



Contact: Cathy Renfeldt
Cordova Chamber of Commerce
907-424-7260
executivedirector@cordovachamber.com
www.cordovachamber.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Chamber Program Empowers Local Business Leaders

(January 13, 2020) CORDOVA, AK - Cordova Chamber of Commerce's **Business Empowerment Series** is set to launch next week, seeking to equip and embolden Cordova business leaders, and spur economic growth.

The brand-new suite of networking and educational events begins with a *Business After Hours Mixer* on Friday, January 24th starting at 5:15pm at the Reluctant Fisherman Bar & Restaurant. "We're aiming to inspire business confidence and collaboration," explains Cordova Chamber of Commerce executive director, Cathy Renfeldt. "This first event in the series will be loosely structured and fun, offering a casual but professional atmosphere for local businesspeople to meet, find common ground and support each other." The Chamber also plans to use the evening as an opportunity to gain feedback on potential topics being considering for future events in the series including a Women in Leadership Panel; Business Speed Dating; and entrepreneurial trainings such as Success on Social Media, Minimizing your IT costs, Cybersecurity Basics, USFS Special Use Permitting, and Establishing Business Credit. This first event in the series will be free and open to everyone with door prizes, including a pair of *Hoover Girls* hand-crafted earrings. All future events in the series will be free to Chamber members, with a small fee for non-members.

A series like this has been an aim of the Chamber's Economic Development Committee since its first initiative in April of 2018, the *Cordova Economic Summit*. The group was forged in 2017 with the goal of bringing businesses together to leverage local capacity and grow economic opportunity in Cordova. "We're going for a fun, empowering environment where Cordova businesspeople can learn and grow together," says Renfeldt. Like the Economic Summit, Renfeldt also hopes these events will be an opportunity for local business owners to meet face-to-face and learn about each other's offerings; to encourage cooperation and service-sharing so more money can be kept circulating within our community.

The Cordova Chamber of Commerce is governed by a 16-member board of directors and is comprised of around 150 members. In addition to operating the Cordova Visitors Center, the Chamber's work is divided into four program areas: quality of life enhancement, economic development, destination marketing and leadership development.

#