



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Challenger Learning Center of Alaska Receives \$25,000 Donation from Marathon Petroleum Corporation to Support STEM Education

Kenai, Alaska, January 20, 2021- For over a decade, Marathon Petroleum Corporation has supported Challenger Learning Center of Alaska's STEM programs through sponsoring simulated missions for the Kenai Peninsula School District. 2021 being no different, Marathon continues to step up for education on the Kenai Peninsula, donating \$25,000 to support 20 fully funded space simulator missions or virtual STEM programs for Peninsula 5th and 6th-grade students. Both programs allow students to explore, ask questions, and learn real-life skills to better prepare themselves to succeed in a competitive workforce.

Marathon's Kenai Refinery Manager Cameron Hunt shared, "We are continually impressed with the programs at Challenger. The missions, I believe, represent very real-world challenges and the program helps build the skills to work as a team to solve them. Marathon is proud to be a premier sponsor once again."



Challenger Learning Center of Alaska's vision is to bring the wonders of STEM through their simulated space missions, virtual academies, workshops, and outreach to every school in Alaska; Supporting Teachers in all classroom formats. Marathon Petroleum's funding and partnership with CLCA will convey self-confidence in students, encouraging them to pursue their passions and seek higher educational goals.



It is with the support of organizations like Marathon that CLCA can continue its mission to inspire students to look beyond the ordinary, imagine the unattainable and answer those seemingly impossible questions. Even with the challenges of 2020, Challenger adapted and pushed its resources out to serve approximately 1,140 students and 210 teachers and parents. This year CLCA continues to expand its programs and area of service, pushing to reach as many Alaskan students in remote and rural areas as possible, with help from great Sponsors like Marathon Petroleum. These opportunities encourage students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and math through real-life practical learning opportunities that are engaging and relevant. Teachers looking to participate can call Challenger Learning Center of Alaska to book their 5th or 6th-grade class, 907-283-2000, to view missions and virtual topics, www.akchallenger.org/schoolsandgroups.

Contact:

Marnie Olcott, C.E.O.
marnie.olcott@akchallenger.org
(907) 283-2000
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