waste Program](#). See details on this funding on our [home page](#).

**June 17, 2009** – The Denali Commission *Health Steering Committee* will meet at the Denali Commission offices. The agenda and other details will be posted to the Commission [website](#). For more information contact [Ms. Nancy Merriman](#).

**June 25, 2009** - Deadline for the Denali Commission EECBG Match Funding. See our [home page](#) for details on this grant.

**July 3, 2009** – Denali Commission offices closed in observance of *Independence Day*.

**August 1, 2009** – The *Renewable Energy Alaska Project (REAP)* will hold their [5th Annual Renewable Energy Fair](#) in Anchorage, Alaska on the Memorial block at Delaney Park.

The group agreed to reinstate the Sustainable Utilities Workgroup to better coordinate water and sewer improvements with other infrastructure including housing, schools, energy projects and clinics. Meeting notes and all presentations can be found on our [website](#). Thanks to all for participating. The group meets twice yearly with the next formal meeting set for November 17th.

### ***Alaska Clearinghouse Update***

We are a month into the [Alaska Clearinghouse](#) project. This coalition of Denali Commission, the Alaska Federal Executive Association, the Alaska State Legislature, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Rasmuson Foundation has been moving at full speed to get timely information out to individuals and organizations on the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program provides a glimpse into the important coordination work. While this funding is aimed at federally recognized tribes, Native corporations, states and municipalities many recipients are unaware they must apply for the money. And once received, they must follow strict reporting associated with funds received. The Clearinghouse team is providing community outreach and answering questions on this grant process and other projects as they arise. The Clearinghouse continues to use a list serve, Twitter account, and our website, as well as speaking events and office visits to address these issues. Please visit the Alaska Clearinghouse page to learn more. Also see the Denali Commission's EECBG Consolidated [Application](#) Incentive Project funding for this block grant on our [home page](#).

### ***Denali Commission Quarterly Meeting***

We are holding our quarterly meeting in Fairbanks this week. We will be at the University of Alaska in the Elvey Building on June 4th and at various locations in Fairbanks on June 5th. Details and the [agenda](#) can be found on our [website](#). We look forward to seeing everyone in Fairbanks.

### ***Alaska Federal Executive Association***

I'm pleased to report that I was appointed President of the Alaska Federal Executive Association

**August 5, 2009** – Tentative *Denali Commission Energy Advisory Committee* will meet. Watch our website for meeting times and location. Contact Ms. [Jodi Fondy](#) for details on this meeting.

**August 18, 2009** – The *Denali Commission Economic Development Advisory Committee* will meet. Watch our website for meeting times and location. Contact [Ms. Adison Smith](#) for details on this meeting.

**August 19, 2009** - The Denali Commission Planning Workgroup will meet. Watch the Denali Commission's Planning Workgroup [website page](#) for details.

**August 27, 2009** – The *Denali Commission Training Advisory Committee* will meet. Watch our website for meeting times and location. Contact [Ms. Adison Smith](#) for details on this meeting.

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

## **PROGRAM UPDATES**

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We are pleased to announce the launch of our new website. Visit [www.denali.gov](http://www.denali.gov) for all the latest news at the Denali Commission.

**View [Monthly Program Updates](#) to get the latest program activities.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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The [Denali Commission](#) is providing funding to incentivize tribes to coordinate regionally on joint proposals under the Department of Energy's Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) solicitation. Deadline for applications is **June 25, 2009**. See our [home](#)

(AFEA). This dynamic group does great work on behalf of Alaska's 17,700 civilian federal workforce, and I look forward to my service.

***Thank you Colonel Kevin Wilson***

Col. Kevin Wilson of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will relinquish command of the Alaska District to Col. Reinhard "Rhino" Koenig during a ceremony on June 23 at 10 a.m. in front of the district headquarters building.

Col. Wilson has served as district commander since July 14, 2006. His next assignment is in Kandahar, Afghanistan where he will oversee the establishment of a new engineer district to support the buildup of U.S. military forces within the country. In addition, Col. Wilson will be responsible for providing critical infrastructure to surrounding communities and helping to restore economic stability in the region.

I've been thrilled to work with the Colonel, and highly value the relationship between Denali Commission and the Alaska District. On behalf of the Denali Commission staff and Commissioners thank you Col. Wilson for everything you do, and best wishes in your next important assignment.

*I hope everyone has a wonderful summer.*

Best Wishes,



George J. Cannelos,  
Federal Co-Chair

[page](#) for information.

[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.

## **Procurement at Denali Commission**

In our continuing efforts for efficiency at the Commission, we use the Procurement Team at the US Treasury Bureau of Public Debt (BPD) to conduct our major purchasing initiatives. This team of professional acquisition specialists assists us with contract solicitations, awards and administration. Open market requests for quotes or proposals valued over \$25,000 are advertised on the national federal website FedBizOpps at [www.fedbizopps.gov](http://www.fedbizopps.gov)

Upcoming solicitations include:

- None at this time.

To give all potential contractors the same information, all questions about these or other procurement opportunities for the Commission should be directed to: Lisa Gossett or Gina Hanna

at [psb3@bpd.treas.gov](mailto:psb3@bpd.treas.gov)

## **In Focus: Update on the Denali Commission Training Program**

*An Update on the Denali Commission's Training Program by [Karen Johnson](#),  
[Program Manager](#).*

In 1998, the Denali Commission Act was passed by Congress creating an innovative approach to address the infrastructure and economic



challenges in rural Alaska. The creation of the Denali Training fund at the Denali Commission (Commission) soon followed creating a training program with a mission to build a strong rural workforce capable to construct new facilities in their community and maintain and operate it successfully. This unparalleled training initiative has created hundreds of jobs for rural Alaskans.

The Commission's Training Program strives to improve and include local residents in the building and betterment of their communities through job training. The history of the training program confirms that training has been and continues to be delivered to rural areas through established training entities and dedicated partners who are able to carry out the mission and the priorities of the Commission.

- The Commission partners with the State of Alaska Department of Labor (DOL) to reduce redundancy, leverage dollars and ensure that all rural Alaska residents have the same training opportunities.
- To measure the success of the Denali Training Fund (DTF), each participant completes an application that is entered in the state's data system which tracks his or her employability over time. A recent State of Alaska Department of Labor Research & Analysis retroactive report (2000-2007) on the Commission's training program shows the following outcomes: the Denali Training Fund has increased wages of its participants by a staggering 64.4% and shows a 12.1% increase in employment.
- The DTF has had 4,480 participants complete training programs between 2000-2007.
- Over 1,000 individuals have been trained through the allied health initiative and are working across the state in this high growth, high demand area.
- Over 4,000 individuals from rural communities have been trained in construction trades that have directly led to employment in their communities and/or region.
- The DTF has integrated the construction trades apprenticeship model into many of its training initiatives and has enrolled over 355 apprentices in various constructions trades. The DTF rural construction recruitment strategy includes an excellent ratio of woman 21% and minorities 65% (Alaska Natives) entering the construction apprenticeship program.
- Over 1,000 youth access supplementary training programs through the Denali Youth Initiative who gain valuable work experience, career awareness and employability skills that have helped them prosper in Alaska's growing workforce.

Questions about the Denali Commission Training Program, contact [Karen Johnson, Program Manager](#) for the Training Program, or visit the [Training Program](#) section on our website.

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**Denali Commission**

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