Kawerak Higher Education Services
by Brian James, Workforce Development Specialist

Kawerak provides scholarships to eligible tribal member applicants who are accepted for enrollment in an accredited college or university, and have documented financial need after other sources of funds have been applied. Grants may be used for tuition, room, board, textbooks, required fees, transportation, personal and miscellaneous expenses related to attendance at an institution of higher education. Kawerak may continue to provide scholarships to eligible students who meet the academic requirements and maintain academic progress. Students not meeting the above requirements are placed on academic probation for the following term to allow academic standards to be met. Scholarships are not an individual right, and Kawerak may approve or deny funding and determine the amount of funding in accordance with its policies. These policies are administered uniformly and applicants who do not meet eligibility criteria will not receive funding. All scholarships will be subject to funding availability.

Objectives and Achievements
- To increase the number of tribal members who receive Associate, Bachelor or Masters Degrees.
- To provide technical assistance and information to students in obtaining the necessary financial resources to fund their education.
- To provide the highest level of services to students through active coordination with other programs and agencies, including school districts, scholarship committees, college counselors and Financial Aid Officers.

The number of scholarship recipients has increased dramatically over the past seven years, from 80 students in 2005 to 152 students in 2014, who received Higher Education scholarships. In calendar year 2014, we had twelve students graduate: ten with a Bachelor’s, one with an Associate’s and one with a Certificate.

As we enter the spring 2015 semester, we have the highest number of participants in our Higher Education Program and we are pleased to see students with adequate levels of scholarships.

Tools for the Next Generation of Hunters
By Amy Russell-Jamgochian, Cultural Center Project Director

Last year Vince Pikonganna became concerned when he encountered some young men that had been oogruk hunting with harpoons they had fashioned themselves using guesswork and available materials. He was particularly worried for their safety when he saw that their harpoons had aluminum tips with rusty blades. “Rust and a bearded seal do not mix too well. No matter how strong you are, if you harpoon an oogruk with a rusty tip, it will not go in. It’s just gonna bounce out,” Vince shared. He said that could lead to a dangerous accident. “Everything that the Inupiaq does is to prevent accidents from happening…that’s the Inupiaq way of thinking. You’ve gotta think ahead.”

Taking heed of the harpoon tips used by his family and other King Island hunters for many years, Vince determined that today’s young hunters need an all-brass tip that follows traditional design, because brass is easy to keep in good shape and does not rust, and the traditional harpoon design has been developed to penetrate and hold the toughest hides over thousands of years. He spoke with the Beringia Center and Jeff Rasic of the National Park Service, who knew of a way to create a harpoon tip model that could be continuously recast in brass, and a new project was formed. By Christmas, Vince carved a wooden model of a King Island style harpoon tip, and the Park Service made a 3-D laser scan of it, and sent it off to make the first replica.

Working with the Beringia Center, Vince fine-tuned the plastic version and they sent it back to the Park Service to make the final mold for the brass tips. This March, Vince received the first brass tip and drilled the holes to make it a fully functional harpoon tip for hunting oogruk. He now plans to work with Jeff Rasic to make more replicas for young oogruk hunters to use. Vince also plans to work with young hunters to explain why elders’ knowledge about the way tools need to be is so important, for protecting hunters and preventing accidents.

Bering Strait Health Consortium recognizes Jacklyn “Jackie” Ivanoff and Theresa Olanna (above). There was a Nurse Pinning Ceremony, December 11, 2014 at Norton Sound Regional Hospital. Several family, friends, and supporters gathered together to celebrate their achievements. Both graduated from the University of Alaska Anchorage Nome-based Nursing Program and are now employed by NSHC. More graduate photos on pages 9 and 19.
Bering Strait Voices on Arctic Shipping Workshop

Excerpt from the Bering Strait Voices on Arctic Shipping Report

In September 2014, Kawerak hosted the Bering Strait Voices on Arctic Shipping workshop in Nome to gather as many agencies and tribes in one location to discuss the issue of increased shipping in the Arctic. Below is an excerpt from the report. The full report is available from the Kawerak Marine Program.

