FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 15, 2012

Chris Simon Named Rural Education Coordinator

JUNEAU – Christopher Simon of Huslia has been named Rural Education Coordinator at the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development, effective August 16.

Simon has served as principal of the Jimmy Huntington School in Huslia since 2010. Prior to that, Simon was superintendent of the Yukon-Koyukuk School District for seven years, dean of students at the Nenana City Schools, executive director of administrative services for the Yukon-Koyukuk School District, principal in Huslia and Hughes, and a counselor in Nenana.

Simon holds a bachelor's degree in secondary education and a master's degree in education leadership from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He holds a post-graduate certificate in educational leadership from the University of Alaska Anchorage.

Simon's duties as Rural Education Coordinator include improving the department's outreach to rural communities and Native organizations, promoting the Governor's education priorities to prepare students for college and job-training success, building a rapport with legislators, and identifying innovative ways to improve the delivery of education in rural Alaska.

"Mr. Simon's background and strong leadership in rural Alaska will be an asset to the department and Alaskan students," said Alaska Education Commissioner Mike Hanley. "He has a strong understanding of the educational needs and challenges our small communities face."

"It is an honor and privilege to be selected as the Rural Education Coordinator," said Chris Simon. "With my education and experience, I hope to give the young people from rural Alaska opportunities to achieve their dreams."

Simon replaces Phyllis Carlson, who has been named the department's coordinator of the Parents as Teachers Program, a parent-education and family-support program serving families with children prenatal up to 5 years of age.

Simon's appointment is subject to approval from the State Board of Education & Early Development.

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