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Commissioner

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## Press Release

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### **State, Municipality of Anchorage Host Mountain View Employment Roundtable**

*Expanded services include workshops, apprenticeships, and development of mobile apps*

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Heidi Drygas and Anchorage Mayor Ethan Berkowitz hosted an employment roundtable yesterday in Mountain View. The state and municipality are partnering on expanded Job Center services, new apprenticeships, and development of mobile applications to improve accessibility of Job Center programs. The state/municipal partnership in Mountain View started over a year ago in recognition of steep unemployment in the community, and this roundtable included a progress report and action items to continue expanding Job Center services.

"Mountain View is a great community, rich with diversity and a vibrant local culture," said Commissioner Heidi Drygas. "But with an unemployment rate several times higher than the city of Anchorage, the time to act is now."

Over the last year, the state has partnered with Mountain View Library to host dozens of employment workshops, English literacy trainings, and other employment readiness programs, and contacted approximately 1,200 veterans in the neighborhood regarding Job Center services. During that time, the state and local employers have started and expanded Registered Apprenticeship programs in the health care and maritime industries, including with employers near Mountain View such as Alaska Regional Hospital. Currently, the state and municipality are working with Code for America to develop mobile applications that will help connect job seekers with employment and job training opportunities.

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