FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Alaska Public Media Celebrates 2026 Anchorage ATHENA Society Inductees

Three public media champions to be honored for professional excellence and community leadership

ANCHORAGE, AK – March 9, 2026 – Alaska Public Media (AKPM) is pleased to share that three public media champions with deep ties to AKPM will be recognized by the Anchorage ATHENA Society this month. Lori Townsend and Evelyn Abello will be inducted as part of the Class of 2026, and Dr. Anne Zink has been named as the recipient of the 2026 ATHENA Leadership Award.

Lori Townsend
As Chief Editor and Senior Vice President of News at Alaska Public Media, Lori Townsend has helped shape thoughtful, in-depth journalism that serves communities across the state. A respected newsroom leader and longtime journalist, Lori's work reflects a deep commitment to integrity, collaboration, and public service.

Her induction into the Anchorage ATHENA Society recognizes not only her professional excellence but also her mentorship and dedication to elevating voices across Alaska.

Evelyn Abello
Evelyn Abello, Vice Chair of the Alaska Public Media Board of Directors, is widely known for her steady, strategic leadership and her longstanding commitment to civic engagement. In addition to her leadership with Alaska Public Media, she serves as the Philippine Honorary Consul in Alaska, strengthening international and community connections throughout the state.

Her induction reflects decades of service and leadership rooted in inclusion, advocacy, and support for Alaska's diverse communities.

Dr. Anne Zink
Dr. Anne Zink, a rotating host on ***Line One: Your Health Connection*** and former State of Alaska Chief Medical Officer, has been named the recipient of the 2026 ATHENA Leadership Award — the Society's highest individual honor.

The ATHENA Leadership Award recognizes a leader who exemplifies professional excellence, extraordinary community service, and a sustained commitment to mentoring and advancing women in leadership.

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Dr. Zink's selection highlights her profound impact on public health in Alaska and her ongoing dedication to ensuring Alaskans have access to trusted, accessible health information. Through *Line One*, she continues to guide meaningful conversations that empower listeners to better understand complex medical issues and make informed decisions for themselves and their families.

"This recognition reflects not only their individual accomplishments, but also the strength of the public media community they help lead and inspire every day," said Ed Ulman, President and CEO of AKPM. "Each of these women embodies the values we hold dear: service, integrity, leadership, and a deep commitment to Alaska."

The Anchorage ATHENA Society, a program of the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, honors women who demonstrate professional excellence, community leadership, and a commitment to supporting other women. Inductees are celebrated annually at the Anchorage ATHENA Society luncheon, which will take place Monday, March 16, 2026, at the Hotel Captain Cook. Eleven women total and the Leadership Award recipient will be recognized for their outstanding leadership and service to Alaska.

We are proud to see these outstanding leaders recognized and grateful for the ways they continue to strengthen Alaska's civic and media landscape.

Headshots for media use
Credit: Matt Faubion, Alaska Public Media

About Alaska Public Media
Alaska Public Media (AKPM) is a shared Public Broadcasting System (PBS) and National Public Radio (NPR) member and a 501(c)(3) organization. Committed to meeting the needs of our community and state, AKPM produces and presents news and content that provides lifelong learning opportunities in public affairs, health and leisure, science and nature, economic and social development, civic engagement, and world events. The company is located in Southcentral Alaska and is comprised of KSKA radio, KAKM-TV, Create TV, PBS KIDS, and alaskapublic.org. Alaska Public Media also operates the Statewide News network and a shared television service with KTOO in Juneau and KYUK in Bethel.

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