Why this workshop was held?
Kawerak, Inc. is concerned about the impact of increased Arctic shipping on the Bering Strait region and has been proactive in seeking funding to help address this issue. This workshop held by Kawerak was a first step to obtain input and guidance from the 20 tribes and 16 local governments in the region. Melanie Bahnke, President of Kawerak Inc., opened the workshop and provided context to how this workshop fits in with a longer term process initiated in the region by Kawerak. She noted that at both Federal and State governance levels, people living far away are making plans about the Arctic without input from the people who reside in the Arctic. Furthermore, there is not one single plan about the Arctic, but multiple plans developed by different agencies and entities. These plans are often developed without input from the region, and then agencies provide a public comment period during which they expect the indigenous community (including tribes and Kawerak) to provide written comments. Melanie noted that following this workshop, Kawerak should request agencies to comment on this workshop report during a 90-day comment period. Further impetus for the workshop provided by Melanie was that many of the reports don’t have the benefit of telling the story through the lens that people living in the region can provide. Melanie noted: “It is time for us to make sure our story is being told. If our story is not told, we will be in the position where we will be placed on the endangered species list. Food security is a cornerstone of our identity as a culture. Threats are real and imminent. Yet we need to find economic opportunities and find balance.”

Over the past 100 years indigenous peoples living in the region have experienced significant change that includes a history of assimilation. Arctic shipping could bring added change; to be prepared for this change means being active participants in decision-making processes. Community leaders can’t afford to be quiet. Instead they should demand a seat at the table, and be active participants when decisions are being made about the region. Future generations and survival of the unique cultures in the region will depend upon it.

Melanie also noted that workshop participants come from a long line of people who have survived and thrived in a challenging environment. To survive meant being adaptive and using new technologies. “We rely on air, seas and land to sustain us. Not just physically, but emotionally, mentally and spiritually. Yes, we do have challenges, but our region is so blessed with the way we are able to live off land and sea.”

Climate change is another challenge the region has been dealing with – erosion, fall flooding, and changes in sea ice patterns and winds. More recently, the region has been on the forefront of responding to unusual mortality events and oiled marine mammals; people are seeing things they have not previously witnessed. Melanie noted that with all of these changes, there is a need for baseline information. It is difficult to track changes without a common baseline.

Melanie further stated that communities need to be sustainable; so it is important to be mindful of economic opportunities. Alaska Native Corporations have succeeded in a business model, many of the top businesses in the state are owned by the Alaska Native Community. Melanie recounted a resonant story about comparing a fleet of buses with a fleet of fisheries/boats. She stated that “…we used to have to ask for a seat on the bus, we then learned how to drive the bus, then we owned a bus, and now we own a fleet of buses. The economic benefits from this model of owning a portion of the fisheries quota (CDQ programs) have provided benefits to the communities. When provided with opportunities, we do rise to the top. We don’t want to miss out for our kids. We don’t want to miss out when we are bearing the most risk.”

Melanie closed her opening remarks by challenging workshop participants to engage, and to be an active part of the decision-making process to protect natural resources for future generations through thoughtful and deliberate actions. And, this workshop would be a first step in this process. “No one else can do it for us. Decisions will be made that will affect us for a long time moving forward. We are writing chapter two. We can no longer afford to have people living thousands of miles away make decisions for us.”

Photo (above) courtesy of Eskimo Heritage Program Archives.

“Protect the environment from harm to the land, sea, air, and wildlife.”
Participant, 2014, BSVAS Workshop

Kawerak’s Vision: “Building on the inherent strength of our cultural values, we shall assist our tribes and residents to create a positive future.”

In keeping with this Vision Statement, Kawerak has increased its training and technical assistance services to tribes in the following communities:

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<tr>
<th>BREVIK MISSION</th>
<th>GOLOVIN</th>
<th>SAVOONGA</th>
<th>ST. MICHAEL</th>
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<tr>
<td>COUNCIL</td>
<td>KING ISLAND</td>
<td>SHAKTOOLIK</td>
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<td>GAMBELL</td>
<td>NOME</td>
<td>STEBBINS</td>
<td>WHITE MOUNTAIN</td>
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Kawerak Newsletter
Changes in the Arctic 1987

By Kendra Nichols-Takak, EHP Specialist

In 1987 Kawerak’s Eskimo Heritage Program and the University of Alaska Fairbanks Northwest Campus Media Center produced a video entitled Changes in the Arctic. Eileen Norbert and Cary Bolling interviewed Job Kokochuruk and Bertha Adsuna. During the interview both elders shared their knowledge about weather predictions and changes in the Arctic.

