

Want to send this email to friends? [Click here to forward it.](#)
Having trouble viewing this email? [See it online.](#)

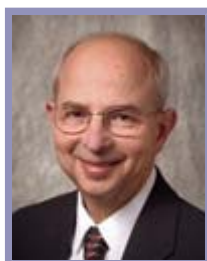


A Message from Federal Co-Chair

George Cannelos

Dear Friends of the Denali Commission,

Season's Greetings!



Our thermometer read 10 degrees below zero on the deck this morning, and the sun should peak over the Chugach Mountains around 10:30 AM for a brief appearance. I'm not complaining, since I know in most of rural Alaska conditions are colder and darker this morning....and energy costs are much higher than here in Anchorage.

Home weatherization programs are one way everyone's working together to combat high energy costs. This year the Alaska Legislature provided \$360 million to the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) for a variety of homeowner energy programs. AHFC's Weatherization Program offers free assessments and weatherization work to upgrade energy efficiency in homes and apartments.

A major limitation for the program is the availability of skilled workers across the state to do both the assessments and needed renovations. AHFC partnered with the Alaska Works Partnership, Inc. (AWP) to help train these needed workers. Denali Commission training funds have paid for most of this training. During the summer, AWP trained 253 people from 54 communities across the state from Aleknagik to Yakutat, and more training is currently underway.

December 2008

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 25 - 26, 2008 – Denali Commission offices closed in observance of *Christmas*.

January 1, 2009 – Denali Commission offices closed in observance of *New Year's Day*.

January 14, 2009 – The Denali Commission *Health Steering Committee* will meet in Anchorage. For more information on the meeting please contact [Ms. Adison Smith](#) at (907)271-1640.

January 15, 2009, 5:00 p.m. – The deadline for the public solicitation for the [Denali Training Fund](#). Contact [Ms. Karen Johnson](#) with any questions at (907) 271-3036.

January 15, 2009 – Deadline for public comment on the [Draft FY09 Denali Commission Work Plan](#). Comments should be directed to [Ms. Tessa Rinner](#), Director of Programs at the Commission.

January 19, 2009 – Denali Commission offices closed in observance of *Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday*.

January 29 - 30, 2009 - The [Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference](#) will hold their annual *Economic Summit and Membership Meeting* in Anchorage at the Hotel Captain Cook.

Thanks for another great year!

On behalf of the Denali Commissioners and staff, we thank all our dedicated program partners and all the outstanding leaders at the regional and local level for their extraordinary commitment to bringing basic community infrastructure to Alaska's towns and villages. And we especially recognize the service and sacrifices of our men and women in uniform and their families. To everyone we offer thoughts of peace and happiness for the coming year.

Best Wishes,



George J. Cannelos,
Federal Co-Chair

February 2 – 6, 2009 – The [Alaska Forum on the Environment](#) will hold their annual conference in Anchorage. The Denali Commission 10 Years of Progress will be part of this year's theme.

February 9, 2009 – The Denali Commission *Energy Advisory Committee* will meet in Anchorage. For more information on the meeting please contact [Ms. Jodi Fondy](#) at (907)271-3011.

February 16, 2009 – The Denali Commission offices will be closed in observance of *Presidents Day*.

February 17, 2009 – The Denali Commission *Economic Development Advisory Committee* will meet in Anchorage. For more information on the meeting please contact [Ms. Adison Smith](#) at (907)271-1640.

March 16, 2009 – The application deadline for the 2009 Denali Commission Summer Internship Program. For further information contact [Ms. Janet Hall](#) at 907-271-4990.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

See [USDA Rural Development's Fiscal Year 2008 Progress Report](#) on our website.

The Inspector General of the Denali Commission has issued a [report](#) on a Commission funded project at Chitina. Find that report under the [Inspector General](#) page of our website.

Happy Birthday Denali Commission!

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

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

Alaska Forum on the Environment - February 2 - 6

This month's highlight focuses on the upcoming [Alaska Forum on the Environment \(AFE\) annual conference](#). At this conference, the Denali Commission (Commission) will take a look back at the progress made in rural Alaska over the past 10 years and the Commission's role in that effort. We will also look toward the future and discuss the needs and challenges yet to be met in rural Alaska.

The Alaska Forum is pleased to announce that the Alaska Forum on the Environment, 2009 will be held February 2-6, 2009 using both the Anchorage Egan Convention Center and the new Dena'ina Center for the event!

This year AFE will offer over [90 technical breakout sessions and 8 sensational Keynote Events](#). For 2009, AFE has expanded their content and partnerships. They will continue to offer a full week of sessions on climate change, energy, environmental regulations, cleanup and remediation, fish & wildlife, solid waste, and much more.

AFE anticipates a record participation for the 2009 event. Please visit their registration page and register today.

[Privacy Statement](#) | Copyright 2008 Denali Commission

Denali Commission

510 L Street, Suite 410. Anchorage, Alaska 99501

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

[Click here to unsubscribe.](#)