

## Media Advisory

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### **TelAlaska Named One of Top 5 Best Places to Work in Alaska**

TelAlaska was named one of the Best Places to Work in Alaska for 2008 at a pre-conference Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) – Alaska State Council reception Oct. 9 at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel.

The company was founded by the Rhyner family in 1968 with the installation of a local telephone network in Fort Yukon. Today it is a telecommunications solutions company whose 100 employees serve 25 rural communities and provide local and long distance telephone, Internet, cable television, and advanced network services.

The awards program was created in 2007 by the *Alaska Journal of Commerce* in partnership with SHRM and Best Companies Group. It was designed to identify, recognize and honor the best places of employment in Alaska, benefiting the state's economy, its workforce and businesses.

The Best Places to Work in Alaska 2008 list is made up of 10 companies; TelAlaska placed fifth in the final rankings.

Companies from across the state entered the two-part process to determine the Best Places to Work in Alaska. The first part, worth 25 percent in the scoring, consisted of evaluating each

nominated company's workplace policies, practices, and demographics. The second part, worth 75 percent, consisted of an employee survey to measure their workplace experience.

Employees cited family-like relationships at all levels of the company, and such valued traditions as company pot-lucks and wedding receptions and baby showers hosted in the former CEO's home, as reasons why they consider TelAlaska a top employer. They also cite having the contributions of each employee understood and appreciated by management as contributing to an exceptional workplace. Pay, benefits, flexible schedules, high professional standards and a playfulness ingrained in the corporate culture also were recognized.

The combined scores determined the top companies and the final ranking. Best Companies Group managed the overall registration and survey process in Alaska and also analyzed the data and used their expertise to determine the final rankings.

To be considered for participation, companies had to fulfill the following requirements:

- Have at least 15 employees in Alaska;
- Be a for-profit or not-for-profit business or government entity;
- Be a publicly or privately held business;
- Have a facility in the state of Alaska; and
- Must be in business a minimum of 1 year.

TelAlaska was acquired by American Broadband in July of 2008. Company President and CEO Patrick Eudy pledged continuation of the Rhyner leadership traditions.

American Broadband acquires and operates local exchange carriers and related businesses in rural markets nationwide. The company's strategy is distinguished by a long-term focus on growth in rural America. By investing in its telecommunications network, local employees and management, and community organizations, American Broadband ensures continued customer service satisfaction and works to realize the growth potential of its markets. The company now serves more than 26,000 access lines, 10,000 Cable Subscribers, and 8,500 high speed data customers in Nebraska, Missouri, and Alaska.

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