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Press Release

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Nine Star Enterprises Recognized for Service to Alaska Youth

(Anchorage, AK) – The Alaska Workforce Investment Board presented the 2007 Exemplary Service Award to Nine Star Enterprises of Anchorage. The award singles out Nine Star's Youth Education and Employment Services (YEES) program for its success in helping Alaska youth gain employment.

"Nine Star Enterprises has done an outstanding job of assisting Alaska's youth gain their high school diploma, prepare them to enter the workforce and assist them in finding and keeping a job," said Labor Commissioner Click Bishop. The YEES program equips at-risk youth with improved academic skills, work readiness competencies, and job placement through innovative instructional methods, computer technology, individual strategies, and job placement.

The Nine Star Enterprises' YEES program exceeded federally mandated performance measures by helping over 300 disadvantaged youth in a one-year performance period, surpassing by 50 percent the number of youth they were contracted to serve. Of the youth between ages 14 to 18 the YEES program served, 96 percent obtained their diploma, exceeding performance in this area by 30 percent. Of youth between ages 19 and 21, more than 80 percent got a job, exceeding the benchmark by 15 percent. Of those who got a job, 85 percent were still employed six months later, an 18 percent gain above the performance measure.

In accepting the award Nine Star Executive Director, David Alexander singled out the work and effort of Nine Star's Youth Program Manager, Andi Nations, and the sheer determination of the youth themselves.

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