



Celebrating Dreams and Promoting Inspiration

When AIDEA granted a loan to Drake Construction for its Kotzebue Sound Barge as part of AIDEA's AK SHIP Program, little did AIDEA know that the loan would also enable school buses to be delivered to villages in Northwest Alaska and inspire a recent high-school graduate to become an "Ice Road Trucker."

Toby Drake, owner of Drake Construction and a Doyon Shareholder, who just celebrated their 40th year in business, had been successfully hauling gravel and other construction materials between Seward and the Kotzebue area for over 25 years. In 2019, Toby wanted to supplement his fleet, and provide service from Seward to Kotzebue, approached a local bank to expand operations. Because of the financial terms and type of asset, the bank suggested he reach out to AIDEA and participate in their AK SHIP Program. AIDEA was happy to partner with Toby and was able to finance the barge, Kotzebue Sound.

Over the past three years, with the addition of the Kotzebue Sound, Drake Construction has increased jobs and shipped goods and critical supplies all over Rural Alaska. "One of my favorite items we shipped this year is a school bus to Kivalina," says Toby. "However, what I am most proud of this past year at Drake Construction is my daughter, Mairyn, who joined the team this past year."

After graduating from Dimond High School and serving as a barista at Middle Way Café, Mairyn took a gap year to figure out a long-term career option. Through the encouragement of her dad and the investment opportunity in Drake Construction from AIDEA, Mairyn got her Commercial Driver's License (CDL) from Northern Industrial Training and became an Ice-Road Trucker this summer at 19 years old. As a licensed CDL driver, Mairyn is breaking down barriers for women in construction and is accomplishing feats that many teenagers would flee from in fear. "This summer, Mairyn even spread gravel on a heavy haul road," Toby proudly shared.

AIDEA celebrates the Drake family and all they are doing for Alaska's economy. Thank you, Drake Construction, for participating in AIDEA's programs and for sharing an example of celebrating dreams come true and promoting inspiration for our youth. ♦

AIDEA's Alaska Ship Home-Porting for Improvements Program (AK SHIP) is a financing program designed to enhance the competitiveness of Alaska's marine transport industry. Established in 2019, this program offers short-term and bridge financing for repair, conversion, and maintenance work on commercial and industrial vessels at Alaska shipyards.



← Scan to watch
Drake Construction video