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Alaska Chamber Announces 2024 Premier Business Award recipients demonstrate significant accomplishments and contributions to statewide economy

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — The Alaska Chamber will honor individuals and businesses for significant accomplishments and contributions to the statewide economy at this year's Alaska Business Summit on Oct. 9, 2024, in Fairbanks.

The 2024 Premier Business Award recipients are:

Bill Bivin Small Business of the Year: **Northern Industrial Training, LLC**

Rita Sholton Large Business of the Year: **Trident Seafoods**

Local Chamber of the Year: **Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce**

Ted Stevens Public Service Award: **Jeannie Monk**

William A. Egan Outstanding Alaskan of the Year: **Jeff Cook**

The 2024 Premier Business Awards submissions were received and reviewed by the Executive Committee of the Alaska Chamber, made up of industry leaders across the state.

Bill Bivin Small Business of the Year: Northern Industrial Training, LLC

Established in 1993, the Bill Bivin Small Business of the Year is awarded to businesses that are independently owned and operated in Alaska with less than 100 employees, exemplify leadership, and show consistent community involvement.

NIT is a leader in workforce development in Alaska. They are known for vocational skills training, DOT Compliance business services and tailored, client-specific safety and regulatory training. NIT's commitment to community extends beyond the services it provides. The company hosts fundraising events for local nonprofits, supports local sports teams, has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships and countless hours and materials for community projects across the state. Company leaders encourage all employees to get involved in giving back to the community.

Rita Sholton Large Business of the Year: Trident Seafoods

Established in 2018, the Rita Sholton Large of Business of the Year is awarded to businesses with over 100 employees in Alaska, that exemplify leadership in their industry and show consistent community involvement.

Trident was founded in Kodiak more than 50 years ago and has grown to be one of Alaska's largest private employers. The company has more than 6,000 employees in Alaska and partners with more than 5,400 independent fishermen and crewmembers each year. Trident is a major driver in Alaska's economy from the jobs it provides to the tax revenue it generates. In addition



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to being an economic driver, Trident is committed to giving back to Alaska. The company supports research programs for sustainable fisheries and participates in the SeaShare program, donating 30 million servings to food banks around the country over the last 30 years, among other contributions. The company is also a leader in investing in Alaska's workforce. They've partnered with Alaska Vocational Technical Center to develop a two-year skilled training course with an additional two-year post-commitment of employment with the company. Trident is committed to investing in Alaska's future and is in the process of developing a new state of the art plant, fuel facility and cold storage facility in Dutch Harbor.

Local Chamber of the Year: Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce

Established in 1994, the Local Alaska Chamber of Commerce of the Year award recognizes the consistent community involvement and excellent business reputation of a local chamber of commerce in Alaska.

The Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce understands the needs of the Sitka business community and has developed programs that prioritize workforce development, housing and childcare. Their programs, including the Speaker Series, Business After Hours, and Sitka's Emerging Leaders bring opportunities for businesses to connect and come up with solutions to current challenges. The Sitka Chamber has also been a champion of cultural tourism for nearly 10 years. Visit Sitka highlights the natural beauty and rich culture of the area.

Ted Stevens Public Service Award: Jeannie Monk

The Ted Stevens Public Service Award was established in 2018. This award honors an individual or group who have made substantial and continual contributions of statewide significance while working in public service or in service to our state and/or country.

Alaska Hospital & Healthcare Association Senior Vice President Jeannie Monk lives out the organization's mission to build an innovative, sustainable system for all Alaskans. In her 14 years at AHHA, she has achieved significant policy victories that have benefited Alaska's most vulnerable residents. She's secured millions of dollars to ensure Alaska facilities can deliver the highest quality of care and she has been key in spearheading initiatives to strengthen the state's health care workforce. She has also worked to support birthing hospitals and obstetric teams to improve maternity care and bolstered quality and patient safety, with a focus on rural communities. Prior to working at AHHA, she served as the planning and development director for SEARHC and was instrumental in obtaining funds to improve the health of communities in Southeast Alaska.

William A. Egan Outstanding Alaskan of the Year: Jeff Cook

Established in 1964, the celebrated and prestigious William A. Egan Outstanding Alaskan of the Year award is presented to individuals who have made substantial and continual contributions of statewide significance while working in the private sector.

Jeff Cook began his career in real estate, purchasing and operating his father's firm and serving in leadership roles for the Fairbanks Board of Realtors, Alaska Association of Realtors, and the

National Association of Realtors. He later transitioned to the oil and gas industry, working in public affairs for ARCO Alaska and MAPCO, where he was a strong advocate for Interior Alaska. Beyond his professional roles, Cook has been deeply involved in community service, holding positions such as president of the University of Alaska Board of Regents, member of the Alaska Real Estate Commission, president of the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce, and a long-time advisor for Alaska Airlines. His dedication to Fairbanks Memorial Hospital is notable; he led an \$88 million expansion and is currently raising funds for cancer screening equipment following the loss of his daughter this year to breast cancer.

About the Alaska Chamber

The Alaska Chamber is a non-profit founded in 1953 working to promote a positive business environment in Alaska. The Chamber is the voice of small and large business representing more than 700 businesses, manufacturers, and local chambers across Alaska. Our member companies employ more than 55,000 hard-working Alaskans. The Chamber advocates for a positive investment climate that provides certainty and stability for Alaska.

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