Bertha Adsuna grew up in Golovin and the Nuuks area while Job Kokochuruk was from Fish River area.

Both story tellers were living in Nome at the time of the interview. Bertha learned about the weather from her father. She said that her father was a silent type, a man of few words, but she always would listen when he spoke. “And when he said something, it means something.” Bertha explained. Her father told her that he could hear the storm coming two or three days before it happened. He said that he would hear a humming in his ear. Bertha’s father taught her how to know when the weather would clear up. “After it rain or storm he always watch for the west clearing up. He said that part never lies. If it clears up from the east it [good weather] don’t last.” Also, her father would look at the moon and look at the ring around it. He would count the number of stars in the ring around the moon, and then he would know how many days the wind was going to blow.

Bertha mentioned in the interview that another elder had told her that there will be a time in the future when the winters are short and fall time will come late. Then Alaska will have weather like down in the lower 48 states. That prediction in the interview seems directly related to our weather today. Knowing the weather is a vital skill while living in the Arctic. Job shared his knowledge of how to read weather signals. “When it [weather] suddenly gets too clear in a short time, …don’t believe it! When a bad storm suddenly clears up bad weather will come again real fast and more severe. If people do not know the signals they will be caught in bad weather,” he said.

In the interview in 1987, both Job and Bertha agreed that the weather patterns have changed. They said that the weather can no longer be predicted using only the knowledge they gained as children.

Changes in the Arctic video interviews #2005.014.054 and #205.014.072 with Job Kokochuruk and Bertha Adsuna are approximately two hours and are available at Kawerak’s Eskimo Heritage Program.

Kawerak Marine Program

Funded by Oak Foundation & The Pew Charitable Trust

By Austin Ahmasuk, Marine Advocate

The Kawerak Marine Program is one of seven programs in the Natural Resources division. The program will focus on potential impacts of increased marine shipping on individuals, subsistence resources and the environment within our region.

The Marine Program advocates for local priorities and will propose actions to minimize negative impacts of increased shipping in the Bering and Chukchi Seas.

Arctic marine transits to transport resources and people from all parts of the globe have increased in the last decade through ice free Arctic waters.

National and international agencies are developing strategies to take advantage of the polar marine routes to lessen costs of shipping.

Kawerak must engage in these important discussions because of the great potential impacts to our way of life. Subsistence resources, the environment, and culture are vital aspects of Alaska’s first people and the public at large.

Kawerak invites tribes, native corporations and municipalities of the Bering Strait region to submit comments and concerns regarding human health, culture, and the ocean as we undergo and experience change in our environment. If you would like Marine Program staff to assist you in understanding those changes or advocating your concerns please contact our office at the following address:

Marine Program Contact Info:

Austin Ahmasuk, Marine Advocate
Room 207, Ublugiaq Building
P.O. Box 948, Nome, AK 99762
marine.advocate@kawerak.org
Phone: (907) 443-4368
Fax: (907) 443-4487

Meat hanging to dry in Diomede, Alaska (above)
Photo courtesy of Eskimo Heritage Program Archives.

Subsistence Hunters (left)
Photo courtesy of Eskimo Heritage Program Archives.

“Protect our waters, remember our resources are like money in the bank. It’s what we have to survive.”
Participant, 2014 BSVAS Workshop

“We want to see our subsistence way of life continue.”
Participant, 2014 BSVAS Workshop

