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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ASTAC picks up tab for national reading program in North Slope schools
All eight regional schools will take part in Battle of the Books**

Barrow, Alaska – About 200 North Slope students will take part in this year’s Battle of the Books competition thanks to a major donation by Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative, Inc. (ASTAC). This is the second year that ASTAC has contributed \$15,000 to the North Slope Borough School District’s (NSBSD) Battle of the Books program. The donation will cover the cost of books, teacher’s time and recognition awards. All eight North Slope area schools will compete against one another during the 2015-2016 school year.

“We appreciate the amazing support of our students and the reading program through Battle of the Books with ASTAC’s generous contribution,” says Glen Szymoniak, NSBSD Superintendent, who received the donation at ASTAC’s annual meeting in Barrow on July 14.

Battle of the Books is a reading incentive program for students in grades three through 12. Goals of the nationwide program include encouraging and recognizing students who enjoy reading; broadening reading interests; increasing reading comprehension and promoting academic excellence.

Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative, Inc (ASTAC), headquartered in Anchorage, is a member-owned telephone utility cooperative providing telecommunication services to residents on the North Slope Borough of Alaska since 1981. Services include local, long distance, Internet, wireless and LAN/WAN. For more information, visit www.astac.net.

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