

Uqaaqtuaq News

KAWERAK, INC., UAF NORTHWEST CAMPUS, AND OTHERS WITH NEWS FROM THE BERING STRAIT REGION

"Uqaaqtuaq," for experience, happening, history, true story

WINTER 2008 ISSUE

Nome's 4th Annual Safety Patrol is Booming with Volunteers!

In the cold winter of 2005 with limited time to organize, the first Safety Patrol was formed with over 58 volunteers. The idea for the patrol came from Berda Willson, Helen Pootoogooluk, Carol Gales, John Bioff, Jonella Larson and the help of many volunteers and organizations. The Safety Patrol is made up of volunteers from various organizations and businesses in our region as well as interested citizens concerned for the general safety and well being of fellow residents and visitors to the community.

Back then the base of operations was at the Seaside center on Front Street; Nome Cellular Connections loaned the cell phones; Department of Transportation provided the reflective vests; Kawerak loaned held hand radios and Glue Pot provided free coffee.

Today the Safety Patrol is booming with over 100 volunteers walking and driving the streets during heavy bar traffic periods such

as Permanent Fund Dividend distribution, New Year's Eve and Iditarod.

Since the patrol was initiated four years ago there have been no disappearances or deaths during these high traffic times. If you would like to volunteer for the Safety Patrol please call Mimi Farley, Wellness Coordinator at 443-4325 or email her at: mfarley@kawerak.org.



Pictured below left is Carol Gales signing up for Iditarod safety patrol & Rahnia Parker, Crystal Samuels & Meredith Ahmasuk at registration.



The Regional Wellness Forum would like to THANK the following residents who volunteered for the Safety Patrol . . .

"It was your efforts that made it a huge success!"

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Berda Willson | Emily Hughes | Erika Eaton |
| Steve Willson | Jody Clafferty | Tyler Rhodes |
| Bertha Koweluk | Evita Samuels | Loretta Bullard |
| Bridie Trainor | Crystal Samuels | Jennifer Demir |
| Cathy Lyon | Gail Lewis | Theresa Ollana |
| Alpha Nybo | Meredith Ahmasuk | Barton Kanooka |
| Val Peng | Lois Christiansen | Colby Cater |
| Etta Ahkinga | Breanne MacFarland | Mary Carter |
| Gerald Hughes | Fred Eningowuk | Hunter Bellamy |
| Beth Reiter | Dorcas Bloom | Marion Slater |
| Phyllis Farrell | Kendra Nichols | Clinton Slater |
| Todd Kunnuk | Liz Recchia | Sue Steinacher |
| Candice Auliye | Leora Kenick-Labinski | Glen Pardy |
| Linda Nichols | Gretchen Froehle | Bonnie Hahn |
| Jason Hymer | Bob Froehle | Gina Appolloni |
| Anna Kuzuguk | Jana Varatti | Nome Youth Facility |
| Kirbi Fullwood | John Bioff | XYZ Center |
| Tashina Esparza | Carol Gales | Nome Joint Utilities |
| George Okboak | Christina Proctor | Nome Police Depart. |

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Vera Kingeekuk Metcalf receives Sea Award



Vera Kingeekuk Metcalf, Kawerak Eskimo Walrus Commission director received the international group-Wings Worldquest's Sea Award for her community-based projects documenting traditional ecological knowledge and community resource management practices.

In March Vera will travel to New York to officially receive the award. In collaboration with hunters and elders, Vera studies walrus population distribution, behavior, monitoring, and hunting, as well as issues related to climate change and subsistence economy. Now involved in the US Arctic Research Commission to preserve Native languages, she lives in Alaska and participates in a variety of subsistence activities in Nome and

Savoonga. Visit their website to find out more about Wings Worldquest: wingsworldquest.org/cgi-bin/iowa/news/record/65.html

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Loretta Bullard, Kawerak President

Several years ago, during one of our Kawerak Board meetings, Victor Ongtawasruk, our Board member from Wales at the time, talked about the situation that occurred in Wales at the turn of the century when three young men from Wales killed their resident missionary. He explained that their grandparents and great-grandparents (who were alive when at the time) used to talk about what happened. Victor relayed that the missionary impressed those who were alive then - as being very arrogant yet scared (with good cause it seems). After the murder, the village council decided these young men needed to be punished for their actions, as the young men had taken it upon themselves to kill the missionary without direction from the Council. Victor stated that the young men's uncles were directed to carry out the punishment of the young men. The young men were made to dig their own graves, and then their uncles shot and buried them. I found this narrative fascinating when Victor relayed it - because it is a good example: of the authority the tribal councils exercised at the turn of the century; the definitive nature of the justice system; and the level of responsibility that family members exercised over each other.

Times have changed and we're faced with a new set of problems. I wanted to share with you some of the challenges facing us here in the Bering Straits Region, and suggest a traditional solution to address them at the community and family level.

Currently, at the Anvil Mountain Correctional Center, there are housed 100 - 110 inmates. The inmates are predominantly Alaska Native males from the Bering Straits and NANA regions. The female population, while small, is increasing as a percentage of the inmate population at the AMCC population. Most of these individuals are incarcerated for alcohol related or fueled crimes and generally serve less than two months in jail. Inmates sentenced to serve longer terms are usually transported to other facilities.

In speaking with a past superintendent of the Anvil Mountain Correctional Center, it was noted that when sober, 99% of the inmates at AMCC were the nicest people you could ever want to meet. It was only when fueled by alcohol or other drugs that these individuals acted out, resulting in their incarceration. Many of these individuals are repeat offenders: they offend, get arrested, are convicted, incarcerated (and receive little to no treatment while in jail), are released, reoffend or violate conditions of parole and end up back at AMCC. It is within this population that many of our "social" issues revolve: domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, theft, boot legging, importation, etc. Until this population's issues are addressed, their problems will continue to affect the quality of life of our families and in our communities.

Many of these individuals could have benefitted from having a healthy, responsible adult involved in their lives when they were children, teens and young adults. Traditionally, in many of our villages, when teens and young adults acted out, it was the aunt or uncle who were called upon to provide guidance, support and advice to the teen or young adult, to aid them in becoming a contributing, successful adult member of the community. As we all know, when issues arise, children and teens will often respond more positively to an adult **other** than their parents. In most of our villages, we have lost this traditional support network.

In the New Year, I would like to encourage our responsible adults to reach out to pre-teens, teens and young adults to engage them in healthy activities. Take them out camping, boating, snow machining, crabbing, fishing, caribou and seal hunting. Take them out muchunaqing, surrah and berry picking. Engage them in helping you to fix that old snow machine or painting the house. Teach them how to speak Eskimo, make bread, skin sew, skin seals, and tan hides. Not only will you



Loretta Bullard, President

have some help, it will also increase their resourcefulness and abilities, keep them occupied and out of trouble and insure that the skills that have sustained us, are perpetuated. Offer them advice! Be there - be a friend. For adults in Nome, the Nome Youth Facility would welcome adult volunteers. I know there are many teens and young men in Nome, who would welcome the opportunity to go seal hunting, as their families are without boats.

The actions you take can have a profound impact in the lives of our youth - and the nice thing about this approach is, it doesn't cost a cent! It will help our youth become successful adults and it will help us rebuild a sense of family and community in our villages.

Become an Auntie - become an Uncle . . . our youth need and would welcome your support and involvement.

<p><i>“Building on the Inherent Strength of Our Cultural Values, We Shall Assist Our Tribes to Take Control of Their Future.”</i></p> <p>In keeping with this Vision Statement, Kawerak is increasing training and technical assistance services to tribes.</p> <p>Kawerak Divisions are: Community Services Employment, Education & Training Children and Family Services; and Natural Resources.</p>	<p>SERVING THE VILLAGES OF: BREVIG MISSION COUNCIL DIOMEDE ELIM GAMBELL GOLOVIN KING ISLAND KOYUK MARY'S IGLOO NOME SAVOONGA SHAKTOOLIK SHISHMAREF SOLOMON STEBBINS ST. MICHAEL TELLER UNALAKLEET WALES WHITE MOUNTAIN</p>

Kawerak Participant receives Trainee of the Month from ATC!

A big congratulations is in order to Josephine Tocktoo for being selected as *September's Trainee of the Month*! Josephine is enrolled in the Health Occupations Curriculum at Alaska Technical Center (ATC) and was selected Trainee of the Month for excellent attendance, progress and ability to get along with others. The Alaska Technical Center is part of a state-wide vocational training system that provides training programs in Health Occupations, Office

Occupations, Building Industrial Technology, Industrial Mine Technology and Information Technology Training. The **Trainee of the Month** award is a special merit award that recognizes hard work and dedication of deserving students at the Alaska Technical Center in Kotzebue. Congratulations Josephine!!!

Pictured to the left is Josephine Tocktoo, Brevig Mission, September Trainee of the Month.



Kawerak's Higher Education Scholarship Recipient set to Graduate with a Masters in April 2008!

Jennifer Hoogendorn was born in Nome, Alaska to Jane McCafferty and Homer Hoogendorn. She is of Inupiaq heritage and is a Bering Straits Native Corporation and Sitanasuaq shareholder. Jennifer has been a Kawerak Higher Education Scholarship recipient since the 2005 Spring semester, where she was



attending Alaska Pacific University in Anchorage, AK to obtain her Bachelor's degree with a double major in Human Services and Accounting.

She graduated in August of 2006. She has continued to be a grateful recipient of Kawerak's scholarship and will be graduating this April with a Master's of Business Administration from Alaska Pacific University.

"I have been very appreciative of the financial support that Kawerak has awarded me over the years. If I didn't have their support, I would be in debt thousands of dollars and have a student loan to pay off in the end. I appreciate Kawerak and other organizations that have supported me throughout the years. I cannot thank them enough. I encourage other students to further their education while taking advantage of the programs that are available to support them through the educational process."

