



DEPARTMENT OF  
**COMMERCE**  
COMMUNITY AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
Office of the Commissioner

*Frank H. Murkowski, Governor*  
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NEWS RELEASE

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**Two Alaskan youth selected for the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards**

Alaska State Community Service Commission and the Department of Commerce congratulates Hannah Watkins of Kenai Central High school and Sophie Wiepking-Brown of Romig Middle school. These outstanding young people have been selected as this year's top youth volunteers in Alaska for the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

As Alaska State Honorees, each will receive a \$1,000 award, an engraved silver medallion and a trip to Washington D.C. on May 6-9 for the program's national recognition events in Washington D.C.

At the national event, U.S. Senators Tim Johnson and Saxby Chambliss will select ten of the nation's statewide award recipients to be named Youth Volunteer for 2006. The National Youth Volunteer winners will receive an additional \$5,000 and be given a \$5,000 grant from the Prudential Foundation to go to a charitable organizations of their choice.

Other Alaska finalists include Tatiana Butler of Kenai and Maria Geary-Brautigian of Wasilla. The two were named Distinguished Finalists and will receive bronze medallions.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, created in 1995 by the Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), are designed to emphasize the importance our nation places on service to others, and to encourage youth Americans of all backgrounds to contribute to their communities.

To learn more about Alaska's outstanding youth and their service in their communities go to the Alaska State Community Service Commission web page at [www.commerce.state.ak.us/ascs/home.htm](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/ascs/home.htm)

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