Photo (above) courtesy of Eskimo Heritage Program Art Archives.
The third annual Kaatiluta event was held at the Nome Recreation Center on the last Saturday of November to celebrate Alaska Native and Native American Heritage month. Kaatiluta, means “All of us together” in King Island Inupiaq. Many individuals and organizations collaborated to host this annual event. Kaatiluta 2014 was another successful celebration, with over 300 people attending. Activities were provided by the Nome Native Youth Leadership Organization and Leaders of Life from Nome Beltz High School (NBHS) which hosted a craft table where the youth colored pictures, made snap bracelets and handcrafted picture frames. The NBHS JROTC started off the evening by presenting the colors followed by the King Island Inupiaq Catholic Choir singing and providing the invocation. The potluck of caribou stew, baked salmon, fry bread and crab dip was followed by performances by the newly-formed, Nome-based St. Lawrence Island Drummers and Dancers. Third grade students from Nome Elementary School danced with the King Island Drummers and Dancers, who closed out the night. Every elder who attended was given an armful of goodies, including berry buckets, thermoses, hats, flashlights and salmon filets. Kaatiluta continues to be successful because of the people who turn out to celebrate the beautiful cultures of the Bering Strait and Norton Sound region, the groups who perform, the organizations that donated resources, and the staff and volunteers that work hard to organize and coordinate this one day celebration.

Quyanaapuk to all those who attended and worked hard to make the event possible.

Photos courtesy of the National Park Service.
Kawerak Employee Spotlight

Trisha Walters (left), E-commerce Specialist, will be graduating in May with a Bachelor of Business Administration with a Concentration in Marketing from University of Alaska Southeast.

Steffen Verdin (left), Construction Project Specialist, graduated in December with an AAS degree in Applied Science from the University of Alaska Fairbanks—Northwest Campus.

New Employees

Tony Weyiouanna (above) - Tony is an Inupiat Eskimo from Shishmaref. His wife is Fannie and they have four children Tony Jr., Daphne Flora, Perry Lee and Clarence. Tony has worked as the Shishmaref City Clerk, Shishmaref City Planner, Manager of the Shishmaref Tannery, Native Village of Shishmaref Grant Writer, Kawerak Transportation Planner, carpenter and welder. Also, he has served on various boards in Shishmaref and in the Bering Strait region. Currently, Tony is working for Kawerak in the Land Management Department as LMS Specialist II. Some of his duties include: working with Native allottees in drafting wills, processing applications for gifting of Native allotments, advertising of sales for Native allotments, sub-dividing of Native allotments, negotiating sales, addressing Native allotment trespass issues, and other land issues regarding Native allotments.

Freida Moon-Kimoktoak (below) - Freida ‘Narsuak’ is the granddaughter of Esther and the late Albert Kimoktoak, Sr. and the late Frieda and Henry Moon. She is the daughter of Molly and the late Allen C. Kimoktoak. She was born and raised in the Koyuk. She has four children: Heather, Donovan, Brent and Noah. Freida lives in Nome and has also lived in Kotzebue for several years. Before joining Kawerak, Inc. she was the Native Village of Koyuk EPA/IGAP Coordinator and worked on ways of protecting the soil, water and air. She is now working as the Marine Program Specialist.

Moriah Sallaffie (above) - Moriah is Yup’ik from Bethel, but has lived in Nome since she was young. She likes to say that she is Inupiaq by proximity, or honorary Inupiaq, with family from Council and White Mountain. Some of her biggest joys in life come from working with people, establishing relationships and making connections. She is excited to come to work every day. Her work as Cultural Center Development Coordinator revolves around community outreach and developing relationships with potential funders for the exciting cultural center project. She enjoys and values working for an organization with supportive coworkers and with a mission that aligns with her cultural values (see her articles on page 4 and 19).

Carol Piscoya (above) - Carol was born and raised in Nome. She is married to Roy, and they raised six children and adopted two, with one remaining at home. She has held positions at: Norton Sound Health Corporation, the State of Alaska DCRA, Bering Straits Native Corporation, Nome Eskimo Community, and Nome Public Schools. Carol served on various boards and committees and has been a foster parent for 27 years. Carol is the Community Services Division (CSD) Vice President. This position oversees and manages Tribal Affairs, Community Planning and Development, the Village Public Safety Officers program, and the Diomede Essential Air Service Grant. Carol works to recommend and implement new or expanded strategies for the CSD division. She also works with other divisions to coordinate services and activities that meet the needs of the region and Kawerak’s strategic goals. She has a passion to help people in any way possible. Her parents, Andy and Hannah Miller, taught her to always help our people in any way that we can, to teach our young children the importance of family and keep our culture alive.

Austin Ahmasuk (below) - Austin is the Marine Advocate. As the Marine Advocate, he focuses on potential impacts of increased marine shipping on individuals, subsistence resources and the environment within the Bering Strait region (see the articles on pages 2-3).

