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Workforce Association Names Donlin Gold National Employer of the Year

JUNEAU, Alaska—Donlin Gold has been named the 2013 National Employer of the Year by the National Association of State Workforce Agencies, recognizing a business that demonstrates outstanding accomplishments resulting in a positive impact on its workforce, industry and community.

Human Resources Manager Meg Day, Shareholder and Logistics Coordinator Wassilie Kameroff and External Affairs Manager Kurt Parkan accepted the award on behalf of Donlin Gold at the NASWA annual conference today in Denver.

“This award recognizes the Donlin Gold team for their efforts to create jobs, recruit and train residents of the Yukon-Kuskokwim region and engage with community leaders,” said Dianne Blumer, commissioner of the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. “Donlin’s efforts to hire locally are an integral part of the fabric of the region and illustrate a new paradigm of successful development in rural Alaska.”

The Alaska Department of Labor’s nomination noted Donlin Gold’s community outreach efforts including sponsorship of “Voyage to Excellence,” an educational enrichment program that helps students develop personal and social skills, service learning, and career and technical standards.

“We are honored to receive this award and the recognition of Donlin Gold’s workforce development efforts,” said Stan Foo, Donlin Gold’s general manager. “Developing a trained local workforce has always been important to us and will continue to be a priority as the project moves forward.”

Other company efforts include working with Alaska’s regional training centers, publishing the career guide, “Planning for Your Future: Jobs with Donlin Gold,” and hosting workforce development camps at the mine site.

“The Donlin team’s commitment has really paid off, not only for the company, but also for the residents of the region,” Blumer added. “They have achieved a local hire rate of more than 90 percent with a less than two percent turnover rate.”

The Donlin Gold project is an undeveloped gold deposit located on Alaska Native Corporation land in the historic Kuskokwim Gold Belt of Western Alaska. If developed, it is estimated up to 3,000 jobs will be created during construction of the mine and up to 1,400 jobs will be created during the 27-plus year mine life.

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