

Media Release To All Alaska Media Outlets

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Master PYLI Trainer Points of Light Foundation

Friends of ALASKA PYLI

561-6630

37 Alaskan Youth Decide To Change The World !

(Anchorage)

The 9th annual Alaska Points of Light Youth Leadership Institute was conducted June 16-20, 2006. 37 Alaskan youth ages 13-21 spent 5 full days learning about team communication, personal assessment, community assessment, problem statement skills, mapping community problems and resources, examining causes of problems, creativity skills, effective decision making, personal goal setting, project planning and organizing, managing a project for quality, national and community service learning, exploring diversity and creative leadership 101.

Students from Anchorage, Palmer, Wasilla, Kenai, Soldotna, and Kodiak participated in the five day training at the Carlquist Conference Center near Mirror Lake. The last day of the PYLI training was spent in Anchorage staying at the First CME Church organizing and preparing for 2 service projects on Tuesday, June 20. PYLI students worked in service teams for two hours under the direction of Anchorage Parks & Recreation Volunteer Coordinator, Nancy Beardsley, to revitalize David Green Park through cleaning and greening activities in the playground areas, flower beds, picnic shelter, parking areas, and other public areas. In the afternoon, PYLI students walked to the Northern Lights School where Camp Providence conducts its day camp for 120 children. Under the direction of Camp Coordinator, Anita Leamy, PYLI students worked in teams to engage children in team work and trust building activities designed to help them have fun while learning to work cooperatively with others.

The 9 PYLI graduate assistants and 28 PYLI student participants completed the 50 hour community leadership and service training program at 5:00 p.m. on Monday. After the PYLI training, students return to their schools and communities to apply their leadership skills and are

asked to perform 10 hours of volunteer service to improve their community. Upon returning to school in the Fall, the June PYLI Class will draw attention to and perform volunteer service during the week starting Monday, September 11, a national day of service, which marks the 5th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C. Those completing their 10 hours of volunteer service will graduate from PYLI on October 28, National Make A Difference Day.

Alaska PYLI supports the national Prudential Spirit of Community Initiative which is a national strategy to help rekindle America's community spirit by encouraging young people to become actively involved in making their communities better places to live. PYLI is sponsored locally by Prudential Jack White Vista Real Estate, Alaska businesses and community organizations,

in partnership with Friends of ALASKA PYLI and the Points of Light Foundation. For more information on the 9 year old Alaska Points of Light Youth

Leadership Institute program which has now trained more than 600 Alaskan youth and adults, please call 561-6630 and visit www.PYLI.org

Participating Students

1. Leilani Brooks Skyview High School Soldotna
2. Eleen Choi Robert Service High School Anchorage
3. Casey Coupchiak Kenai High School Kenai
4. John Cummings Valley Pathways High School Palmer
5. Emmanuel Everett East Anchorage High School Anchorage
6. Marc Ewing East Anchorage High School Anchorage
7. Sofia A. Fouquet Colony High School Palmer
8. Dirkston Gonzales Robert Service High School Anchorage
9. Michelle Kanosh Wasilla High School Wasilla
10. Christine H. Kim Robert Service High School Anchorage
11. Alexis Marie Krell Colony High School Wasilla
12. Michael Lambert East Anchorage High School Anchorage
13. Marquee Lucas Skyview High School Soldotna
14. Tyler E. Mabrey Kenai High School Kenai
15. Lee Ann Magiera Kenai High School Kenai
16. Slade Martin West Anchorage High School Anchorage
17. Clifford Olson Anchorage Trade Skills Center Anchorage
18. Claire Perry A. J. Dimond High School Anchorage
19. Lena Pietrusiewicz Robert Service High School Anchorage
20. Shelby Pruitt Kodiak High School Kodiak
21. Kirsten R. Rassler Raven Correspondence School Anchorage
22. Rebecca L. Rassler Raven Correspondence School Anchorage

23. Jessica Gracie Raymond East Anchorage S-W-S High School Anchorage
24. Cassandra Romig South Anchorage High School Anchorage
25. Travis J. Rouse Bartlett High School Anchorage
26. Jessica Samskar Kenai High School Kenai
27. Lee Soriano East Anchorage High School Anchorage
28. Jessica Walker Ninestar AmeriCorps
29. Chris Cuellar University of Alaska Anchorage Anchorage
30. Stephanie Eldred Robert Service High School Anchorage
31. Sarah Gannon Colony High School Wasilla
32. Whitney Rines Bartlett High School Anchorage
33. Jennifer Spence East Anchorage High School Anchorage
34. Karl Wing University of Alaska Anchorage Anchorage
35. Ophelia Yan Willamette University Anchorage
36. Taura Mills Colony High School Wasilla
37. Latoya Barrett University of Alaska Fairbanks Anchorage

More about PYLI and Friends of ALASKA PYLI.

PYLI provides young people with encouragement, peer networks, and leadership skills they can use to make meaningful, life-long contributions to their communities. By attending the 5-day Institute, youth learn everything needed to perform high quality service projects and to become community leaders and positive change agents. Youth also become part of an Alaska state network and national network of young service leaders who are attending the Institute in communities across the country and throughout the world.

For more information please visit www.pyli.org
Additional information on ALASKA PYLI is available at
http://prudentialjackwhitevista.com/Points_of_Light_Institute/

Contact us at 907-561-6630 or e-mail alaskayouthasresources@alaska.net