Hoogendorn currently works at The CIRI Foundation providing support with scholarships, grants and education/heritage project

grants. Hoogendorn previously worked for Southcentral Foundation, starting as a RAISE program intern in 1999 and worked up to a communications technician in the public relations department. Jennifer is currently seeking jobs and other opportunities that will further her potential growth as a young Alaska Native professional.

Her ultimate goal is to be a successful leader in the Native community, whether working with a Native organization or owning her own business. Her hobbies include camping, rollerblading, photography and spending time with her dogs. Congratulations, Jennifer!

If you would like to apply to Kawerak's Higher Education Scholarship Program, please call the Workforce Development Specialist at 907-443-4351 or toll free at 1-800-450-4341 or download an application at www.kawerak.org/servicedivisions/eet/hes/index.html.

Bering Straits Regional Apprenticeship Program

By Lew Tobin, Regional Training Specialist

The Bering Straits Regional Apprenticeship Program (BSRAP) began in 2005 with a Denali Commission Grant to improve the long range training of local residents in our region. In the past, many of our residents worked with contractors on village projects but they weren't able to advance in position, or get credit for the work they had done on previous projects or with other contractors. Everyone is usually hired as laborers, regardless of their skills. Our region is always looking for State Certified journeymen plumbers, electricians and carpenters to work in villages. With our apprenticeship program we can not only keep track of the work done by individuals in different jobs, but give the training needed to help them advance in positions, and qualify to take the state tests for journeymen in their fields.

BSRAP is a Federally Approved Apprenticeship

Program that is comparable to any other apprenticeship in the US. In fact, if apprentices move from this region they can change their apprenticeship program to wherever they go in America without losing credit for the time and education they got here.

Currently we have 12 apprentices listed. At the quarterly BSRAP meetings employers get together to plan for the yearly training each apprentice will receive as part of their four year apprenticeship, discuss the program in general and review the progress of the apprentices in the program. For more information about the apprenticeship program or training, call Lew Tobin, Regional Training Specialist at (907) 443-4388 or toll-free at 1888-898-5171.



Pictured above is Dave Booshu (left) with Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority (BSRHA) learning about furnace maintenance and tuning for maximum fuel economy from Charlie Deer in one of the Village Based classes.

Eskimo Heritage Program

By Eva Menadelook, EHP Specialist

Kawerak's Eskimo Heritage Program (EHP) is located in Nome along the coast of the Bering Sea about 1,049 Iditarod miles and 500 air miles from Anchorage, Alaska. We have 16 villages that EHP serves within the Bering Strait Region: Brevig Mission, Wales, Shishmaref, Little Diomed, King Island, Teller, White Mountain, Council, Golovin, Elim, Koyuk, Shaktoolik, Stebbins, St. Michael, Solomon and Unalakleet. Today, we look to the frozen Bering Sea awaiting summer and the joy it brings. In the meantime, we look at our surroundings and find many good things to be thankful for. At Eskimo Heritage Program we are able to listen to interviews dating all the way back to the 1970's. With interviews from those born in the late 1890's and early 1900's who lived in an era where speaking Inupiaq or St. Lawrence Island Yupik was the norm and an everyday expression. Where life was much calmer as children, without: fast food, television, motorized vehicles, plumbing or electricity and lodging that is much smaller than we are used to now. Family and friends were important as they set the karma for subsistence, harmony and living together and to have a great winter or summer and for the community as a whole.

One such interview from Little Diomed caught my attention--William Kaputak, (interviewed in 1981 by EHP Margaret Seeganna in his dialect -Inalik) told of the days when he was a young man and his father's family traveled along the coast to different villages in Alaska and Siberia by skin boat. William reminisced of the days when the summer season came to an end and the visitors who came by boat (umiaq) readied for their voyage back home. The hosting village would gather at the beach armed with their Inupiaq drums and dances. The host village would sing and dance at the beach attempting to entice the visitors to remain just a little bit longer, a custom all villages along the coast of Alaska and Siberia practiced according to William.



Our local archives give living history related to reindeer herds and herders, influenza epidemics, weather, clothing, foods from the land and seas, tools, furs, tattoos, local vegetation and its uses as food and medicine, hot springs, dog teams, seal oil lamps and sets a foundation for future generations. We have Regional, Elder and Youth conferences archived on DVD and videos that include inspirational keynote addresses. There are also Elder group discussions in their respective dialects from the surrounding villages; and works shops on seal oil making and caribou cutting demonstrations. Eskimo dances performed by dancers and drummers from Barrow to Unalakleet (Just to mention a few of the archive collection).

Today, our respective Inupiaq and St. Lawrence Island dialects are in question and many wonder how long we will be able to understand and speak our languages. Our archives hold languages from each village along the Norton Sound. If you understand your dialect and wish to hear your home town in action with a tale or personal history, stop by the Eskimo Heritage Program offices to borrow a CD or two. You will also find group discussions in your language during the Elder and Youth or Regional Conferences from the 1970's and 1980's.

In September 2007, during Labor Day weekend, the village of Wales, Alaska hosted the Kingikmiut Dance Festival and invited drummers and dancers from the villages of King Island, Pt. Hope, St. Lawrence Island, Shishmaref, Anchorage, Brevig Mission, Teller and Little Diomed. The Kingikmiut (Inupiaq name for the people of Wales) provided the community with three nights of Inupiaq and St. Lawrence Island



Yupik dances. On the final evening, a long line of drummers from all the communities performed songs from each village which lasted until 4:00 am! The men all performed together from different communities to dance to a familiar song from one of the villages, this is a sight rarely seen and was cherished by the crowd. A community potluck was held on the second day with outstanding food. The Eskimo Heritage Program was fortunate to have documented this event by camera (check out the photos from the festival).

Lastly, EHP is excited for a new venture that is progressing and begins in the Native Village of Koyuk. UAF Northwest Campus, Bering Strait School District, National Park Service, and Kawerak, Inc.'s Eskimo Heritage Program are working together to have the students from Koyuk work with their local Elders in a cultural documentation class. Many thanks to Barb Amarok of Northwest Campus who is heading the program.

During the many times EHP interviewed Elders along the coast they would tell us our youth no longer understand them. Life is so fast paced today with all the modern conveniences e.g. snow machines, automobiles, aluminum boats, fast outboard motors etc which creates a community less interested with family or friends as opposed to what our Elders' witnessed. Our Elders remember the days when the village worked as a whole. Following 'unspoken laws' for hunting, gathering, and dividing of the game and laws so proficient no one was left out in the sharing of the harvest and the hunt was monitored with strict ways to ensure the game would return to the hunters' lands and set the harmony within the community. They were shown to ask for advice for life in general in the community and its activities. Society in their days was much calmer and each had a sense of belonging.

Today, our Elders and Youth have a chance to work with one another and become acquainted and also learn computer, digital, and academic skills to receive a grade from our educational system. Eskimo Heritage Program has the resources available for each community that is interested in a project to interview their relatives.

You may get a copy from our archives if you are a direct descendant or family member of Elders who are recorded in the EHP collection or a tribal member of a village in the Bering Strait region. It must be for personal use only and not duplicated for sale. Just send ten dollars or a blank CD or DVD to: Kawerak, Inc.; Eskimo Heritage Program; PO Box 948; Nome, AK 99762. The ten dollars goes toward the purchase of DVD's, CD's or video equipment. EHP is a nonprofit organization.

Just as William Kaputak reminisced about the Inupiaq drums and dances to keep the visitors I hope you will come and visit our archives and stay for an hour or two enjoying EHP's collection. Please call me at (907)443-4387 or via email at emenadelook@kawerak.org.



Reindeer Herders Program

by Kim Carter, RHP Specialist



Currently there are 10,000 estimated reindeer on the Seward Peninsula in 12 active herds. Kawerak Reindeer Herders Association invites you to their Annual Reindeer Potluck to be held Friday, March 14 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the Nome Eskimo Community Hall. The event is free. Reindeer Soups, stews and roasts will be served. Local residents are encouraged to bring a side dish.

For more information about the program or the potluck, please contact the Kawerak Reindeer Herders Association office at (907) 443-4377 or rfosdick@kawerak.org for the RHA Director or (907) 443-4378 or kcar-ter@kawerak.org for the RHA Specialist.

Traditional Knowledge and Norton Sound Salmon Variability Project

By Julie Raymond-Yakoubian, Social Scientist

Kawerak is in the midst of carrying out an exciting project coordinated through the Natural Resources Division. The *Traditional Knowledge and Norton Sound Salmon Variability* project will involve 15 communities in the Norton Sound region. The purpose of the project is to document traditional knowledge relating to historic and current changes in salmon populations, as well as climate change. This information will hopefully be used by fisheries managers and incorporated into their decision making process. It will also be a tool for Kawerak and communities to use to advocate for management changes that will benefit local communities.

The information will be collected primarily through interviews with Local Experts. Local Experts are individuals who have lived in the region for a long period of time and have been intimately involved in salmon fishing throughout their lives. Interviews with Local Experts will raise questions about fishing locations, change in the size and health of salmon, the predictability of salmon runs and weather, and other topics, along with mapping and place name documentation.

Several people will be hired to transcribe the digitally recorded interviews. An internship will also be available, and one Local Assistant will be hired in each village on a short term, temporary basis. The positions will be listed on www.kawerak.org when they become available. Interviews in local communities are scheduled to begin in May of 2008 and will continue through the end of 2009. For more information about this project, contact Julie Raymond-Yakoubian, Social Scientist at (907)443-4273 or via electronic mail at jraymondkoubian@kawerak.org



"Eskimo women cleaning fish." Photographer and date unknown (1930s?) Location: Fox River. Courtesy of the Laura Johnson Collection—Kawerak Eskimo Heritage Program

Denali Commission forms new Economic Development Committee

The Denali Commission has recently formed an Economic Development Advisory Committee. The members were selected for their unique and valuable contribution to the area of economic development in Alaska. Part of the "charge" as one of the newest advisory committees at the Denali Commission, is to craft policy for the Economic Development program. The Denali Commission is committed to emphasizing projects beneficial to rural Alaska in their economic development program.

