



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tourism Industry Recognizes Businesses, Individuals

10 recognized for achievements during annual awards banquet

Anchorage, AK – The Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA), Alaska’s statewide professional trade association for businesses and individuals involved in the visitor industry, announced its 2019 Visitor [Industry Awards](#) recipients last night at its annual convention in Juneau. Award winners are selected by visitor industry peers based on professional excellence and service to Alaska’s tourism industry.

Aurora Award: Katie Caswell, Anchorage

Alyeska Award: Alaska Raptor Center, Sitka

Chuck West Award: Big Swig Tours, Anchorage

Denali Award: Dennis McDonnell, Anchorage

Lifetime Achievement Award: John Litten, Sitka

Lifetime Achievement Award: Sam Kito, Juneau

Special Recognition Award: Edeltraud Sommer, Germany

Special Recognition Award: Kirby Day, Juneau

Spirit of Alaska Award: Jennifer Thompson, Anchorage

Stan Stephens Stewardship Award: Denali Education Center, Denali Park

“ATIA’s awards are presented to businesses and individuals who are the leaders in our industry,” said Sarah Leonard, ATIA President and CEO. “We are thrilled to recognize our 2019 awardees and thank them for their contributions to Alaska tourism.”

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Alaska’s leading statewide nonprofit membership organization for the Alaska travel industry.

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Alyeska Award: presented to a business or organization for its outstanding leadership, professional excellence, and group contribution to the Alaska travel industry.

Chuck West Award: given to a new pioneer in the industry who has exhibited entrepreneurial creativity, innovation and courage in the introduction of a successful new product for the benefit and enjoyment of Alaska's visitors.

Denali Award: presented to a living individual for his or her outstanding leadership, professional excellence, and personal contribution to the Alaska travel industry.

Lifetime Achievement Award: recognition conferred upon an individual who has demonstrated lifelong support of and leadership in Alaska tourism, promoted industry standards of excellence, and contributed to the industry's growth.

Special Recognition Award: granted periodically to an individual or business who has made personal or business efforts on behalf of the industry that have positively enhanced Alaska tourism.

Spirit of Alaska Award: presented to an individual or business that has demonstrated exceptional efforts to support a local community, charity, or other organization outside the travel industry.

Stan Stephens Stewardship Award: awarded to commemorate the passion and dedication that Stan Stephens's commitment in protecting a place or resource or pursuing a just cause that benefits travel and tourism.

ATIA is Alaska's largest statewide membership trade association for the travel industry and represents more than 650 members and businesses supporting Alaska tourism. ATIA promotes Alaska's travel industry as one of the state's major economic forces and advocates for the growth of the industry while remaining attentive to Alaska's natural environment, diverse cultures, and unique quality of life.

For more information, visit www.AlaskaTIA.org or contact 907.306.2331.

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