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**February 11, 2009**

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## ***Alaska Marketplace* Announces 30 Finalists** **Most Promising Innovators Advance to Finals in May Competition**

ANCHORAGE, AK: Thirty finalists from across Alaska have been selected to advance to the next round of the fourth *Alaska Marketplace* competition, where they will vie for a portion of nearly \$300,000 in award money for Business and/or Idea projects. Last year's highly successful competition awarded over \$300,000 to 11 entrepreneurs with the best ideas for stimulating Alaska's rural economies.

Nineteen assessors from the business, government, nonprofit and education sectors met on Thursday, February 5 to review the 94 eligible Business Idea Applications.

By the January 15 deadline, the *Alaska Marketplace* received 101 Business Idea Applications from across the state. 26% were from YK Delta, 20% from Southcentral Alaska, 14% from Southeast, 11% from the Interior region, 8% from the Chugach/Copper River region, 7% from the Bering Straits region, 5% from both the North Slope/NW Arctic and Bristol Bay Region and 4% from the Aleutian/Kodiak Islands. Comparatively, 60% of applications were submitted by men and 40% by women. Alaska Natives submitted 71% of the applications, and 29% coming in from non-Native Alaskans. Over 75% of the Applications are for "Business - Profit" compared to 25% for "Not-for-Profit Idea".

"The tremendous response we've received from across Alaska further proves that there is a wealth of untapped entrepreneurial potential in our great state," said AFN President Julie Kitka. "We look forward to seeing more of what each of these finalists has to offer at the *Alaska Marketplace* competition at this year's Competition in May."

Finalists have until April 3 to write a more comprehensive business plan with the help of entrepreneurial coaches. Rural residents will be given stipends for their travel to Anchorage for the final competition at ConocoPhillips to be held on May 5, 2009. The finalists will "pitch" their ideas in person to judges, who will choose winners to receive seed money for their ideas. The public is encouraged to attend and cast votes for "People's Choice" Award.

The *Alaska Marketplace* aims to inspire rural Alaska residents to pursue their creative ideas to stimulate economic development by providing monetary awards and business support to winning participants. It is a project of the Alaska Federation of Natives, initiated as part of an ongoing commitment to enhance and promote the cultural, economic and political voice of the Alaska Native community.

The *Alaska Marketplace* is supported by a growing list of partners, including BP, ConocoPhillips, the Denali Commission, Alyeska Pipeline Service Co., Shell, and the Bristol Bay Native Corporation. For more information on the *Alaska Marketplace*, please visit our website at [www.alaskamarketplace.org](http://www.alaskamarketplace.org).

A list of the 2009 *Alaska Marketplace* finalists is attached. Contact information for select finalists is available upon request.

**The Finalists for the Fourth Alaska Federation of Natives/Alaska Marketplace Competition are as follows:**

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Name</b>
Alaska Yukon River Expeditions	Interior	Galena	Shirley Cleaver
<a href="#">Aleutian Peninsula Broadcasting</a>	<a href="#">Aleutian</a>	<a href="#">Sand Point</a>	<a href="#">Kells Hetherington</a>
Birch Water	YK Delta	Pilot Station	Martin Kelly
Bridging Cultures with Crest Art	Southeast	Sitka	Robert Hoffmann
Building Kobuk River Cabins	Northwest Arctic	Kobuk	Eva Sheldon-Mandregan
Cordova Greens	Chugach	Cordova	Ellen Americus
Electric Wave Transport	Cook Inlet	Seldovia	Brian Slover
Fish Scraps to Dog Food - Salmon by Products	Interior - Doyon	Fort Yukon	Johnny Roberts
Fresh Water Seal Watching	Bristol Bay	Iliamna	Bertram Foss
Gwich'in Tribal Heating Alternatives	Interior - Doyon	Fort Yukon	John Hardy
Gwich'in Yukon Flats Fur and Skin Tannery	Interior – Doyon	Fort Yukon	Bentley Solomon
Husky Insulation Wrap	Cook Inlet	Anchorage	Jack Zayon
Igyan Eco Tours	Aleutian	St. Paul	Juliana Zacharof-Wagner
Kanektok River Adventures	YK Delta	Quinhagak	Warren Jones
Kuskokwim River Micro Fish Processing	YK Delta	Bethel	Francis A. Reich
Maserculiq Inc. Habitat/Energy Innovation	YK Delta	Marshall	Chuck Akers
Multi-Business Repair Shop	YK Delta	Kwigillingok	Darrel T. John
Native News Program	Cook Inlet	Anchorage	Phyllis Spencer-Belz
Native Village of Council Cache	Bering Straits	Nome	Katherine Lee
Paddlewheel Generator	Interior-Doyon	Galena	Eric Huntington
Ruby Freezer to Root Cellar	Interior-Doyon	Ruby	Ed Sarten
Rural Electric Vehicle Utilization	Bristol Bay	Dillingham	Michael Golub
Salmon By-Product Utilization	Bristol Bay	Naknek	Izetta Chambers
Shorty's Shop Incinerators	YK Delta	Bethel	David Salzbrun
Snowflake Multimedia	Bering Straits	Nome	Kendra Nichols
The Biomass Bag	Kodiak	Kodiak	Peter J. Olsen
The Dancing Kuspuk	YK Delta	Pilot Station	Cynthia Fancyboy
The Speed Bearing for ATV's	Bristol Bay	Perryville	John Phillips
Wolf Pack Industries – Ecommerce Model	Bering Straits	Unalakleet	Jason Currier
Yukon Winter Transport	Interior – Doyon	Fort Yukon	Nate Endicott