



*Interior Alaska – The “Place” To Do Business*

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# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Leadership Fairbanks Graduates 25**

**FAIRBANKS, AK**—Graduation for the 2015 Leadership Fairbanks class took place at the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce’s Membership Luncheon on Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at the Carlson Center.

During a keynote presentation, “Leadership in Business Success”, by David K. Aaker, an international motivational speaker, trainer and author, graduates enjoyed lunch and networking with over 100 business leaders.

Marilyn Romano, the Class of 2015 facilitator and regional vice-president of Alaska Airlines, reviewed the nine-month Leadership Fairbanks journey, highlighting the various topics presented at each of the monthly sessions. “When this year’s class kicked off with their 2-day retreat last September the room was almost silent. But as I approached the meeting room this morning for our last gathering you could hear and feel the energy. Friendships that will last a lifetime were built over these past nine months. I’m really proud of the level of commitment that each of them dedicated to their professional development,” said Romano.

Becca Brado & Tabitha Crocker, highlighted their experiences and what they have gained by participating. From learning about Alaska Native culture, to firing weapons with the State Troopers and Fairbanks Police, to learning about the important role that the military and oil and gas industries have on the Alaska economy, each participant finished the course with a greater passion to “leave the Fairbanks community better than how we found it, just as those before us have done.”

Lisa Herbert, Fairbanks Chamber executive director, presented the Class of 2015 to the Chamber’s membership and Marilyn Romano and Geoff Welch, a Leadership Fairbanks advisor, presented the graduates with a framed certificate to those that completed the 9-month course that focused on leadership skill development, networking with current business leaders and learning more about the greater Fairbanks community.

The graduates include: Liya Billa, Consumer Loan Originator, Mt. McKinley Bank; Sabrina Binkley, Director & Founder, Spruce Tree Montessori; Jenny Bookert, Passenger Service Manager, Alaska Airlines; Maren Boyack, Restricted Funds Management Officer, UAF; Becca Brado, Executive Director, Green Star; Alissa Burns, Community & Employee Relations Coordinator, Kinross Fort Knox Mine; Jennifer Burns, Manager of Patient Financial Services, Fairbanks Memorial Hospital; Marti Buscaglia, Publisher, Fairbanks Daily News-Miner; Amy Cook, Fairbanks Manager, Totem Ocean Trailer Express; Josh Crawford, Program Manager, Corvias Military Living; Tabitha Crocker, Student Relations Coordinator, Fairbanks Memorial Hospital; John Denny, individual member; Cassandra Ferree, HIPOW Coordinator & Marketing Consultant, Catholic Schools of Fairbanks; Margo Griffith, Human Resources Consultant, UAF; Alyssa Hambricht, Customer Service Manager, Alaska Airlines; Jennifer Holmes, Chief Mechanical Engineer, Design Alaska; Joel Johnson, Broker, Madden Real Estate; Julie Keener, Senior Engineer, Shannon & Wilson, Inc.; William Kolski, Senior Utility Consultant, Utility Services of Alaska; Jennifer Levi, Supervisor of Patient

Financial Services, Fairbanks Memorial Hospital; Stacy Markham, Branch Manager & Business Development, MAC Federal Credit Union; Carrie McEnteer, Strategic Planner, US Army Garrison Fort Wainwright; Lael Oldmixon, Executive Director, UA College Savings Plan; Keri Roach, Co-Owner & Manager, Friar Tuck's Hoagie House; and Mary Schrage, Human Resources Assistant to the Director, UAF.

Leadership Fairbanks offered a course of study to learn leadership skills and apply those skills at work and through community service within the greater Fairbanks community. The course offered participants the chance to learn about resources available in Fairbanks and North Pole, to network with other Interior business professionals, and to enhance their leadership and communication skills.

The monthly sessions took place at several area businesses and organizations in Fairbanks and North Pole, including, the Fairbanks Community Food Bank, the Morris Thompson Cultural & Visitors Center, Flint Hills Resources, City of Fairbanks Police Department, Fairbanks Youth Facility and others. The course was open to anyone in the Interior but was especially beneficial to those new in the community, young professionals, recently promoted staff members, and anyone looking to assume leadership roles in community organizations. Topics of study included crisis management & public relations, community involvement, cultural immersion, criminal justice, military, leadership styles, economics, customer service and ethics. Each session featured instruction on one of these topics and included panel discussions with community leaders.

The Fairbanks Chamber thanks sponsors, Alaska Airlines, ConocoPhillips, Sumitomo Metal Mining Pogo, Design Alaska, Date-Line Digital Printing, North Haven, Denali State Bank, Raven Community Center, Flint Hills Resources and Positive Changes Coaching & Training for making Leadership Fairbanks 2014-2015 possible.

Those interested in registering for the next Leadership Fairbanks Class should contact Lisa Herbert at the Chamber office at 452-1105 or [lisa@fairbankschamber.org](mailto:lisa@fairbankschamber.org).

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**About the Chamber:** The Fairbanks Chamber represents our members by advocating for a healthy economic environment and by building partnerships that promote the greater Fairbanks area as an attractive place for business and community. The Chamber has been advocating for Fairbanks businesses for over 50 years.

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