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Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STUDENT HOMELESSNESS: SAD BUT TRUE

District Supplemental Services Coordinator Discusses Student Homelessness

JUNEAU – While it is easy to see homelessness as an “adult” affliction, studies show a steady rise in homeless school-aged children (K-12) in the U.S., Alaska and Juneau, alike. What impact does this have not only on the educational system, but society in general?

Join Juneau School District Student Supplemental Services Coordinator, Haifa Sadighi, as she presents the lunchtime lecture “Student Homelessness in Juneau School District” on Wednesday, March 14 at the Alaska State Museum. Sadighi has worked within the district since 1996, managing student programs such as extended learning and ESL, as well as overseeing school climate, homeless services and truancy.

Haifa Sadighi appears as part of a lecture series inspired by the current ASM exhibit “Out of the Rain,” focusing on the impact of homelessness in our community. In conjunction with the Juneau Homeless Coalition, the State Museum hosts a free lecture every Wednesday in March, featuring a different speaker each week. Admission to the lectures is free; visitors are invited to bring a lunch and encouraged to bring non-perishable food to the museum for donation to the Southeast Alaska Food Bank.

Remaining speakers include:

- March 21 – Mandy O'Neal Cole, AWARE Direct Services Manager: “Homelessness and Domestic Violence”
- March 28 – Scott Ciambor, H&SS planner for the Alaska Mental Health Board/Advisory Board on Drug and Alcohol Abuse: “Alaska’s Inadequate Housing Stock: Gaps that Impact the Homeless, Low-Income, and Middle Class”

Winter hours at the museum are 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. **Free admission to the exhibit that will run through April 21 is available to those who bring a donation of canned food for the Southeast Alaska Food Bank.** Regular discounted winter admission is \$3. Visitors 18 and under are admitted free of charge. An annual pass that allows unlimited visits to the Alaska State Museum and the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka is available for \$15. Assistance is available for visitors with special needs. Please contact Visitor Services at 465-2901 before the visit.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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www.museums.state.ak.us

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