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BDS Architects Celebrates New Kongiganak K-12 School with October Visit

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – November 4, 2010

Bezek Durst Seiser Architects (BDS) recently celebrated the opening of the newest K-12 school in the Lower Kuskokwim School District (LKSD) with a personal visit and photography shoot to record the school's completion.

Victor Valenote, Principal Architect, and Jeremy Shiok, Business Development Manager, contracted with Mark Meyer Photography for a two-day excursion to the remote Alaskan village of Kongiganak, about 70 miles southwest of Bethel, to document the opening of *Ayagina'ar Elitnaurvik* with still and video photography.

"It's quite an achievement," Valenote said of the 34,000 square foot school built by Alaska Mechanical, Inc. "When you think about the logistics involved and the harsh conditions the builders had to work in, it's just amazing."

BDS worked with LKSD and the Alaska Department of Early Education and Development through a multi-year process that considered renovation options for the old school versus facility replacement. In the end, environmental impact statements from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers detailing threats to the existing school from river erosion led to a replacement project made possible through an expedited construction approach.

The new school was designed with state-of-the-art technologies for optimal energy efficiency. It boasts a full court gymnasium with 150-seat retractable bleachers, a small group science lab, an operational small motor and woodshop area, a library with remote video/audio learning equipment, 12 classrooms equipped with SMART Board technology, and administrative offices.

On October 28th school administrators hosted an Opening Celebration and feast to commemorate the start of this exciting new chapter in "Kong" history.

For more information or photo files suitable for publication please email jeremys@bdsak.com.