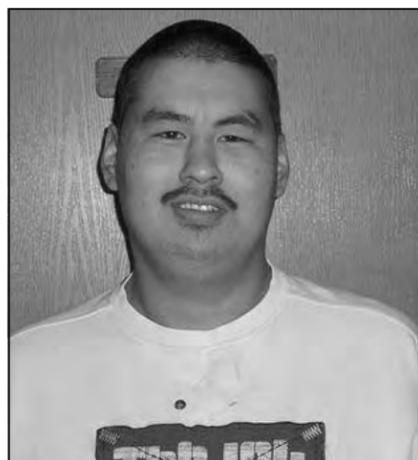


Economic Development Advisory Committee
Seated L-R: Joseph Austerman; Wanetta Ayers
Standing L-R: Barb Nickels; Sheri Buretta; Wilfred "Boyuck" Ryan; Christi Bell; Berney Richert, Jr.
Not Present: Kathie Wasserman; Julie Kitka; Dr. Bruce Borup

AmeriCorp RAVEN Program will Implement the Region's Backhaul Project

By Barb Nickels, Program Director

The Bering Strait Development Council (BSDC) has recently approved implementing a regional backhaul project in the Norton Sound area. The BSDC is an Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR), one of 11 economic development organizations designated by the State of Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development also serves as the USDA Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D). The ultimate goal of the project is to remove solid waste from the villages of the Bering Straits region, including abandoned vehicles, ATV's, snowmobiles, outboard motors, TV's microwaves, scrap metal, etc.



Every community in the region is faced with multiple challenges with accumulated solid waste and these challenges will only worsen if a project to get rid of the solid waste is not developed.

There will be many facets to developing a project of this multitude, including research of proper preparation of vehicles and other items

for transportation, development of a plan and agreement with each community, transportation and logistics of the solid waste, inventory of each community, acquiring funding, etc. Thanks to RurAL CAP's AmeriCorps BIRCH/RAVEN program, Kawerak's Community Planning & Development and the BSDC welcome the opportunity to host an AmeriCorp RAVEN to assist in this project and other recycling activities in Nome and the surrounding villages.

Justin Katcheak of Stebbins has been chosen to fill this position and has relocated to Nome to fulfill one year of volunteer work through the RAVEN program. Justin comes to us with experience in recycling projects and previously worked for one year with the AmeriCorps Tribal Civilian Community Corp (T.C.C.C.). Justin also participated in volunteer work during the Florida tornado disaster and other clean-up work in the Nenana area. As part of our commitment to RurAL CAP, CPD's Program Director, Barb Nickels will be Justin's Site Supervisor and he has provided with office space, computer, internet, phone, fax and any other supplies necessary to complete his job duties. Through Kawerak, Justin will also receive training opportunities, support in his quest for higher education, and a shared VISTA apartment.

The Bering Strait Development Council and Justin are looking forward to moving this project forward and implementing planning efforts.

HOME ENERGY SAVING TIPS

From Kawerak's RURAL CAPS VISTA VOLUNTER

There are things every home owner can do; some won't even cost anything that can quickly add up to saving you money on your heating bills. Here are just a few suggestions:

- Replace your major appliances to include energy star rated equipment.
- Clean your refrigerator coils, stove pipes, ventilation areas, and always make sure drafts are not coming in through your homes through cracks, holes, or rotting.
- Clean or replace Furnace coils or heat pump filters in your home.
- Check your light bulbs. You will save more by changing your incandescent bulbs to compact fluorescents.
- Make sure you have adequate ventilation in your home so that mold will not occur and also make sure drafty areas are covered with caulk.
- Check the insulation in your attic or if you have a crawlspace in your home.
- Insulate hot water pipes and ducts wherever they run through the unheated areas in your home.
- Seal up the largest air leaks in your home, the worst areas are: gaps around chimney pipes, light fixtures in the home, unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets.



If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns about saving energy in your home, please contact the RurAL CAP VISTA Volunteer, Jennifer Demir, at Kawerak at 1-877-219-2599 or energyvista@kawerak.org.

Denali Commission Awards Kawerak with 2007 Best Practice Award

By Jeanette Pomrenke, Transportation Program Director

On November 29, 2007 the Denali Commission recognized several individuals and organizations for their commitment, innovation, and hard work in the State of Alaska. The Commission provided four awards that were presented by the State and Federal Co-Chairs. One of these awards was the "Best Practice Award" which is provided to an individual, community, village or organization for the creation, use or processing of practices or activities that are beneficial to a wide array of stakeholders. Kawerak was honored to receive the "2007 Best Practice Award" for best practices strategies and for successfully leveraging funding to achieve goals within Kawerak's Transportation Program.

Kawerak developed the first Alaska tribal compact transportation agreement with the federal government in 2003, which serves as a template for other project agreements in other regions. This agreement provides financial and project development benefits to Kawerak's communities and has become a leadership model for other tribal governments in Alaska. The tribal compact agreement pools funds from the communities and prioritizes capital projects in the region. Through its Transportation Program, Kawerak has been able to:

- Provide the 9% local match required under the State Transportation Improvement Program, thereby increasing the likelihood that state funded projects will be constructed in our villages.
- Access new funding sources to meet village transportation needs. Kawerak applied for and received Denali Commission Access funds to undertake transportation related projects in four of their villages.
- Successfully complete an aerial digital mapping project of all villages in the region; a tremendous help in community planning and future infrastructure development.
- Plan, design and successfully manage the construction of: Elim Box Culvert Replacement, Shishmaref Seawall-450 feet, Solomon

Road, and Koyuk Community Streets.

Kawerak currently has a number of projects in the design phase including: Diomed Community Boardwalk, Diomed Harbor, Unalakleet Community Roads, Brevig Mission Community Streets, Stebbins Community Roads, Shaktoolik Evacuation Road and Gambell Community Streets and Evacuation Road.

For more information about the Kawerak Transportation Program, please call Jeanette Pomrenke at 443-5231 or visit Kawerak's website at www.kawerak.org.



Kawerak's Transportation Program at work in Koyuk.

Small Business Marketing Tools Workshop

By Lahka Peacock, Community Planning & Development

What are two things most people in rural Alaska do not have enough of when trying to start a small business?

TIME & MONEY

If you do not have the money to pay someone else to take care of the multitude of duties required to get your business off the ground, then you must do it yourself and the ability to accomplish these things yourself becomes very important. There is not much you can do about time, except to plan on not getting much sleep when starting your own business and making the most of each hour of every day. Making checklists and prioritizing will make sure you make the best use of the 24 hours you have each day.

Lack of money means you will have to do many of the start-up duties yourself to get your business up and running. You do not have the money to hire people to create a fancy logo, print colorful business cards & letterhead, and develop various marketing materials, such as flyers, newsletters, etc. You must do this all on your own to save money. With advances in technology the average person can learn how to create these materials all on their own. All it

takes is a personal computer. Even in rural Alaska, the majority of households now have at least one computer in the home. And if this is not the case, then Kawerak's Community Planning & Development (CPD) program has set-up e-commerce centers in many of the regions villages that are available to the residents at no charge.

With all this in mind, CPD felt it could assist current and potential business owners by providing a free workshop that teaches the basic tools to create your own marketing materials. In December CPD hosted a workshop at the Northwest Campus Computer Lab and invited Joseph Davis with Watermark Consulting to facilitate a two day workshop. All fees for the presenter were sponsored by Alaska Growth Capital.

The first day of the workshop focused on the types of digital cameras in the marketplace and their pros and cons for use by a small business owner. Day two of the workshop the attendees learned how to take their digital photos and manipulate them with various programs, such as Photoshop Elements and Microsoft Publisher, and place them into business cards, flyers, newsletters, and other marketing materials.

With assistance from CPD, attendee Hogarth Kingeekuk, owner of King of Powersports Parts and Repair Service in Savoonga, won a 2006 grant from AFN's Alaska Marketplace to expand and enhance his business. This grant enabled him to build a shop which was necessary to perform his work, but he struggled with creating invoices, price lists and flyers to attract business. After two days at the workshop, Hogarth left with some of these items in hand and the tools to create more on his own once back in Savoonga.

Another attendee, Esther Pederson, who dreams of one day starting a photography business in Nome, learned how to use the software program Photoshop Elements, which she has owned for some time, but sits on her shelf at home. Esther left the workshop not intimidated by the software program any longer and ready to take her copy off the shelf and experiment with it.

This hands-on workshop was a success and CPD will definitely be offering more workshops like it. If you would like more information on starting a business or creating marketing materials contact Colleen Odden, Business Development Coordinator 1-877-219-2599 or 907-443-4250.



HORIZONS

NEWS AND NOTES FROM NORTHWEST CAMPUS, PART OF THE COLLEGE OF RURAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

Finding funds for college

Some college-bound highschoolers in the region recently took a big step toward their future.

Nine students gathered at Shishmaref High School and 15 met at Northwest Campus in Nome on Feb. 10 to learn how to apply for some of the \$80 billion in federal student aid given out annually.

The sessions were part of a nationwide promotion called College Goal Sunday, scheduled annually for the Sunday following the Super Bowl.

The event helps students through the sometimes daunting process of completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

"Despite frigid temperatures and the high school basketball teams returning during the event, Shishmaref had a very successful College Goal Sunday," said Kacey Miller, NWC student services coordinator.

Miller, nine local volunteers, and a rural students advisor from the Fairbanks campus worked with nine Shishmaref students and three parents.

By the end of the session, five students had submitted financial aid applications for next school



year. Two had applied for admission to UAF.

"We are so proud of these Shishmaref students and wish them the best of luck," Miller said.

In Nome, six parents and 15 students participated in the session with local volunteers and NWC staff. Many students, including all those enrolled at NACTEC for that session, completed the FAFSA.

