

Alaska Chamber recognizes excellence in business at annual Premier Business Awards

ANCHORAGE – July 21, 2021- The Alaska Chamber honored individuals and companies for their achievements in business at the organization’s annual Premier Business Awards last night.

The 2021 winners are:

BILL BIVINS SMALL BUSINESS: Alaska Meat Company, Kodiak (Sitkinak Island)

The Bill Bivins Small Business award recognizes a company with **fewer than 100 employees** that shows community involvement and enjoys a strong business reputation. The company must have been in business for three years or more and be viewed as a leader in its profession. It must be headquartered in Alaska.

Alaska Meat Company was selected for several reasons:

- Even though active operations on the remote island ranch occur only seasonally and in a location with no community members, the owners of Alaska Meat Co. stay actively involved in Kodiak and mainland Alaska’s communities, even during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The owners partner with local organizations, donate, and make time to network and visit.
- Alaska Meat Co. is a leader in its field. Their cattle are raised, processed, and shipped directly to Alaska consumers without changing hands. Vertical integration of the supply chain, locally driven demand, and sustainable agricultural practices with zero additional inputs (supplemental feed, antibiotics, etc.) aren’t factors many companies can boast about.
- Alaska Meat Co. has achieved success while maintaining integrity and building a lasting, positive reputation in Alaska through partnerships with local organizations and involvement in rural communities.
- The company consistently offers to connect with and educate the community about ranching practices on Sitkinak Island. Alaska Meat Co.’s practices are not only sustainable for their cattle and local wildlife, but also culturally sensitive.
- Alaska Meat Co. was nominated by Mindy and Jennifer with Kodiak Island Housing Authority.

RITA SHOLTON LARGE BUSINESS: Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company, Juneau

The Rita Sholton Large Business Award honors award recognizes a company with **more than 100** employees that shows community involvement and enjoys a strong business reputation. The company must have been in business for three years or more and be viewed as a leader in its profession. It must be headquartered in Alaska.

Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company was chosen for several reasons:

- Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company benefits from an excellent business reputation, long term commitment to the community, emphasis on safety and environmental responsibility, and, more recently, effective efforts to protect their workers and the community during the pandemic.
- Hecla is a huge contributor to the Juneau economy. They are the largest property tax payor, they helped to reduce hydropower rates by nearly \$70 million over the past eleven years, and created \$28 million each year in vendor spending in Juneau.
- On a statewide level, Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company contributes millions in state and local government payments, and in 2020 spent \$16 million at Alaska vendor businesses located outside of Juneau.
- As a corporate citizen, Hecla has consistently participated in and contributed to local organizations through a generous program of direct donations and through their Foundation. Their employees and families are an integral part of the community who themselves volunteer. This past year, many businesses and organizations were crushed by the economic shutdown. Even though Hecla itself incurred substantial additional costs to maintain their 24/7 operations, they continued to contribute to organizations supported in years past.
- Hecla Greens Creek was nominated by Deantha Skibinski, Executive Director at the Alaska Miners Association.

TED STEVENS PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD: Commissioner Adam Crum, State Medical Officer Dr. Anne Zink, and the numerous professionals at the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, who worked with the business community to continue business operations while managing mitigation measures and keeping employees and customers safe.

- This award is exceptional, because it not given out every year, and only in unique circumstances. The Ted Stevens Public Service Award was established

in 2018 and is presented to individuals who have made substantial and continual contributions of statewide significance while working in public service or in service to our country.

- Commissioner Adam Crum, Dr. Anne Zink, and the DHSS team received this award in recognition for their extraordinary work to preserve Alaskans' public health during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as working with the business community to mitigate the virus in the workplace.
- Carol Fraser with Aspen Hotels of Alaska nominated the DHSS team.

WILLIAM A. EGAN OUTSTANDING ALASKAN OF THE YEAR: Aaron Schutt, Doyon, Limited, Anchorage

Established in 1964, the 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.

Schutt was selected for several reasons:

- Schutt currently works as president and CEO of Doyon Limited, where he is responsible for working with the Board of Directors in setting the overall direction of the Doyon Family of Companies.
- Aaron serves as a director of Northrim Bank, he is board chair of the ANCSA Regional Association and Akeela, Inc., and co-chair of the University of Alaska Fairbanks Troth Yeddha' Legacy Initiative.
- Aaron served as the former vice-chair of the Alaska Native Heritage Center, has been named to Native Business Magazine's "Top Thirty CEOs in Indian Country" and Alaska Journal of Commerce's "Top 40 Under 40" award.
- Aaron is Koyukon Athabascan, and an enrolled member of the Native Village of Tanana. He was born in Anchorage and raised in Tok. He is married to Marissa Flannery, together they have two sons and a daughter. Aaron also coaches youth hockey in his free time.
- Aaron embodies the self-determination of Alaska Native people. Coming from a small rural Alaska community before graduating from Stanford University and Stanford Law, Aaron is a role model for the next generation.
- Aaron is committed not only to his region and shareholders, but he is always willing to step up, speak up and offer his time for the benefit of all Alaskans.
- Aaron was nominated by Kim Reitmeier, executive director of ANSCA Regional Association.

Premier Business Award nominations were received and reviewed by the Executive Committee of the Alaska Chamber, including professionals representing oil and gas, finance, fishing, Alaska Native corporations, energy, and transportation.

Winners were presented with a unique award designed by renowned Alaska artists Romney Dodd, and Drew and Lacy McKeown.

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. More information about the organization is available at www.alaskachamber.com.

#