

Les Morse
Acting Commissioner
P.O. Box 110500
Juneau, AK 99811-0500
www.eed.state.ak.us



Eric Fry
Information Officer
907.465.2851
cell: 907.321.5564
eric.fry@alaska.gov

Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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Contest Promotes Use of Technology in the Classroom

JUNEAU – Alaskans will be able to vote on the best examples of using technology to help children learn, in the Artifacts for Alaskans by Alaskans competition.

The Alaska Department of Education & Early Development has invited the state's teachers to submit lessons that are delivered through technology. Artifacts are uploaded onto a web site as podcasts, webcasts, slide presentations, videos or texts.

These artifacts are evidence of a technology-enhanced learning opportunity used in an Alaska school. State award-winning artifacts will be placed in a permanent database for other teachers to use in their classrooms.

Awards will be given to teachers who show the value of innovation as identified on a 5-point rating scale tied to national technology standards. Alaskans who log onto www.aklearn.net/artifact can see the submissions and learn how to score them.

The competition opened on January 4. The deadline for scoring is midnight February 4. Awards will be issued at the school level, district level and state level by February 7. State-level winners will receive a grant of \$10,000 to buy technology for their school and funds to attend the Alaska Society for Technology in Education conference.

The competition is funded by federal education technology funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Such funds also are distributed to Alaska's school districts according to a formula and through competitive grants.

"In today's educational system, we recognize the need to reach students in relevant, meaningful ways," said Roxanne Mourant, the state technology coordinator for the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development. "Technology provides tools that help teachers be more effective. Alaska's geographic challenges can be overcome through the use of effective technology integration. This competition will help identify

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those role models that are successful, as Alaska’s shining stars, and help encourage and replicate better ways to reach our students.”

For more information, contact Roxanne Maurant at 907-465-8578 or Roxanne.maurant@alaska.gov.

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