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APR 07 2008

ABE/AFSCME LOCAL 52

April 2, 2008

Jim Duncan, Business Manager
1577 C Street, Ste. 201
Anchorage, AK 99501-3534

Dear Brother Duncan:

This letter is to inform you that the thirteen winners of the 2008 AFSCME Family Scholarship have been selected. You will be pleased to know that one of the winners is August Browning, a student from Juneau-Douglas High School and the son of Gregory Emmett Browning, who is a member of Local 52.

Some of the councils and locals have expressed an interest in including information about the winner from their area in their publications. I have enclosed August's essay.

I am sure that you are proud of August Browning achievements. If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 202-429-1025.

In solidarity,

Philip Allen
Education Coordinator
Department of Education
and Leadership Training

PA:rb
Enclosure

cc: Paul Booth
Fred Brown, Local President
Flo Walker, Regional Director
Tam Tocher, AFSD
Raul Sanchez, FEC

August Browning

12/28/2007

What AFSCME has meant to our family:

My father works for the state of Alaska Department of Transportation as a construction engineer. His job entails working on projects all over Alaska and, thanks to the wages and benefits provided by AFSCME, he has been able to bring his family along with him. I hate to think what life would be like if we weren't able to see Dad for years at a time. Mom would probably go crazy.

We've lived in about 8 different communities ranging from the city of Juneau to the native fishing village of Kake. Right now we've settled down in Juneau, but we still go and "visit" new locales during the summer. The constant moving has had a profound effect on my life. I've had the opportunity to meet and make friends with tons of kids, coming from all cultures and backgrounds, all across southeast Alaska. At athletic and activity meets, most kids just hang out with their teams. I'm the guy who goes and mingles with all the kids from the other towns. If there is ever a team coming to Juneau, I'm guaranteed to know at least one person in the group. My family is constantly housing groups of guys from Haines. I never have more fun than when my friends from out of town are here.

Dad's job has also given me tons of opportunities for life experience. Two summers ago he was building a ferry terminal in the town of Coffman Cove. The population was about 150. There may not have been many people there, but there were still things going on. I got the chance to work as an intern on a major archaeological dig run by the Forest Service. They were excavating an old native gathering site. The internship was my first "real" job (e.g. the government got half my money). It was a great experience; I learned what it was like to work 40+ hour weeks, I made some money for college, and I got to learn about the island's history. The highlight of the dig was when we found obsidian tools. This was

significant because the nearest natural source of obsidian was over 100 miles away from the island.

Fascinating. Without AFSCME my dad wouldn't have been able to take us to Coffman Cove, and I never would have had the opportunity to work on the dig.

Then there are the health benefits. Unfortunately for me, I am one sickly kid. I've been ill a remarkably high percentage of my life; catching some painful malady once every two or three months. Dealing with strep throat once or twice a year is not an invigorating experience. Lucky for me, my dad's job provides us with healthcare, making it so that my family can afford to treat my illnesses. I'd probably be a lot worse off, physically speaking, if it wasn't for that.

I'm not the only one in the family who benefits from the options Dad's job offers him. My siblings, Sid and Luc, have also made friends from all over the place and I'm sure it's going to help them when they start travelling in high school. AFSCME has helped keep the family together. My mom has a hard time single parenting for part of the year. She needs to see my Dad in order to rejuvenate. Thanks to my Dad's job and AFSCME my family is healthy and happy. The things I've experienced and the people I've met have prepared me for life and all the troubles I may face. I'm ready to go, I'm ready for college, bring it on!