ALASKA TEACHER OF THE YEAR:
The Alaska Department of Education & Early Development has named Lorrie Heagy, an elementary music teacher and librarian in Juneau, the Alaska Teacher of the Year for 2011. Ms. Heagy teaches at Glacier Valley Elementary. The announcement was made November 14 at the annual conference of the Association of Alaska School Boards in Anchorage.

Trevor Townsend, who now works in the Mat-Su Borough School District, was named First Alternate Teacher of the Year 2011 for his achievements as a secondary English teacher in the Bristol Bay Borough School District.

Linda Jo Klapperich, a special education teacher in the Mat-Su Borough School District, was chosen as Second Alternate Teacher of the Year 2011.

ALASKA PRINCIPALS OF THE YEAR:
The Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals has selected Rod Morrison, principal of George H. Gilson Jr. High School in the Valdez City School District, as the Alaska Middle School Principal of the Year.

Lou Pondolfino, principal of Robert Service High School in the Anchorage School District, was chosen as Alaska High School Principal of the Year.

Rick Toymil, principal of Alpenglow Elementary School, was named a National Distinguished Principal by the Alaska Association of Elementary School Principals.

ALASKA SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR:
The Alaska Association of School Administrators announced that Steve Bradshaw has been selected by his peers as Alaska’s Superintendent of the Year. Bradshaw has been the superintendent of the Sitka School District over the past decade.

STAYING PROFESSIONAL IN TODAY’S MEDIA WORLD

- Keep your personal business private. Don’t list your place of work, job title, or work eMail address on sites meant to be strictly personal. Use the privacy settings to restrict access to family and friends. Even so, recognize that privacy really doesn’t exist on the web. Don’t post any comments, pictures, blogs, presentations, or words that you don’t want circulating more broadly.

- Recognize that as public employees, you always represent your school or district. If you don’t want to see it on the front page of the daily newspaper, don’t post it.

- Avoid participating in online surveys and other gimmicks that social media sites use to generate traffic.

- Avoid connecting personally with students. There’s never an appropriate or legitimate reason to develop online relationships with students. Employee content should project a professional image and should not have a negative impact on the employee’s ability to maintain the respect of students, parents, and peers.

- Recognize that the parents of your students are your partners in the educational process, not your “friends.” It is simply too easy to cross lines that should not be crossed.

- Use group sites or pages to connect with students and parents for educational purposes, such as homework help or assignments. Group pages should not give access to teachers’ personal and private information and accounts. Don’t post student photos on personal pages.

- Avoid anonymous or misleading postings and comments. Don’t misrepresent your identity and post a comment on someone else’s site or blog without identifying yourself as a public school employee. If you’re not willing to own your comments, don’t post them.

- Just because social media sites offer anonymity doesn’t mean you should use it. (Adapted: eSchool News-December 2010)
**COMMISSION ACTION**

**During its January 2010 meeting:**
- the Commission accepted a stipulated agreement for voluntary surrender of the teacher certificate of Benjamin Ashenbrenner;
- the Commission accepted a stipulated agreement for voluntary surrender of the teacher certificate of Anisa K. Nelson;
- the Commission issued a one-year suspension of the teacher certificate of Shannon C. Parker;
- the Commission conducted an administrative review of staff’s decision to dismiss a case. Staff’s decision to dismiss was upheld.

**During its May 2010 meeting:**
- the Commission issued a one-year suspension of the teacher certificate of Maureen DeFrance;
- the Commission issued an order of formal reprimand to Elizabeth A. Dennis who holds a teacher certificate;
- the Commission issued an order of formal reprimand to Judy A. Madros who holds a teacher certificate;
- the Commission conducted an administrative review of staff’s decision to dismiss a case. Staff’s decision to dismiss was upheld.

**During its September 2010 meeting:**
- the Commission issued an order of revocation of the teacher certificate of Rosemary E. Owens;
- the Commission issued a one-year suspension of the teacher certificate of Leah M. Hutchins;
- the Commission issued a one-year suspension of the teacher certificate of James M. Hutchins;
- the Commission issued a one-year suspension of the teacher certificate of Roy E. Thomas;
- the Commission issued a one-year suspension of the teacher certificate of Sharon M. Sherk;
- the Commission issued an order of formal reprimand to Michael Nakoneczny;
- the Commission conducted administrative reviews of staff’s decisions to dismiss five (5) cases. Staff’s decisions to dismiss were upheld in all five (5) cases.

**New Commissioners**

Governor Parnell appointed two new Commissioners to serve on the Professional Teaching Practices Commission. Mr. Eric Fry will sit as the representative of the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED). Currently, Mr. Fry is the Information Officer for DEED. Dr. Steve Atwater will sit as representative for Alaska Superintendents. Dr. Atwater is currently the Superintendent of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. By regulation, Commissioners may serve two, three-year terms.

**NOTICE!**

Commission staff is available to provide presentations on the Code of Ethics of the Education Profession and the role of the Commission. The presentation includes discussions regarding professionalism and professional responsibilities.

Contact the Professional Teaching Practices Commission at 907-269-6579 to arrange presentations in your district.