You must apply by April 15 for financial aid for next fall! A NWC advisor can help you with the process. Kacey Miller serves Nome and the northern villages (nnklm@uaf.edu, 1-800-478-2202, ext. 8416). Reese Huhta serves the southern villages (nnrsh@uaf.edu, 1-888-624-3158).



TOP: College Goal Sunday participants in Nome work on student aid applications during a presentation guiding them through the process. LOWER PHOTO: Kacey Miller, NWC student services coordinator (foreground) and Gabrielle Russell, UAF rural student advisor (green t-shirt), help Shishmaref students apply online. Students, from left: Tracy Milligrock, Johnny Pootoogooluk, Mollie Snell and Gilbert Snell.

Computer courses are coming your way!

Now you can hone your computer skills without leaving your village!

Northwest Campus and Kawerak, Inc., are teaming up with local communities to bring computer training out to students.

"Students appreciate having the courses taught in their hometowns," said Melanie Burtis, NWC applied business and computer applications instructor.

"Because we use a college-course format, this training provides much more time for discussion and student questions than is normally available through outside trainers," Burtis said. "We are also available after class to help with on-site computer issues."

Burtis, who has a doctoral degree in education, has taught QuickBooks courses in Teller, Golovin and Shishmaref so far this year. Wales, White Mountain and Stebbins residents look forward to QuickBooks training this spring.

QuickBooks is financial soft-



Melanie Burtis (left) teaches a QuickBooks course to Lucinda Menadelook, Cora Ablowaluk, and Wes Okbaok in a classroom space provided by the Mary's Igloo Traditional Council. The traveling computer lab is provided by Kawerak.

ware that many organizations use to manage payroll, pulltab sales, and more. Understanding the program can be critical to generating accurate grant reports and figuring payroll taxes.

In addition to QuickBooks, Burtis can bring villages courses in Micro-

soft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, and Access, as well as Introduction to Computers.

New computer users interested in the community-based software courses can get additional pre-class training from Mike Rutledge, NWC developmental studies

instructor. Rutledge has a master's degree in education.

Burtis and Rutledge arrive in their village classroom with a portable computer lab: laptop computers, cables, mice, and software packed in airline-quality boxes built for transport by airplane or sled.

A new grant from the University of Alaska Fairbanks will soon allow Burtis to update the traveling lab with more computers, networking technology, and a portable printer.

The courses can be offered in one- or three-credit formats. A one-credit course can be offered in a period of three to four days.

Local organizations and government entities are supporting the courses by paying tuition and fees for their employees and providing classroom and instructor lodging space. Kawerak is supporting instructor airfare.

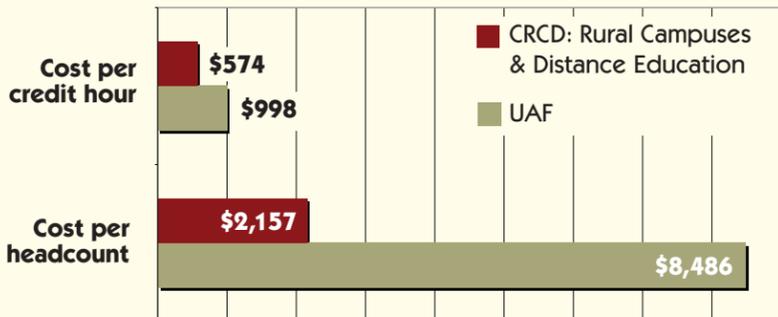
To schedule a course for your community, contact Melanie Burtis at melanie.burtis@uaf.edu or (907) 443-8412.

NWC by the numbers

IT COSTS LESS TO SERVE UAF STUDENTS WHO LIVE IN RURAL ALASKA THAN THOSE WHO LIVE ON CAMPUS

The College of Rural and Community Development (CRCD) includes the Center for Distance Education in Fairbanks and rural campuses in Nome, Kotzebue, Bethel, Dillingham, Interior and Aleutians.

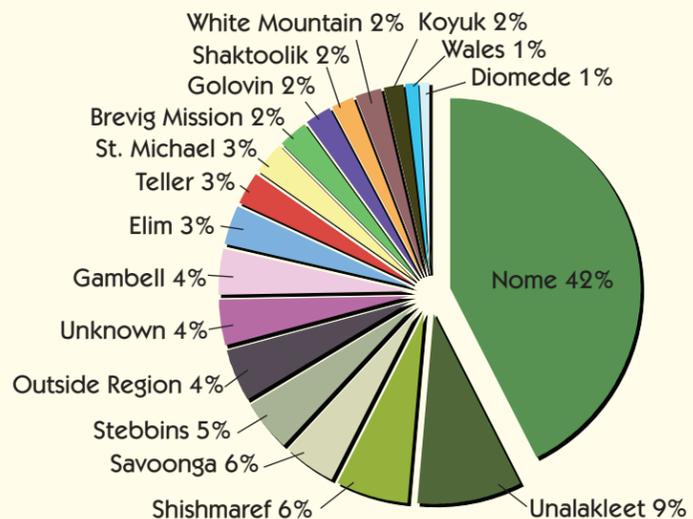
Rural campuses—with far fewer buildings, classrooms, support services, and administrative costs—use state funds much more effectively based on student headcount and credit hours.



Enrollment numbers are AY2007 fall and spring totals taken from UAF PAIR data. Funding is actual expenditures of state general operating funds. No capital funding included. CRCD numbers include only rural campuses and rural college, not TVC. Rural costs account for institutional support; reallocation rate of 50% used.

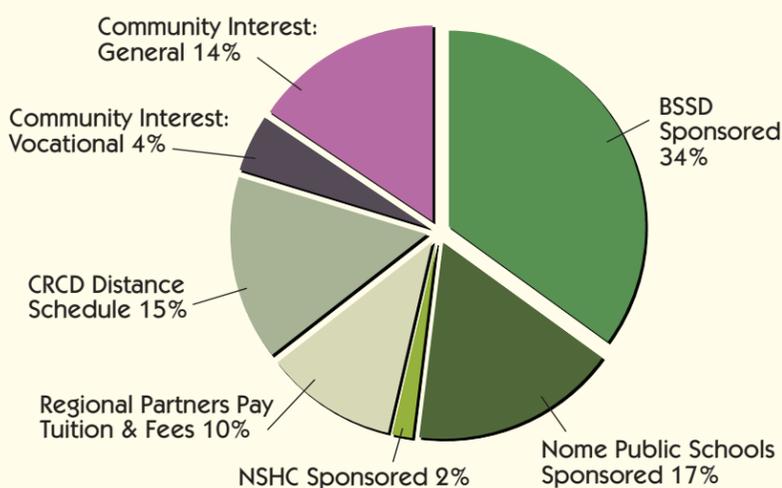
STUDENTS AROUND THE REGION TAKE NWC COURSES

During fall 2007, residents throughout the region earned credits at UAF Northwest Campus. As NWC continues to offer applied business courses in villages, find adjuncts in regional communities, and use distance technology for regionally-oriented classes, more opportunities for students in all communities will become available.



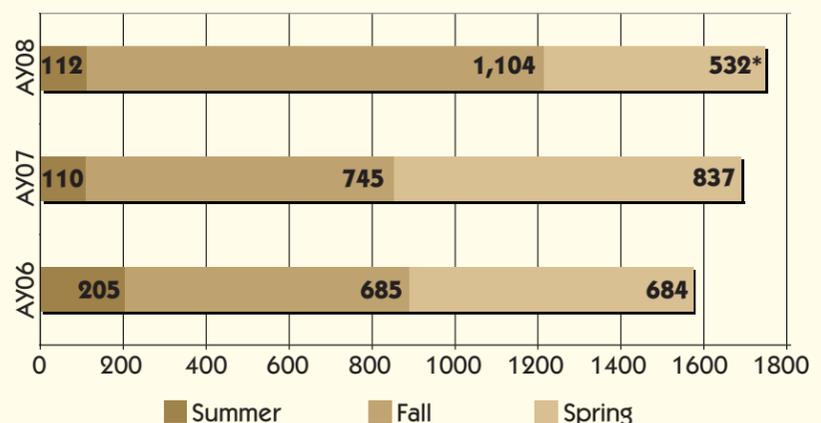
SPONSORS & PARTNERS SUPPORT NWC STUDENTS

As a regional community campus, Northwest Campus relies heavily on partners to identify education and training needs, fund instruction costs, and provide scholarships and tuition support. A well-rounded schedule of local, regional course offerings indicates a campus effort to reach as many different interests as possible.



OUR CAMPUS ENROLLMENT FIGURES ARE RISING

Enrollment at Northwest Campus rises and falls between semesters. Any added instructor or sponsorship at a small campus immediately affects student numbers. Likewise, as funding for student or instructional support decreases, fewer courses are offered and fewer students enroll. Enrollment at NWC has steadily risen over the last three academic years. With several months remaining, enrollment at NWC this year has already topped that of last year.



Polar Year speaker series looks at human issues

How do storms form and where do they come from?

How is the Bering Strait important to global ocean circulation?

These topics are among those presented by International Polar Year (IPY) speakers this winter, hosted in a series by the UAF Marine Advisory Program and Northwest Campus.

Eight speakers are scheduled through April on topics ranging from climate change and sea ice declines, to Eskimo linguistics, to the history of the Serum Run.

Earlier International Polar Years—in the 1880s, 1930s and 1950s—featured large-scale polar expeditions and research by military officials and scientists.

This fourth IPY is different.

This is the first IPY to focus on northern residents and include research on human issues like climate change and cultural documentation.

For example, the Sea Ice Knowledge and Use (SIKU) project is a circumpolar effort to produce bilingual sea ice dictionaries. This work spans from Wales, Gambell, Shishmaref and Shaktoolik to com-

munities in Greenland. The project, presented by Igor Krupnik of the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., also incorporates daily ice observations, interviews and photographs.

