



**Resolution of
the Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development
Supporting the Denali Centennial Climb 2013**

Resolution 01-2013

WHEREAS, in the spring of 2013, on the 100th anniversary of the first successful ascent of Denali (Mt. McKinley), a team comprising bloodline family members will retrace their forefathers' footsteps to commemorate the original team's accomplishment; and

WHEREAS, the original team led by Hudson Stuck and Harry Karstens included Robert Tatum and three Alaska Native youths, Walter Harper, John Fred, and Esaias George; and

WHEREAS, Walter Harper, a 21-year-old Koyukon Indian raised among the Gwich'in in Fort Yukon, being the first to reach the summit; and

WHEREAS, John Fred, later named John Fredson, a Gwich'in Indian then age 16, was base camp manager and cared for the dog team for the duration of the climb (30-plus days) while hunting at altitude for sheep and caribou to provision the expedition; and

WHEREAS, Esaias George, a Gwich'in Indian then age 14, left the climbing team after establishing base camp and drove one of the two dog teams back to Nenana before spring break-up by himself; and

WHEREAS, the Denali Centennial Climb provides an opportunity to inspire all Alaskans and Alaska Native children in particular by celebrating Athabaskan youths while educating the state about the accomplishments of the original climbing team; and

WHEREAS, the Denali Centennial Climb will provide opportunities free to the public through social networking, webisodes, and live broadcasts to educate the public about history, geography, indigenous culture, and fitness;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the State Board of Education & Early Development heartily supports the Denali Centennial Climb and the educational opportunity it represents.


Jim Merriner, Chair

Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development

1/28/2013
Date