

Alaska Innovators Hall of Fame 2023

The Juneau Economic Development Council (JEDC) with the State Committee for Research (SCoR) inducted three innovators into the Alaska Innovators Hall of Fame. The ceremony took place on March 16, 2023 at Centennial Hall in downtown Juneau.

The celebration was part of the annual Innovation Summit sponsored by the JEDC. University of Alaska Vice President of Academics, Students and Research Dr. Paul Layer and Lt. Gov. Kevin Meyer co-hosted the event.

“The Alaska Innovators Hall of Fame recognizes individuals who demonstrate innovation in creating or facilitating outstanding inventions,” said Layer. “These nominees have made achievements in their field that have made a tangible impact on quality of life, economic development, the environment, the welfare of the people of Alaska and the globe. These are inventors and innovators in the fields of science, engineering and technology.”

The two 2023 inductees and their notable achievements were:

- UAF professor **Dr. Mary Beth Leigh** – building public engagement and understanding of the science of climate and the environment.
- UAA professor **Dr. LeeAnn Munk** – exemplifying research excellence in Alaska with a profound body of work that will ultimately benefit the world through its importance for alternate energy resources in the form of lithium as well as the implications of her work to critical minerals exploration.



Dr. Mary Beth Leigh



Dr. LeeAnn Munk