David Atkinson, meteorology professor at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, is learning from Bering Strait residents about wind, rain and snow events that result in destruction, and hopes to fine-tune weather predictions to include those observations.

It's not too late to hear from speakers in this series!

Most past presentations are available online, courtesy of the Bering Strait School District. Type this web address into your browser: tiny.cc/zvUyH

To find out how to join future presentations, contact Northwest Campus at 1-800-478-2202, ext. 8407. You can also visit our web site (www.nwc.uaf.edu) and click the IPY Speaker Series button in the column on the right.

Many thanks to BSSD, NACTEC, KNOM and Nome Community Schools for helping make this speaker series a success!



David Atkinson of UAF answers questions about Bering Sea weather systems for an audience in Nome. Participants in Shishmaref and St. Michael were also part of the session, calling in by audioconference and following the slideshow online.

WHAT IS WELLNESS IN MY REGION ...

"My definition of Wellness is to continue how our ancestors lived years ago. Keeping a close relationship with our elders, learning traditional ways and understanding how these ways keep healthy are very important. It is not only my responsibility, but leads me in the right path of who I want to become.

Who I want to be is a reflection of how my elders once lived, but views have changed since living in igloos and dog mushing. We now have very different lifestyles and comparing this modern world to how they once lived, we're very spoiled.

By pulling through and fulfilling our responsibility as a younger generation will one insure the well being of our future generations? If we were to apply what we can of our ancestors activities, the general health of the community would be stronger. These activities are the subconscious key to keeping us from bad temptations and negative influences. I cannot stress enough the importance of our elder's wisdom and customary values affect our communal health."

"When I think of Wellness, the villages do not come straight to mind. Alcohol is a serious problem. I know that when people think of Natives, alcohol is the first thing they think of. It may be considered a stereotype but when you take a look at the people, you start to realize that it is true in some cases. Alcohol is used to 'numb' the feelings but cause countless problems. For one thing you get an addiction, and you begin to rely on the thing that kills you but tricks you into thinking that it makes you have fun. It changes your life in the blink of an eye and you don't even realize it.

Even teenagers who want to be adults too soon are being pulled into the dangerous world of drugs and alcohol. I, personally think these things are a very ridiculous waste of time. You only get one life and you need to use it the right way. Getting high is not something anyone should be proud of and I hope I never experience that feeling"



"A person has wellness when he acts responsible, disciplined and with consideration for others and his environment. Wellness can be represented in any daily activity, but the best example of wellness in my region is the practice of subsistence because it can be carried out in many ways and throughout the year. Practicing subsistence also demonstrates an alternative to the use of drugs and alcohol.

I define Wellness as an abstract object obtained by responsible, disciplined and considerate behavior. It's wonderful for one individual to have these characteristics, but having wellness in my region means having a community of individuals who have wellness within each of them. Living in a community that displays dependability, accountability, self-control, and respect makes it easier to return those same qualities. It keeps the region peaceful, and if wellness had to be described in one word, 'peace' would be the best choice."

"Wellness in Unalakleet isn't that great, but there is a positive side to it. Unalakleet is a pretty place and there could be a lot of subsistence living around here, but now this so called beautiful village is going down the drain. The reason I think that is because almost everyone litters everywhere like the land is a humongous trash can. I guess they don't realize our land is very valuable. Our land is what our ancestors used to live off. By littering all you are doing is endangering our animals that we use and used to live off of. That is unhealthy.

Another bad thing around here is weed. Even the kids are getting into it. Some people can't live without it. Most of the parents around here do weed too. Their children think of them as role models and then they start to get in to it. They can ruin their whole life doing this. It could make them want to drop out of school because they can't get any work done. Then there is a good side to all of this. Children are actually learning to do subsistence and they enjoy it. Some kids spend time with their grandparents and learn from them. If kids started doing that more often, then maybe our unhealthy life style will change back to the way it used to be."

"I live in this beautiful village of Unalakleet. There is a number of wellness in this region. People love subsistence, they love the outdoors, they're successful in life and they are examples to the youth. But there are people who are the exact opposite. They have problems with alcoholism and drug use. People nowadays are choosing to live easy. The idea of wellness is people who like to hunt, pick berries, fish, teach the youth about important things m having the best possible education and not being lazy. If only people who don't live like that could know how it affects them and other people.

Everybody in this region has the potential to be successful in life. They should know that drugs and alcohol aren't the answer. If they knew that, our region would be a thousand times better than how it is now."

"She's pretty! I want to be just like her when I grow up!" Yeah, she's pretty but does the little girl know any of the secrets she hides? She may be one of the hundreds of teens that do drugs and drink every week-end. That's a problem in our region that concerns me. Teenagers are drinking alcohol and doing drugs like methamphetamine and smoking marijuana. Don't you think that teens in high school are too young to try or even touch drugs and alcohol? I think so. Every week-end there are teens making plans with somebody who is old enough to buy alcohol and drugs and they do them all night or until they pass out.

I just hope that these teens can find something else healthier to do other than drinking and doing drugs every week-end. It'd be nice if my fellow Alaska Natives would make right decisions and keep it that way."

Kawerak, Inc.

Students from the Native Village of Unalakleet were asked to write about what Wellness means to them, their community and the region. Below are excerpts (and photos from Unalakleet) taken from the students' papers. The letters were also shared at a recent Regional Wellness Forum meeting.

"Our elders are trying to teach us to do the right things in our lives so we can have a long healthy life. They said we need to go to school and get a good education and go to college. When the elders talk to the youth, the youth need to pay attention so they can learn the right way to live. The adults in this region that practice subsistence are less likely to do drugs and alcohol because they would not be focused on alcohol and drugs. I think the youth should carry on the tradition of the other generations so they will be able to pass it on when they get older.

The people in our region are getting hooked on drugs and alcohol. They are buying more alcohol than they are spending on their kids' needs. They are being selfish and only thinking of themselves without considering what is happening to their children due to their addictions. We need to reduce the alcohol and drugs in our region and focus on subsistence."

"I think the idea of wellness is all about respecting everything and everybody around you. By doing this, most teens are to follow the law and listen to their parents, elders and community members. Minor laws that aren't followed in our region are underage people staying out after curfew and they tend to do crazy things that are on their minds. Most of those violators break in stores, people's property or places they think they will get revenge for something that somebody did to them. There is also subsistence abuse that goes on in the villages. Careless hunters that like to go targeting, try to shoot at animals and they later won't use or leave their leftover wastes out in the country and not do anything about it.

There are all kinds of good and bad that goes on in this region, but to keep our wellness strong, our age group has to learn our culture values so we can pay the respect of what our elders taught us. Also, we as a region need to become more reliant with our traditional customs to keep our wellness going."

"I have many ideas about what wellness would be for my region. There would be cultural wellness, basically keeping our tradition alive. Another way to gain regional wellness is to find ways to keep youth away from trouble and other dangers we face these days. There would also have to be environmental wellness. Cultural wellness is very important, it shows who and what a community is. Elders should teach Native customs to younger people like how to prepare traditional native foods and sewing. We, the youth of Alaska are also important because we are the future. Environmental health is a big deal in Alaska. Due to all of the natural resources we're surrounded by it's very important that we maintain it.

A good thing to help the youth of my region would be to start like a youth recreational center; just somewhere to hang out with people they can trust and it will give them something to do rather than being mischievous and getting into all kinds of trouble. Youth are a big part of my region. Having this Center would be like renewing a Qargi house where skills were taught to the younger generation."



In my region Wellness would be that all the people that are in the villages all know each other. The environment lays a small part in the health of the people in the village. If the village is trashy and the people are sprawled out all over the place drunk, the children that live there would get a bad perception of the people and they would want to be like them when they are grown up. It is like that one commercial where this one girl was going to be an alcoholic when she is older, because she wants to be like the person she saw drunk.

Being well educated, being in good health and not starting drugs/alcohol is the ideal for living in a village. Also, to support yourself and treat your body with respect so you can live a good life. That's the way I would want to live and that is the way I am going to live in this world."

"Wellness from within a community is very hard to most remote villages. Once a person does something bad it can influence young ones, their children, people you love and pass through generations and it gets worse. Some people don't even know what kind of influence they're passing down, whether they are too lazy and don't care, or they don't get the big picture with no common sense. It's unpredictable they can't learn taking care of their community. I think it is ridiculous.

One of the many problems we have in our community of Unalakleet is abusing drugs and alcohol. Wet, damp or dry villages here in our region, people figure out a way in getting alcohol and drugs into their lives, hurting many loved ones and the people around them. Alcohol has caused a lot of damage here in Unalakleet. Their demons have captured their dreams and ambitions, hoping they can succeed, but sadly couldn't. They've destroyed their inner beauty filling themselves with 'juice', a term people use around here. Another problem we have here with alcohol, I've seen parents drinking with their underage children. They are supposed to be guiding them into a good future, not sharing drinks and getting in trouble with the law. It's ridiculous seeing them ruining their relationship over an alcoholic beverage and having innocent neighbors dealing with all their yelling and rudeness. Parents are responsible for how their under age children act and what they get themselves into. Parents need their support, guiding them when their children are lost, not letting them do whatever they want.

Don't get me wrong, our village is a good community but we can help our elders by doing what is passed down to us, keeping our Native tradition going; for example subsistence hunting and storytelling, Eskimo dancing and helping our elders out. Our ancestors did whatever they could to survive and we need to stick with the tradition. I am sure most are trying their best to keeping wellness on track and keeping our Native culture going and passing it on generation to generation."



"Tobacco, drugs and alcohol are important substances to keep away from to have a healthy community. Being able to say "NO" to these things will benefit yourself, others your village and your children. Our future leaders will thank us for what good choices we've made and will pass on respected role modeling.

In the Village of Unalakleet, several teenagers smoke marijuana, drink, chew tobacco and smoke cigarettes. They learned to do this from the adults. Some parents blame their child's friends or the child himself/herself. But what they don't realize is that they are the ones teaching these bad influences to us. These children have access to these items from their parents and others. They can easily get a grip on these when something loose is lying around in the house. I think dangerous things like these should not be made any more, if not, then even making them illegal in the villages would be wonderful.

