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## Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Alaska Regional Development Organizations (ARDORS) recognized**

(ANCHORAGE) The State's Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development recently recognized the 12 regional development organizations for their efforts in addressing economic challenges and working toward a healthy, vibrant state economy.

The Alaska Regional Development Organizations (ARDORs), funded through the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) and administered by the State of Alaska's Office of Economic Development, deliver a variety of region-specific assistance and expertise designed to enhance economic opportunity around the state.

The ARDOR system was set up by Alaska Statute 44.33.895, which established a partnership between the state and autonomous regional economic development offices for the purpose of fostering sustainable, stronger, and healthier regional economies.

"The ARDORs play a critical role, as we work together, in addressing the economic challenges that are compounded by Alaska's regional diversity," said Joe Austerman, director of the state Office of Economic Development.

Individual ARDORs were honored for their own regional work. The Northwest Arctic Borough Economic Development Commission was recognized for its e-commerce program selling Native art through the Sulianich Arts Center in Kotzebue, and the Bering Strait Development Council was recognized for educating and promoting financial literacy throughout their region. The Prince William Sound Economic Development District was recognized for its work in historical preservation in the Whittier museum, while the Fairbanks North Star Borough Economic Development Commission received recognition for its renewable resource development program.



Additionally, six ARDORs were recognized for promoting regional tourism.

All 12 ARDORs also received joint recognition for collaboration and unity for coming together in a nonprofit corporation, the Alaska Partnership for Economic Development.

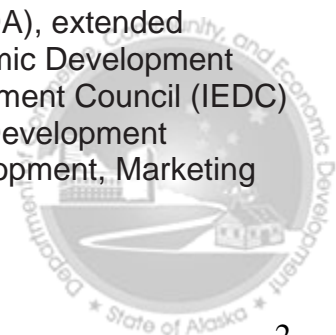
For more information on the ARDOR program, visit <http://alaskapartnership.org/> or <http://commerce.alaska.gov/oed/ardor/ardor.htm> on the web.

In their individual efforts to further serve the regions they represent. Because of their unity, coordinated regional efforts and leadership, the U.S. Economic Development Administration and the State of Alaska, Office of Economic Development felt these accomplishments should be recognized.

- E-commerce Program
  - Northwest Arctic Borough Economic Development Commission
- Education Program/ – Financial Literacy
  - Bering Strait Development Council
- Historical Preservation
  - Prince William Sound Economic Development District
- Renewable Resource Development
  - Fairbanks North Star Borough Economic Development Commission
- Regional Tourism
  - Bering Strait Development Council
  - Cooper Valley Development Association
  - Lower Kuskokwim Economic Development Council
  - Prince William Sound Economic Development District
  - Southeast Conference
  - Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference



In 2007, the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), extended funding which enabled the State of Alaska's Office of Economic Development (OED), to provide additional International Economic Development Council (IEDC) training through the University Alaska Center for Economic Development (UACED). These courses range from Basic Economic Development, Marketing and Retention, to Strategic Planning.



Twelve ARDOR regions recognized for “Collaboration and Unity” award were:

- Anchorage Economic Development Corporation
- Bering Strait Development Council
- Cooper Valley Development Association
- Fairbanks North Star Borough Economic Development Commission
- Interior Rivers Resource Conservation and Development Council
- Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District
- Lower Kuskokwim Economic Development Council
- Mat-Su Resource Conservation and Development, Inc.
- Northwest Arctic Borough Economic Development Commission
- Prince William Sound Economic Development District
- Southeast Conference
- Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference

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