

# Conference features development experts

Hundreds of Alaskans are expected to join economic development specialists from throughout the United States in a conference at the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel next month, sponsored by the Resource Development Council for Alaska Inc.

Entitled the Alaska "Great Opportunities" Conference, the April 2-3 event will feature economic development counselors from across the nation to consider new strategies that harness the forces governing Alaska's economy. In addition, Community Leadership Workshops will be held April 4 with key conference speakers.

Numerous Alaska communities and large and small businesses are co-sponsoring the event, which will explore opportunities for economic growth and diversification.

Among those expected to attend are more than 100 Alaska mayors, city managers and assembly members from various communities. State legislators, chamber of commerce members and others seeking to improve their companies' profits also will attend.

"Never before have community leaders in both the private and public sector had such an opportunity to consult with knowledgeable professionals in the field of economic development as will be possible at this conference," said Paula Easley, the RDC's executive director.

"The more each of us learns about the nuts and bolts of local economic development initiatives, the easier our job will be," Easley said.

Robert B. Horton, chairman of The Standard Oil Co., will offer new insights and direction for Alaska policymakers in his keynote presentation April 2, entitled "Overcoming Barriers to Opportunity: A Global Perspective."

Dr. Yoon S. Park, professor of business administration at George Washington University and author in the field of international economics and finance, will discuss the advancement of Alaska's strategic position in international trade and finance in the April 3 keynote presentation.

Gov. Steve Cowper will open the conference with a policy address on the state administration's goals and framework for pursuing new economic strategies.

R. Scott Fosler, executive vice president of the Washington, D.C.-based Committee for Economic Development, will share conclusions of a major three-year analysis of state and local economic development processes. His presentation will consider a wide range of actions to advance economic development in Alaska.

Elements of Indiana's multi-year Strategic Economic Development Plan will be outlined by Brian Bosworth, president of the Indiana Economic Development Council. Jeffrey Finkle,

executive director of the National Council of Urban Economic Development, will offer a timely assessment of strategies that are working today, with special focus on federal and state finance tools.

The conference also will feature Bill Schott, economic and industrial development coordinator for the Basin Electric Power Cooperative in Bismarck, N.D. Schott will discuss the mobilization of volunteer forces to work on unified economic goals.

Robert Friedman, president of the Corporation for Enterprise Development, will discuss the debate over "business climate" and changing elements of long-term economic development and opportunity policy.

Other speakers include James Souby, executive director of the Council of State Planning Agencies in Washington, D.C.; Dr. Phillip Fixler Jr., director of SRI International's Local Government Center in Santa Monica, Calif.; and Paula Mannillo, finance director of the Women's

Economic Development Corp. in St. Paul, Minn.

Hugh O'Neill, assistant executive director of the New York and New Jersey Port Authority, also will address the conference in a presentation highlighting new frontiers in labor-management relations. Steven Waldhorn, director of the Public Policy Center in Menlo Park, Calif.; and Samuel Hubbard, executive director of Montana Science and Technology, also will speak.

The April 4 Community Leadership Workshops will encourage discourse between participants and speakers in a problem-solving atmosphere. Concurrent sessions will cover such topics as "State and Local Privatization Strategies" and "Financing Municipal Projects Under New Tax Law."

Those who want to register for the conference and Community Development Workshops may call the RDC at 276-0700. The registration fee for the conference is \$225. The workshop fee is \$60.