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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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Contact: Mary Katzke, #269-8100

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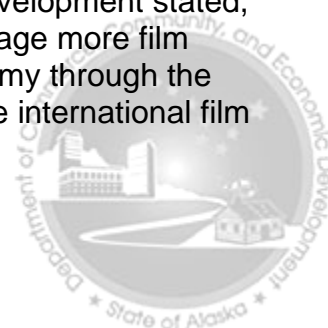
State Film Office announces opening

(Anchorage, AK) – The State of Alaska's Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development is pleased to announce the opening of the Alaska Film Office. The film office was re-established by SB 230 sponsored by Senator Johnny Ellis and signed by Governor Sarah Palin last summer.

The purpose of the office is to expand film production in Alaska, develop infrastructure support, and provide liaison support for a new incentives program. Alaska's incentive program offers an aggressive transferable tax credit incentive that ranges from 30 – 44% of qualifying production expenses incurred in the state. Projected economic activity generated by the incentive program will impact Alaskans across the state in diverse businesses ranging from hotels, car rental agencies, and restaurants to local film crews, writers and talent. Internships and workshops to develop direct skill sets needed in film production are planned. Currently, there are pre-approved productions with over \$5,000,000 in Alaska planned for 2009.

Ms. Mary Katzke has been selected to develop the film office. Ms. Katzke is a veteran Alaskan producer with diverse industry experience. She has produced over 30 documentary films, three feature films and holds an MFA from New York University in Film. She has served as an adjunct professor at both APU and UAA and holds numerous national awards for her film work.

Joe Austerman, Director of the Office of Economic Development stated, "The film program is an aggressive initiative to encourage more film production in Alaska and to diversify the state's economy through the development of a new industry. The response from the international film community has been very impressive."



As a kick-off to launch the new office, a “Set in Alaska” Screenwriting Competition will be held. Entries will be judged by industry professionals. Along with prizes contributed from local businesses, qualifying works will be available to industry professionals looking for stories set in Alaska. Categories will range from feature films to television series in several genres. For writers new to the screenplay format, a community workshop will be held this spring. To register, call 269-8100. For details please log on to <http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/oed/film/home.cfm>

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