

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

March 24, 2009

### **39 Anchorage Youth Attend Alaska Points of Light Institute**

(Anchorage)

39 Anchorage 8-12 grade students spent their Spring Break learning the skills of volunteer service and leadership by attending the 2009 Alaska Points of Light Youth Leadership Training part of Prudential's national Spirit of Community Initiative at the Rural Alaska Community Action Program in Anchorage.

Youth from 8 different schools committed their entire week to learning about service-learning, community problems and solutions, teamwork, project planning and organizing, goal setting, creativity and other leadership skills to help their schools and the community. Students are celebrating the 50th anniversary of Alaska Statehood by performing 50 hours of volunteer service to help others in their communities. They are each performing meaningful service in their schools and community and will graduate April 25, National Youth Service Day, at Prudential's 10th annual Spirit of Community Student Volunteer Service Recognition Ceremony from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Prudential Centerpoint Building in Anchorage.

Sponsored by Prudential, Points of Light & Hands On Network, Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals, Key Bank, Municipal Light & Power, Red Cross of Alaska, Tastee Freeze at Jewel Lake and other Alaska community service organizations, Alaska Points of Light Youth Leadership Institute trains young people to be community leaders through a state of the art creative leadership curriculum emphasizing volunteer service and personal development supporting the Prudential Spirit of Community Initiative. Since 1995, Prudential has encouraged hundreds of thousands of young people to become actively involved in their community. Learn more at [www.prudential.com/spirit](http://www.prudential.com/spirit)

Alaska PYLI also support's President Obama's National Agenda for Service ([www.whitehouse.org/agenda/service](http://www.whitehouse.org/agenda/service)) helping every middle and high school student in the nation perform 50 hours of volunteer service.

To learn more go to [www.pyli.org](http://www.pyli.org) and call Beau Bassett at 561-6630 or email [alaskayouthasresources@alaska.net](mailto:alaskayouthasresources@alaska.net)

Alaska Points of Light Youth Leadership Institute March 9-13, 2009  
Rural Alaska Community Action Program  
Anchorage, Alaska

### **PYLI Institute Staff:**

Beau Bassett PYLI Master Trainer [alaskayouthasresources@alaska.net](mailto:alaskayouthasresources@alaska.net)  
Inuuarq Edwardsen PYLI Trainer Barrow, Alaska  
Paul Kelson PYLI Trainer  
Jessica Milligan PYLI Trainer - RurAL CAP Americorps - Slana, Alaska  
Amy Flaherty RurAL CAP Youth Program Coordinator  
Tiffany Chenery PYLI Graduate - UAA Student - ARC of Anchorage Employee  
Aaron Green PYLI Graduate - East Anchorage High School Student

### **PYLI Community Panel**

Nancy Beardsley Volunteer Coordinator - Anchorage Parks & Recreation  
Kelly Hurd Development Director - Red Cross of Alaska  
Mary Kearns Probation Officer - Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice  
Paul Honeman Anchorage Police Department Retired  
Amy Flaherty Youth Program Coordinator - RurAL CAP  
Cheryl Forest Headstart Nutritionist - RurAL CAP  
Karl Wing Student Body President - University of Alaska Anchorage  
Barb Angaiak President - NEA-Alaska

### **Student Participants**

Aaron Green (East Anchorage High School) PYLI Graduate Assistant  
Danielle Caldwell (East Anchorage High School)  
Juleesa B. Caldwell (East Anchorage High School)  
Ariel Chang (East Anchorage High School)  
Benjamin Chang (Polaris K-12 School)  
Matthew Chenery (East Anchorage High School)  
Alexis Joy Cobb (A.J. Dimond High School)  
Sean Crafts (South Anchorage High School)  
Andrew Crawford (East Anchorage High School)  
Hiro Fujita (Robert Service High School)  
Richard Haar (East Anchorage High School)  
Kelsey Hernandez (Hanshew Middle School)  
Kent Hunter (East Anchorage High School)  
Tara Ingram (South Anchorage High School)  
Karyeung Jennifer Kim (Robert Service High School)  
Susie Kim (Robert Service High School)  
Teppei Kono (A. J. Dimond High School)  
Elizabeth Kubitz (West Anchorage High School)  
Edward Lee (Robert Service High School)  
Maria Lee (East Anchorage High School)  
Adrian "AJ" Levi (Bartlett High School)  
Bau Lo (East Anchorage High School)  
Tomas Moore (East Anchorage High School)

Emily Olsen	(A. J. Dimond High School)
Bria Reser	(Bartlett High School)
Sela Reser	(Bartlett High School)
Joanne Sakar	(East Anchorage High School)
Tida Sawaneh	(Bartlett High School)
Kathryn Schmidt	(A. J. Dimond High School)
Miles Scott	(East Anchorage High School)
Michelle Sison	(A. J. Dimond High School)
Sunny So	(East Anchorage High School)
Kimly Sonekhiao	(East Anchorage High School)
Chee Thao	(West Anchorage High School)
Ker Thao	(West Anchorage High School)
Kara Westdahl	(Robert Service High School)
Debora Yoon	(Robert Service High School)
Gun Yoon	(South Anchorage High School)
Jean Yoon	(South Anchorage High School)

### **Anchorage School Representation**

Bartlett (4), East (15), Dimond (5), Hanshew (1), Polaris (1), Service (6), South (4), West (3)

**Total 39**