



PRESS RELEASE

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Alaska students produce and create Suicide Prevention Film

ANCHORAGE – The Alaska Association of Student Governments (AASG) and Sophie Clark, a graduate of Klawock School and former member of the AASG executive board, produced “Railway of Hope – The Movie.” AASG is a student-run leadership organization for high school students. The delegates come together twice a year to share ideas, learn leadership skills, and pass resolutions to create change. "Railway of Hope-The Movie" is part of AASG's campaign for youth suicide prevention. The co-directors of the movie Bryan Fellows and Arody Bermejo, international filmmakers, agreed to do the film after Sophie shared how

she is committed to save youth lives through her suicide prevention efforts. Her vision and drive made this project happen. The cast and crew is a collaboration of student leaders, Alaskan educators, and professional film makers.

AASG, a student-run organization, has won national awards, presented in schools across Alaska, created the Media Contest for Suicide Prevention, and provided trainings in suicide prevention for high school students. AASG students were also instrumental in passing Senate Bill 137, requiring suicide prevention training for every school staff member in the state of Alaska. "Railway of Hope" is the next big move the organization is developing in its efforts to stop youth suicide and save lives in the state of Alaska.

The organization plans to distribute the movie to every high school in Alaska to raise awareness of suicide prevention. They strongly appreciate the support from Barbara Franks of Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium who has trained students, been a big supporter of student voice, and has funded the Media Contest. The AASG President and Suicide Prevention Chair, Emily Sexton, said, "I'm beyond proud of the work our group of students has done in the name of Suicide Prevention. This movie is going to be a lifesaving tool that will make a major impact on high school students all across our state."

"Railway of Hope - The Movie" was premiered at Marston Theatre in Anchorage and at the AASG Spring Conference in April. The film package including discussion guide, tips for teachers, and a guide for student-led discussions is the next step. The package will be available for distribution to schools following the premiere presentation at the AASG Conference in Juneau October 17-19, 2013.