

Contact:

Marnie Olcott
Challenger Learning Center of Alaska
907-283-2000
marnie.olcott@akchallenger.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**The Challenger Learning Center of Alaska and KPBSD Students receive Big Support for STEM Education by Marathon Petroleum**

Marathon Petroleum Corporation has continued to support Alaska's youth education through STEM programs at Challenger Learning Center of Alaska (CLCA) for the past twelve years. This 2021-2022 school year, Marathon is sponsoring simulated missions or virtual workshops for 5th and 6th graders in the Kenai Peninsula School District. Donating \$30,000, this generous opportunity covers 25 fully funded classes. Both programs allow applications of relevant real-life skills to empower students to work through hands-on challenges and solve problems using STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) disciplines.

Challenger Learning Center of Alaska's vision is to bring the wonders of STEM through simulated space missions, virtual academies, workshops, and outreach to every school in Alaska, supporting Teachers and homeschool families. Marathon Petroleum's ongoing partnership with CLCA has an enormous impact, fostering self-confidence in students, encouraging them to pursue their passions, and aspire for higher educational goals.

To further support learners, Marathon is giving recipients of this scholarship the choice of attending Challenger's in-person Mission Simulations or choosing from one of their many virtual options to allow flexibility within classroom needs, no matter the circumstances.

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. These opportunities encourage students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and math through practical yet exciting learning opportunities. This boost in encouragement and confidence has a correlating effect to the increase in Alaska's higher education and local industry workforce within STEM fields. 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.
