



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Nolan Klouda

907.786.5458

nflklouda@alaska.edu

BEI and DED win Gold Award from IEDC

Two Alaska economic development organizations recognized for excellence

ANCHORAGE, AK—Last evening the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) presented the University of Alaska Anchorage Business Enterprise Institute (BEI), in partnership with the State of Alaska Division of Economic Development, a Gold Award of Excellence in the Business Retention and Expansion Special Event category.

The award recognized both agencies for organizing a tour promoting unmanned aircraft systems opportunities in Alaska. Each year, IEDC presents these awards to the world's most influential leaders in economic development programs and partnerships, and this was the first award in this category for BEI. Four other Alaskan organizations won awards: Alaska Industrial Development & Export Authority, Anchorage Economic Development Corporation, Haa Aani Community Development Fund, and Huna Totem Corporation.

"I'm pleased that the high-quality work being done to advance Alaska's economy has been recognized by IEDC," said Governor Bill Walker. "From projects in rural communities to programs with statewide reach, Alaska's economic developers are at the forefront of their profession, working to improve economic well-being and quality of life across the state. I congratulate all of the state agencies and organizations who received awards for their outstanding efforts to promote economic development across Alaska."

About the UAA Business Enterprise Institute (BEI)

BEI links economic development programs across the UA system and supports businesses and entrepreneurial capacities across Alaska. Providing economic development-related research and technical assistance, high-level professional education, small business development services and entrepreneurship programming, BEI serves as a bridge to expertise and talents throughout UAA and offers high-level consultancy to industry.

About the Division of Economic Development

Housed within Alaska State Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, the Division of Economic Development supports the growth and diversification of Alaska's economy through policy, promotion, financing, and business assistance.

###