I think Wellness takes a very important role in our lives today. They always have. That's why I plan to be helpful in any way possible. Nothing so important in our region would make me so happy than to see the old ways brought back up again and renewed. If I could change anything in the world I wanted to, I'd go back to the tie of our ancestors and hope that others would also. Our wellness is not as valuable as it used to be and I'm longing for a change."

Kawerak Full Board of Directors Meeting held December 11 ~ 14 in Nome

Below are the Village Reports from each representative

Willie Foster—Mary's Igloo Traditional Council:

The Mary's Igloo Traditional Council and Mary's Igloo Native Corporation held a feast for our members in October. It was a great get-together for the two organizations. We will be having meetings to discuss how we will split the cost for all the building expenses. We are hosting QuickBooks training this week. There will be four organizations taking the QuickBooks training. We were able to donate school supplies and socks to the school activities. We donated some money for the Thanksgiving feast. We will be donating to the Christmas feast and the week long Traditional games. One of our priorities is the trail staking project from Teller to the Mary's Igloo camps and fishing holes.

Shirley Martin—Native Village of St. Michael:

St. Michael IRA was awarded the Grant Writer Contract with Kawerak. Also the Council has agreed with AmeriCorps to contract two positions. One program will address environmental issues and the other health concerns in the village. There was a Halloween carnival for the village held by the Anthony A Andrews School and staff. The annual St. Michael Basketball Turkey Tournament went really well with 16 teams participating and the St. Michael Men's Ravens coming in first for St. Michael. There has been St. Michael IRA staff turnover in these past months. EPA/IGAP new coordinator is Barbara Waskey and her assistant is Marjean Otten. They are currently applying for FY 08 EPA/IGAP funding. Also the Janitor/Maintenance position has staff turnover. The Nalemp DoD position has recently been filled. We have hired Theresa Kobuk. Head Start Program was not in session for one week due to furnace problems at the St. Michael IRA building, but thank you to CO from Brevig Mission who helped with the furnaces. We sent one Elder and one Youth to AFN in Fairbanks. The new school project is closed as of December 8th and will resume in 2008. Also the Village of St. Michael will have a Christmas carnival during Christmas vacation.

Irene Aukongak—Chinik Eskimo Community:

The last few months have been interesting here in Golovin. For a while it looked as though maybe winter had forgotten us. We had rain and high winds the last week of November, so the little snow that we had melted. Then it froze and turned into sheets of ice. Our bay has still not formed a good layer of ice yet and is open enough to go on a boat ride. But, with Christmas creeping upon us we've finally been blessed with a wonderful layer of snow and everyone is pulling their snow machines back out. Just in time for everyone to head out to the timber patch for Christmas trees. This year, a volleyball tournament was held at Golovin. Even with severe weather storms we had eleven teams fly in from eleven villages. There were twelve teams total. Our population almost doubled. Our Golovin Lynx placed first and the Unalakleet Wolf pack placed second. Both teams went to Anchorage where Golovin placed fourth. All the teams did very well.

Delbert Pungowiyi—Native Village of Savoonga:

I would like to thank Kawerak for this meeting here. It is a pleasure to meet and get to know you all. I am happy to report that we got our new Head Start building done last spring. It is a really nice building. The new school is projected to be done by 2009. They laid out the new foundation and we are excited for a new high school. We finally got the gravel laid out for our new baseball field. The kids are really looking forward to it. One of our biggest problems is suicide. Suicide prevention is very important to us. We are doing a feasibility study of four wind turbines over the next two years. Our new clinic has been set back to ground zero because of the size and maintenance. One of our main concerns is the store. For the past three months our store has been very empty. The shelves and freezers are consistently bare. The smaller planes have to come and they cannot deliver as much as Northern Air Cargo can. NAC used to bring in 10,000 pounds a week for the store. We have begun to invite our youth to the regular monthly meetings and to our joint meetings. We are encouraging our youth to attend these meetings so that we can train them for the future.

Darlene Turner—Native Village of Shishmaref:

Shishmaref IRA is excited about Tumet. She expressed gratitude to her community for selecting her to represent them. She was happy to report that the Elders in her community have been conducting Youth Court to help curb problematic behavior in some of their youth. The Elders have also been teaching youth their Native language and also traditional skills like building sleds, kayaks, tuuks, and other tools. A research team will be in Shishmaref to study lakes that are going dry, which includes taking core samples to see if there is methane gas being emitted into the air. There will be a study at Cape Espenberg to see the effects of the rapidly melting permafrost. There are four seats open on the IRA Council. We lost two of our elders to cancer recently. Can we have some

kind of cancer research in our region? It is becoming an epidemic in our area. We need early prevention and screening.

Michael Thomas—King Island Native Community:

King Island Native Corporation will be having their annual meeting at the end of the month. We have four regular seats coming up. KINC has appointed Marilyn Koezunna-Irelan to the Council. They received an old mask dating from 1890-1900, from a family that originally got the mask from King Island and they wanted to return it. On December 8 they had a dance celebration to celebrate the return. The elders decided to display the mask at the EDA building and then at the Beringia Museum; a place where it could be enjoyed by everybody. KINC was featured in the first issue of the Nome Nugget for 2008 in regards to the mask. This summer Tumet completed maintenance on the road that leads to the Cape Wooley Campsite. NSEDC approached KINC in regards to installing a wind generator on their building. They are looking for ways to reduce the fuel bill. Their annual meeting will be held on December 29 & 30. The first day they will have dancing and games, and the second day they will have their meeting, elections, and a potluck to follow. There was an individual that contacted King Island who kept a diary from the 1890's and made a book out of the journal entries. She provided them with a free copy of the book.

Clyde Ongtowsruk—Native Village of Wales:

Our teachers with the assistance of our Family Services Department hosted the "2007 Halloween Carnival". There were many booths for the children to choose from; the Native Village of Wales donated some monies for the Halloween Costume prizes. The City of Wales hosted this year's Thanksgiving feast and Eskimo dancing followed afterwards. We finally have a Kingmiut Sea Wolves Girls basketball team. Good luck to our team. Winton Weyapuk Jr., Clyde Ongtowsruk Sr. and Tony Keyes put up trail stakes throughout the village. This grant was from NSEDC. We would like to thank them for the monies that they awarded Wales. This will help save people from getting lost in the upcoming storms. The Native Village of Wales sent four Council members and the Tribal Coordinator to the BIA Provider's Conference which was held in Anchorage on November 26-December 1. All participants came back with information for the tribe. Through our Small and Needy Tribe funds, we were able to send one youth, Lisa Ongtowsruk and one elder, Faye Ongtowsruk to the AFN Convention in Anchorage that was held in October. Our youth came back with a very good trip report. Our tribal enrollment status is at 247 now. We just added six new enrollees and continue to grow. Our grant writer; Sean C. Komonaseak, Sr. has been very busy applying for grants to NSEDC for our sprinkler system. A City election was held on November 7th and Frank Crisci is the Mayor. Joanne Keyes is the Vice-Mayor. Other members are: Kimberly Oxereok, Katie Wilson, Debra Seetook, Luther Komonaseak, and Christine Komonaseak. The community will be meeting with Doug Poage, VSW sometimes next month for Water and Sewer. The AEC members consist of: Ellen J. Richard, Anna M. Oxereok, Katie Wilson, Debra Seetook, and Joanne Keyes. Reorganization will take place on December 12, 2007. We received a new IGAP grant from the EPA for FY 07 in the amount of \$110,000.00. We have an abandoned building demolition and removal project scheduled for next summer with our grant which will employ eleven people for two weeks.

Merlin Henry—Native Village of Koyuk:

Right now our village is focusing on Subsistence, so the IRA Council is not doing too much. There are six Council seats open and the election is tomorrow. A strange object has been seen hovering eight miles south-east of Koyuk. Other than that, Koyuk is doing good. The reindeer are doing good and so are the fish, berries, moose, ducks, geese, and beluga hunting.

Carolyn Ahkvaluk - Native Village of Diomede:

Current Events that occurred in Diomede are: We proudly hosted the Thanksgiving festivities, which took two days to prepare with help from community volunteers. Submitted Village Priorities to Helen Pootoogooluk at Norton Sound Health Corporation. The five priorities included a new Clinic building, an upgrade of our medical equipment and supplies, a solid waste disposal system, global warming issues and current patient travel assistance for meal and lodging. We hired Frances Ozenna, our new Tribal Coordinator in September 2007. She has previous experience running the City of Diomede for twenty-one years. She enjoys working with Tribal issues and governments. The Native Village of Diomede applied for ANTHC funding for an Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan, this will stop dumping untreated solid waste directly into the Bering Sea. We are in need of a Disaster and Emergency Plan for large boulders that are an imminent threat to our village. We requested a study and need to mark boulders that are a danger. We also located two large

long cracks on top of the island. We still have no sea ice, which means no fall hunting to get fresh meat. Diomede is preparing for Christmas, which includes school plays and activities such as ten days of Native games in the gym.

Kermit Ivanoff, Sr. - Native Village of Unalakleet:

Our BIA Housing improvement program is 75% complete. We should have it done when the weather improves. The Norton Sound Sub-Regional Clinic is facing a set-back in services this winter because the NSHC Administration did not renew the dentist contract. Therefore, our Dentist is planning to relocate and find employment elsewhere. As a result, the Nome clinic will have an increased workload and people from the villages will have to travel to Nome to see the dentist. This puts a lot of burden on the villages that depended on the Sub-Regional Clinic services, especially since there is no place to stay in Nome. We will be having our Jamboree Basketball Tournament in Unalakleet this January 3-6.

