

CONTEST COORDINATOR
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS COMPETE FOR \$16,000 CASH

Kenai, April 16, 2006 –This year marks the 16th anniversary of the Caring For the Kenai (CFK) competition. On Friday April 21st 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 \$10,000 in cash awards to their high schools. The annual event is sponsored by Agrium Kenai Nitrogen Operations and Chevron, with a grant from the Kenai River Sportfishing Association 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, and Washington D.C. Friday night's link will be easily available by going to www.caringforthekenai.com and clicking on the home page banner.

This year nearly 500 entries were submitted from local high schools, including Kenai, Nikiski, Soldotna, Hope, Ninilchik, and the Connections Program.

The 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 City Mayor Pat Porter, KPBSD Superintendent of Schools Dr. Donna Peterson, Tim Johnson Agrium coal gasification project lead, John Zager Alaska General Manager for Chevron, Kenai Watershed Forum executive director Robert Ruffner, Deric Marcocelle, with the Department of Environmental Conservation, and the 2005 CFK student winner, Hannah Watkins. 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.