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## Media Advisory

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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### **Hiland Mountain Correctional Center Semi-Annual Graduation Ceremony Thursday, Sept. 9**

**JUNEAU** – Through partnership with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development and the Department of Education and Early Development, the Department of Corrections provides education and training for inmates. Women at Hiland Mountain Correctional have completed GEDs, building trades, college prep and the National Career Readiness Certificate programs.

**WHAT:** Graduation Ceremony

**WHEN:** Thursday, Sept. 9, 11:45 am

**WHERE:** Hiland Mountain Correctional Center, Eagle River

**CONTACT:** Richard Schmitz 465-4640 or Beth Leschper 269-3017

**MEDIA ARE INVITED TO ATTEND:** RSVP and security clearance are required. Please contact: [richard.schmitz@alaska.gov](mailto:richard.schmitz@alaska.gov) with name and media represented and Alaska Drivers License or Social Security number. RSVP is requested prior to 4:30 pm Sept. 8. Inmate graduates will be available for interviews.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER** is Olympian & World Cup Snowboarder Callan Chythlook-Sifsof. Chythlook-Sifsof, the first Yupik/Iñupiaq Eskimo (Inuit) to be selected to the U.S. National Ski and Snowboard Team, was raised in the Wood-Tikchik State Park, on the Bering Sea coast of Alaska. In 2006, she earned a berth on the United States Snowboard Team and earned a bronze medal in her first World Cup snowboard cross in Japan. The same season she earned a U.S. National Championship title and a 4th-place World Cup finish in Quebec. Determined to be able to commit herself to full-time training and competition, she worked very hard to graduate from high school in three years with a 3.2 grade-point-average. She starts the 2010 season ranked second in the U.S. and 14th in the world. This is her fourth year on the World Cup Tour leading to Olympic Team qualification for the 2010 Vancouver Olympics.