Unalakleet has a complete Evacuation Road now. It is really nice. They made it five or six feet higher. There were two houses that suffered from wind damage during our last wind storm. One house lost the entire roof, and the other lost half of the roof. We are having a hard time recruiting for a Housing Director. We are currently recruiting statewide. We are going to send our wrestling team to Seward for a tournament that they have been selected to attend.

Clifford Johnson - Nome Eskimo Community: Nome Eskimo had their annual meeting in November. Alfred Sahlin, Clifford Johnson, and Irene Anderson were elected to fill the seats that were up for re-election. We are working on updating our Five-Year Plan. They have been working on the Housing Plan and are currently updating our application process. We've only had one regular committee meeting since last summer.

Fred Pete—Stebbins Community Association: They have eight houses done. Three units are occupied and the rest are waiting to be inspected. The old IRA office has been turned into four one-bedroom low-income apartments. The Boys and Girls Club is moving along. They did an assessment on a Teen Center, but will take a while to get going. ASA received a Diabetes grant and hired two people to work under this grant. We are looking at purchasing Native Allotments. We have already bought 20 acres and are looking for 80 more to purchase. The Road Project is on hold until spring. The Airport project is pending until 2008 construction season. Hopefully by next year, Tumet will be able to bid on the projects.

Marlin Sookiyak - Native Village of Shaktoolik:

Last fall we had a whaling camp. It was cancelled due to severe weather conditions. It will definitely be happening this spring, for our youth and elders. The primary goal for the whaling camp is to teach our youth to butcher beluga, cut fish, etc. We got two new BSRHA houses and our new Tribal Coordinator is Karlene Sagoonick. We are very happy to have her working as our Tribal Coordinator. Our Corporation installed two new wind generators to offset the high cost of fuel. The Corporation's bill was \$2,500.00 a month. According to their estimates, it should save the Corporation up to \$500.00 a month. The "left-over" energy will be used to light up the street lights. The Thanksgiving Basketball Tournament was a big success; however a few teams did not make it into our village because of weather. The Tournament was to raise money to help pay for search and rescue activities and also for elders that need help with airfare to travel to the hospital. We have to resubmit our paperwork to the Army Corps of Engineers. Currently we are working with the Denali Commission on building our Evacuation Road.

Gilbert Tocktoo - Native Village of Brevig Mission:

Ten families moved into homes, from May 23rd to August 2. The AVEC bulk tank farm project, the building of two teacher duplexes, and the multipurpose building started late this summer. The expected completion of the multipurpose building is late December with an open house scheduled for January. The teacher duplexes are expected to be connected to water and sewer this month and teachers will move in by the end of the month. The new community playground was installed in September, which is located north of the Head Start Building. The joint councils approved monies for the gym coordinator and truancy positions. The Mayor reported that GCI will be going to Brevig Mission to install equipment for cell phones. Our annual meeting will be held Jan. 26 and we are soliciting for guest speakers. We also had a joint meeting November 2 with the School, Corporation, IRA, and Traditional Council. We are talking about opening an alternative school so that we can focus on keeping our kids educated utilizing local resources and to teach our children. Our High School students put a Basketball tournament together and we

Continued on Page 13

Kawerak Village Reports (continued from page 12)

had a good turn out. We have finalized our local Economic Development Plan. In January we will be having a new P.A. for Teller, Brevig Mission and Wales, and we may also have a VPSO candidate.

Jenny Lee—Teller Traditional Council:

The Teller Traditional Council has signed on to be a joint member of the Tumet, LLC. The Council has been and will continue to work with John Bioff and other Tumet, LLC members on all the forms. This year we sent representatives to attend the: 2007 Kawerak Regional Conference, 2007 Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority IHP Meeting, AFN Convention and to the BIA Providers Conference.

The 3rd Annual Teller Cultural Festival was held September 28 -29, 2007. The Teller School and the Traditional Council sponsored the event. We had dance groups from Shishmaref, King Island, Brevig Mission, Anchorage Kingikmuit, Savoonga, and Teller Dance Group perform. It was a good gathering enjoyed by all who attended.

Construction of the New Teller Health Clinic has started with participation from ANTHC and the City of Teller. Annual Elections were held Oct. 30. We had four Council Seats open. The council approved adding nine new enrollees to the tribal membership. The Teller Traditional Council has received the two grants from Norton Sound Health Corporation CAMP Department. One grant was for exercise equipment, and the other was the Healthy Living Grant. We are

continuing to work with the school. We also donated funds to the Teller School for the Annual Carnival. The carnival was held October 30th. We continue to donate and work with the Teller Activities Committee for all our community activities. We have donated funds for the annual Community Thanksgiving Feast, the annual Christmas Community Feast, and the Community Christmas Games. The games are held December 25th-31st every year.

Eddie Ungott—Native Village of Gambell:

The month of November was another typical month full of activities. Council elections, Gay Sheffield came to discuss and finalize the MOA with the Department of Fish and Game, Staff and Council meeting; Harlem All Stars are coming to Gambell to play two games. Thanksgiving, new Secretary/Tribal Enrollment Office hired, and travel to BIA Providers Conference where seven Council and staff attended. First of all, congratulations to Susie Booshu for winning the IRA Council election! I am very happy to have an experienced council member back. Thanksgiving was a huge responsibility and I want to thank the staff for a job well done! The success of the Thanksgiving feast wouldn't have been possible without them and of course the cooks and everyone involved. Thank you to Savoonga Reindeer Herders Association for providing five reindeer for the feast. Both the City of Gambell and Sivuqaq, Inc. shared in costs of the Thanksgiving feast. Gay Sheffield came as scheduled on November 7th to go over the

MOA. Cheryl was very glad she did because they were able to go over and improvise on the monetary portion for purchasing seal samples. They discussed in length, the MOA itself and were able to iron out all necessary provisions to make it verifiable for audit purposes. Perhaps the biggest headache for November was the Harlem All Stars. It was a several month communication process with Jeffery Moore, their leader, to work out the details for them play two games. But, it was a great benefit for the community. We're still working out the final details in getting payments from BSRHA for the costs. Finally, congratulations to Kimberly Antoghome who is our new Secretary/Tribal Enrollment Officer. She was hired November 20th, replacing Idele Desdier. Welcome aboard Kim!

Robert Keith—Native Village of Elim:

We are changing our election process for the first time in sixty years. We just got awarded a small grant that Kawerak helped acquire. We'll be using that money to bring a speaker up to talk about Uranium mining, for a legal assistant, and for a water study. We got our HIP program back. ANTHC will be coming in to replace old pipes. When we get a high pressure system coming through Elim, half the village gets frozen pipes. These older pipes are thirty years old or more. We are also concerned that our well is too close to the sea and that it may be contaminating our well water. Our IRA had a Thanksgiving feast. Stebbins and St. Michael send us some reindeer. A special "Thank you" to them for that.

Celebrating Progress of the Beringia Museum of Culture & Science

Great Art. Delicious food. Good friends to visit with. The Beringia Museum of Culture & Science hosted a fun reception in the Bear Gallery of the Pioneer Hall, in Fairbanks, during AFN, last October. The public was invited to join the Beringia Museum staff celebrate the exciting progress the museum project has attained this year.

The staff of the Fairbanks Arts Council warmly welcomed everyone into an exquisitely curated art show, representing artists from around the State in a show titled "Art of the 64th Parallel"? Friends from the Bering Strait joined acquaintances from all across the state to celebrate and learn of the recent accomplishments of the Beringia Museum Project. Guests enjoyed halibut cooked in a variety of ways donated generously from NSEDC, as well as dried smoked salmon prepared and donated by Loretta Bullard. After guests visited with old friends and enjoyed the delicious food, Project Director Kaci Fullwood, presented an overview of the new concept design for the Beringia Museum, and explained the hard work and regional participation that went into the development of the new architectural representation. Interest for the Project and

pride in this cultural endeavor grew among the guests as the evening drew to a close. Special thanks go to Joey Capwell, Roy Ashenfelter, Loretta Bullard, Donna James & Eileen Norbert for their assistance in making this special event a huge success. And a big "Quyanna!" to June Rogers, Executive Director & Melissa Houglund, Associate Director and the wonderful staff at the Fairbanks Arts Association, for all the behind scenes work that they did in welcoming us with genuine hospitality and friendship.

As the end of 2007 drew to a close, a gathering of museum & cultural experts from across the state, joined the Leadership of the Beringia Museum staff in a Strategic Planning and Mapping workshop. The meeting was also attended by the public. Sarah Barton, VP of RISE



Kawerak President and CEO Loretta Bullard welcoming guests to the Beringia Museum of Culture & Science presentation in Fairbanks.

Alaska, facilitated the day long workshop. The team worked through lunch and ideas and suggestions were discussed and confirmed. The results of this meeting have been an in-depth Action Plan and Project work schedule which will serve as a guide and goals to the staff and Leadership of the Beringia Museum project. A copy of this document can be obtained upon request by e-mailing culture@kawerak.org.

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Kamaamak Recipe by Sandra Tahbone

Kamaamak is a traditional "Eskimo Ice Cream" desert made with reindeer fat, seal oil, water, sugar and berries.

Ingredients: Reindeer fat/tallow
Seal oil Water
Sugar Berries

Grate reindeer tallow into small pieces. Chop if needed to make smaller. Press down a little seal oil into fat until well blended, add more seal oil slowly while beating with hand till smooth. After some seal oil has been used, add a little water while whipping. Continue adding seal oil and water until white and fluffy. Add sugar, then berries.

Enjoy!

Kawerak Announces Employee of the Month: Sept. ~ Nov. 2007



Sept 2007
Ann Andrews

Ann consistently and aggressively recruits Native foster homes in our region. She has recruited 7 foster homes since she has been with CFS. Ann has produced recruiting material that is being used as a statewide model for recruiting foster parents (Native).



Oct 2007
Charlene Isabell

Charlene volunteers her time organizing the Thanksgiving Feast, Christmas Feast, holiday activities and runs the annual cultural festival. Charlene went beyond her job to help the new Tribal Coordinator for Mary's Igloo Traditional Council.



