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## Two Forces Converge To Discuss Health Care Careers In Alaska

### Both Southcentral Foundation And Chugach School District Are Award-Winning Programs

(Anchorage, AK, Dec. 7, 2009) –

On Monday, Dec. 7, students and staff from Chugach School District's Voyage To Excellence program will visit the Southcentral Foundation campus. The students will learn about careers options in the health care field, participate in tours and visit several departments.

“Southcentral Foundation was formed in part so that Alaska Native and American Indian people could take ownership of our health,” said SCF President/CEO Katherine Gottlieb. “Encouraging youth to continue this responsibility allows us to fulfill a corporate goal of raising the number of Alaska Native and American Indian people in clinical positions.”

CSD and SCF were the only two recipients of the 2009 APEX Excellence Award. The Alaska Performance Excellence program, dedicated to recognizing Alaska organizations demonstrating world-class performance, announced the award decisions this past spring.

One of the most promising and successful programs at CSD is the VTE school-to-life program. Providing opportunities and resources for rural students to become healthy, engaged community members of the community, VTE has a graduation rate of 98 percent over the past five years.

The visit is being coordinated by SCF's RAISE program. RAISE provides internship opportunities for students in summer and winter programs. A special graduate program is also available. Past interns have become employed by SCF and earned promotions to leadership positions throughout the organization.

Twelve CSD students will visit the Alaska Native Medical Center campus, including the Anchorage Native Primary Care Center. They will also receive a behind-the-scenes look at the dental and optometry clinics, the wellness center and the development center.

Additional information about CSD is available at their Web site, [chugachschoools.com](http://chugachschoools.com). The Web site for Alaska Performance Excellence is [akapex.com](http://akapex.com).

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Established in 1982, SCF's mission is to work together with the Native Community to achieve wellness through health and related services. The nonprofit health care affiliate of Cook Inlet Region, Inc., SCF has grown in its 27 years, from a single dental clinic to an internationally recognized, award-winning health care organization that employs more than 1,400 people and administers a budget of more than \$181 million annually to manage more than 60 health care programs and services.