



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS COMPETE FOR \$26,000 CASH

Kenai, April 16, 2007–This year marks the 17th anniversary of the Caring for the Kenai (CFK) competition. On Thursday April 19th twelve Kenai Peninsula Borough High School students will take the stage at the KCHS Little Theatre to present their ideas on improving our environment or preparing for a natural disaster in this annual competition. The finalists will be competing for \$6,000 in cash prizes plus \$20,000 in cash awards to their high schools. The annual event is sponsored by Agrium Kenai Nitrogen Operations and Chevron. The Kenai River Sportfishing Association contributes a \$10,000 matching grant toward the school awards.

The competition will be streamed live over the internet thanks to the Kenai Peninsula School District and Soldotna High School students. Last year's live stream broadcast brought responses from as far away as Colombia, Japan, Indonesia, New York, Battle River Canada, and Washington D.C. Thursday night's link will be easily available by going to www.caringforthekenai.com and clicking on the home page banner.

This year more than 500 students from high schools Borough wide, including Kenai, Nikiski, Soldotna, Hope, Ninilchik, Homer and Skyview submitted entries.

The CFK community partnership offers cash awards to the best twelve proposals addressing the prompt, "What can I do, invent, or create to better care for the environment on the Kenai Peninsula, or to improve the area's preparedness for a natural disaster?"

All judging is done anonymously with the student's name and school being revealed after the final oral presentations. This year's panel of judges includes Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor John Williams, KPBSD Superintendent of Schools Dr. Donna Peterson, Chris Sonnichsen Agrium Plant Manager, John Zager Alaska General Manager for Chevron, Kenai Watershed Forum Board of Director Jessica Moore, Deric Marcocelle, with the Department of Environmental Conservation, Ricky Gease Kenai Sport Fishing Association Executive Director, and the 2006 CFK student winner, Thomas Kircher. The public is encouraged to attend the CFK oral student presentations to experience personally the great ideas coming forward from our youth. The program begins at 6:00 pm.