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**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## PRESS RELEASE

### *Kenai Central High School named 2013 Top AFS-USA school*

**Soldotna, March 21, 2013—Kenai Central High School (KCHS) is the only high school in the state of Alaska to receive a “2013 Top AFS School” award. AFS-USA (formerly the American Field Service) is a leader in intercultural learning and offers international exchange programs in more than forty countries throughout the world. KCHS has hosted eighty-one students from thirty-six different countries, and sent twenty-one students to study in eighteen different countries.**

“We are honored to be recognized by AFS-USA as a 2013 Top AFS School,” said Alan Fields, Kenai Central High School principal. “These students receive an outstanding cultural experience here and our students in turn learn about their culture. They become a part of our school community and build friendships that last a lifetime. Our local AFS chapter has done an excellent job of placing students here on the peninsula. This award also recognizes the hard work of those individuals as well as the families that have opened their homes and accepted exchange students to live with them for the school year.”

Dr. Steve Atwater, superintendent, said, “All of us at KPBSD are thrilled to learn that Kenai Central is being recognized in this way. KCHS’s ability to seamlessly integrate its exchange students into its school and the resulting benefit to all students is a shining example of what can be achieved with a high degree of collaboration.”

In a press release announcing recipients of its [2013 Top AFS Schools awards](#), AFS-USA wrote, “Schools honored with this inaugural award have partnered with AFS in a variety of ways to foster global citizenship through intercultural learning—both inside and outside of the classroom—from hosting international students, sending students abroad, and working with AFS-USA to incorporate intercultural and experiential learning opportunities into their curriculum. The high schools selected from around the country for this public recognition are making a profound difference in the lives of students and in society at large. The ability to speak another language, to navigate in a different cultural context, and to marshal a global perspective are skills that today’s students need to succeed in our increasingly interdependent world.”

“We’re so thankful and proud to work in educational partnership with these schools,” said Tonya Muro, the Director of School Outreach at AFS-USA. “Today’s AFS is so much more than international educational exchange. Together with schools, AFS is bringing global competencies and key twenty-first century skills to students, teachers, and the greater community.”

A certificate will be presented to KCHS at the 33rd Annual AFS International Fundraising dinner, Sunday, March 24, 6:00 p.m. at the Catholic Church in Kenai. Tickets are \$25 for adults; \$10 for children 14 and under.

Link: [AFS-USA Intercultural programs USA](#)

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**KPBSD: ONE DISTRICT, FORTY-THREE DIVERSE SCHOOLS**

ANCHOR POINT COOPER LANDING HOMER HOPE KACHEMAK SELO KENAI MOOSE PASS NANWALEK NIKISKI NIKOLAEVSK NINILCHIK PORT

**MARCH 21, 2013**

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