Nov 2007
Dan Harrelson

VPSO Dan Harrelson volunteered to fly to Golovin in October to teach the children about alcohol abuse, drugs, vandalism and other issues. Dan also went beyond his duties by putting his life in danger with the search and rescue on the Fish River.



.... to the following employees who were recognized for their outstanding achievements and contributions to the mission of Kawerak. They were recognized at Kawerak's Annual Employee Christmas Dinner. Please join me in applauding and recognizing their performance for the year 2007!

Loretta Bullard
Kawerak President



2007 Matthew Iya Employee of the Year

Fannie Woods, CSD Administrative Assistant

This award is given to an employee who helps make Kawerak a great place to work, who has a fun, positive attitude, a hard work ethic and is supportive and appreciative of other employees. This employee recognition is in memory of Matthew Iya who was our Eskimo Walrus Commission Director at the time he passed away in 1992.



Per Loretta's guidelines: "This award recognizes those individuals employed at Kawerak who help make Kawerak a good place to work. You know them - these are the people who have a great work ethic, are consistently pleasant to be around and go out of their way to be helpful to their fellow employees." Fannie is the front person for Community Service Division as our administrative assistant. Fannie is very en-

ergetic, she volunteers to help co-workers on projects; when asked to assist on a project she jumps up and smiles and gets to work on the task with enthusiasm and pride. She answers the phone with pleasantries and her customer service skills are compassionate and understanding. She greets fellow employees with respect along with clients and customers of Kawerak. She is not afraid of change, in fact she was very enthusiastic to

learn Outlook and Business Portal. For the 06/07 year, her husband was deployed out of country and Fannie's work ethic was strong as ever, on top of taking care of her children on her own, she also learned to take care of her husband's dog team. Fannie received a plaque, two round trip tickets anywhere Alaska Airlines flies and a check for \$250.

2007 Kawerak Board Member of the Year

Darlene Turner, Shishmaref Representative



Darlene received a plaque, two round trip tickets anywhere Alaska Airlines flies and a Kawerak Jacket.

2007 Kawerak Employee of the Year

Barb Nickels, Community & Planning Development



Ms. Nickels previously received the March 2007 Employee of the Month. Barb identified new innovative ways to add personnel to help address the 2007 Board priorities (energy, alternative energy, home retro fit) by "thinking outside the box" and applied to become an AmeriCorp/Vista umbrella, by doing so, Kawerak was approved for 2 volunteers to develop energy plans for the village, this has saved personnel costs by more than half the cost of 2 temporary hires. Barb was instrumental in saving Kawerak money in travel cost by suggesting that Kawerak buy Bering Air coupons at the beginning of the year.

Barb received a plaque, two round trip tickets anywhere Alaska Airlines flies and a check for \$250.

Katie Bourdon & Fanny Kuzuguk awarded Child Care Credential

By Malinda Besett, Head Start Director

Katie Bourdon of Nome, AK and Fanny Kuzuguk of Shishmaref, AK have been awarded a Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential in recognition of outstanding work with young children. The credential was awarded by the Council of Professional Recognition in Washington, DC which represents the early childhood education profession.

CDA is the only major national effort to improve early childhood education and care by evaluation and recognition of the skills of individuals providing care. The first Credential was awarded over 30 years ago, and now 49 states plus the District of Columbia include CDA in their child care licensing regulations.

Parents who use early education and care are especially concerned today about their children's welfare. With this in mind, as part of the CDA assessment process, every candidate for the CDA Credential is observed working with young children or families by an early childhood professional. In addition, the candidate must demonstrate the ability to work with families to develop children's physical and intellectual capabilities in a safe and healthy learning environment.

The CDA Credential is having a positive effect on the quality of early childhood education and care. Its impact is evident in center-based and

home visitor programs as well as family child care, the most common form of care for children under 5 years old. Childcare staff and parents wanting information on CDA should write to the Council for Professional Recognition at 2460 16th Street, NW, Washington DC 20009-3575, or call the Council at (202) 265-9090 or (800) 424-4310.



Katie Bourdon, Head Start Teacher in Nome.



Fanny Kuzuguk, Head Start Teacher Aide in Shishmaref.

Darren Billingsley wins Bus Driver of the Year for Head Start

By Carmen West, Family Advocate

Congratulations to Darren Billingsley! Darren recently won the *Alaska State Bus Driver of the Year Award*. Darren has been driving the Head Start bus for almost 10 years, making sure that our children make it to school on time and back home safely. Darren is also

known for going out of his way to make sure the bus is maintained properly and providing our teachers with a lending hand when needed.

Thank you, Darren for all of your hard work in St. Michael!



Are you looking to work at home?

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Do you want to help your community with child care needs?

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In Nome call Carey Adsuna at 443.9072 or Kari Martin at 443.9073

Call today to make a difference in the lives of children!

Support from Kawerak Child Care Services and C.A.R.E.S. Resource/Referral include training, resources & materials.

Kawerak Disburses Heating Fuel Aid from CITGO

by Melanie Edwards, Executive Vice President

Residents of the Bering Strait Region villages once again were the recipients of a generous gift of 100 gallons of heating oil from CITGO. In late January, Kawerak, Inc. received CITGO funds through the Alaska Inter Tribal Council (AITC) to purchase 100 gallons of heating oil for each head of household in the 15 outlying villages. Kawerak successfully administered the program last year and was eager to again work with the fuel vendors in the villages to make the heating oil available. Then, in early March, Kawerak received funds to purchase Nome households 100 gallons of heating oil.

Three years ago, when Joe Kennedy II (the nephew of the late President John F. Kennedy) sought discounted fuel oil to help American families with winter heating bills, CITGO was the only major oil company to respond. CITGO is an American company owned by the Venezuelan people. The first year of the program, CITGO made available discounted heating oil to low income people in the lower 48. The second year, CITGO expanded the program to make a direct gift of heating oil, with much of that assistance going to Native Americans. In Alaska, the gift is made available to heads of households in communities that are 65% or more Alaska Native. Recently, Kawerak President Loretta Bullard and Executive Vice President Melanie Edwards traveled to a CITGO

ceremony in South Dakota, where the President of CITGO Alejandro Granado announced that the program will continue until there is no longer a need for it. This was welcome news.

Fuel in the villages ranges from a low of \$3.91 / gallon in Teller to a high of \$5.26 in Shishmaref. Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation provides the opportunity for villages to participate in a consolidated fuel purchase program that allows for discounted heating fuel for those that are able to participate. In 2007, 19 entities including village city governments, village Native Corporations, and some fuel vendors participated, resulting in a lower cost per gallon for heating fuel. Despite the cost savings, the cost to heat homes is still a heavy burden to village residents, and the gift of heating oil from CITGO is much appreciated, especially given the extremely cold temperatures in the villages.

Branson Tungiyon from Gambell says: "The CITGO oil makes a big difference in a village where heating oil is \$4.89 a gallon. In January, community members are borrowing money and fuel from relatives, worried about where they are going to get oil or money to get oil, and the CITGO oil relieves a lot of pressure. We are grateful that CITGO is providing the heating oil for communities for the second year in a row, and thanks to Kawerak for administering this

program."

The deadline for redeeming heating oil in the villages is April 1st and in Nome it is June 30th. If your household was inadvertently excluded, please call the Kawerak General Assistance Program at 1-800-478-5230.

If you would like to send a thank-you note to CITGO, please send to the address listed below and we will forward to them:

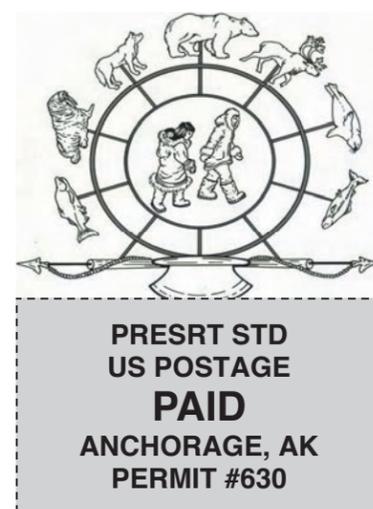
Melanie Edwards, EVP
Kawerak, Inc.
P.O. Box 948
Nome, AK 99762



Andres Rangel, Project Manager of Corporate Social Responsibility for CITGO, helps pump fuel for a Shishmaref resident while visiting in 2007.

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Kawerak Services Directory	
Administration	443-5231
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Human Resources	443-4373
Information Systems	443-4357
Planning	443-4345
Beringia Museum of Culture & Science	443-4340
Tumet Industries, LLC	443-4248
Community Services Division	443-4245
Community Planning & Development	877-219-2599 or 443-4248
Tribal Affairs	443-4257
Transportation	443-4337
Village Public Safety Officer Program	443-4252
Education & Employment Training Division	800-450-4341 or 443-4354
Childcare Services	443-9073
Community Education	800-478-7574 or 443-4468
Employment & Training	443-4358
General Assistance	800-478-5230 or 443-4370
Village Based Training	443-4388
Vocational Rehabilitation	877-759-4362 or 443-4362
Children & Family Services Division	443-4247
Child Advocacy Center	443-4379
Children & Family Services	800-478-5153 or 443-4393
Jacob's House	443-8096
Head Start	800-443-9050 or 443-9062
Natural Resources Division	443-4377
Eskimo Walrus Commission	877-277-4392 or 443-4380
Eskimo Heritage Program	443-4387
Fisheries Program	443-4384
Land Management Services	800-443-4316 or 443-4323
Reindeer Herders Association	443-4378
Subsistence Resources	443-4265



Uqaaqtuaq News is a quarterly newsletter produced by Kawerak with contributions from UAF Northwest Campus & Norton Sound Health Corporation.

Articles, photos and announcements can be sent to planner@kawerak.org or call (907)443-4345. "Uvlaakun sulii" translated in Inupiaq language means: *More tomorrow!* Quyanna!