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Trisha Walters (left), E-commerce Specialist, will be graduating in May with a Bachelor of Business Administration with a Concentration in Marketing from University of Alaska Southeast.
Village Based Training Programs

Village-Based Training Programs are training programs that are located in the villages. Village-Based Training was started with one of Senator Ted Steven’s infamous ear-marked grants in 1999 (Those grants provided all the start-up money for tools and equipment and the first 5 years of operation). We operated under diminished capacity through the Denali Fund until 2007, but now limited funds for this program are coming out of the ‘477 Compact’ fund. That is why Village Trainings have been reduced. We send the instructors and teaching materials to the village and conduct the classes there. Most classes are between 2 days and 2 weeks long. We have two types of VBT classes; one where Kawerak is the main sponsor and pays all costs, and a second where Kawerak partners with another entity and adds what is needed to make the classes work in the villages. Because of limited funding, Kawerak partnered with the University of Washington-Seattle to provide Hazwoper and OSHA training to a number of villages (that have demonstrated a need for the classes) at about half of what it would cost us to provide these classes by ourselves. Northwest Campus UAF will provide accounting and business classes and also subsistence classes like Qivuit processing, Kaspaq and Mukluk making classes; with Anvil Mountain Correctional Center to provide training for their inmates in Carpentry and Safety. This year we partnered with a construction company to provide Asbestos Abatement training for work on the State Building in Nome. Last year, we had 104 students who completed the Village-Based Training Classes given in their villages. The Nome students included 9 for the Asbestos Abatement classes in Nome, and 5 for students from the AMCC program. All the rest were from the villages outside Nome, but in our region. We have a Village-Based Training coming in May, in partnership with NSHC to train 15 beginning carpenters in St. Michael for a housing project NSHC is building there, this summer.

We are also working with BSNC to recruit up to 40 Protected Species Observers to work on Shell Oil drill rigs in the Bering Sea, this summer. Our Hazwoper and OSHA Safety courses will start in March and be in the villages of Shishmaref, Savoonga, Nome, St. Michaels, and Elim, this year. For more information contact Lew Tobin at: 1-888-898-5171 or 907-443-4388.

A Captioned Phone Is Installed at Kawerak

The Kawerak Vocational Rehabilitation Program worked together with the Assistive Technology Center of Alaska to install a captioned telephone for people with hearing loss. It is located in the Education, Employment & Training Division Lobby and was installed on April 2nd. Pictured below is a captioned telephone. Essentially, a captioned telephone allows a person with hearing loss to be able to read what the person on the other end of the line is saying. Everyone is welcome to try the phone out once installation is complete. This telephone will serve as a valuable tool. We look forward to meeting the needs of individuals with hearing loss who would like to use a phone while at Kawerak!

A Captioned Phone Is Installed

By Sara Lizak, Vocational Rehabilitation Program Director

CONSTRUCTION TRADES TRAINING

CTT F131, F132, F133 • 3 credits • Limited to 15 students
Monday, May 4 - Tuesday, May 12 • LOCATION: Bingo Hall
Sponsored by Norton Sound Health Corporation

CLASS SCHEDULE
Mon, May 4 • 8am-5pm
Tues, May 5 • 8am-5pm
Wed, May 6 • 8am-5pm
Thurs, May 7 • 8am-5pm
Fri, May 8 • 8am-12noon
Sat, May 9 • 8am-12noon
(No class Sunday, May 10)
Mon, May 11 • 8am-12noon
Tues, May 12 • 8am-12noon

Learn facilities maintenance and basic construction skills! This 48-hour training covers:
• Facilities Maintenance Basics: Safe tool use, job site hazards, etc.
• Interior Repairs: Drywall basics, woodworking trim, window replacement
• Flooring Installation

Students who successfully complete this practical, hands-on training may be eligible for hire by the contractor building a tripleplex for NSHC in St. Michael this summer.

Sign up at the City of St. Michael Office: 923-3222
Deadline to sign up is 5:00pm on Friday, April 17

Village Based Training Opportunities

by Lew Tobin, regional Training Specialist

24-hour Hazwoper training in Shishmaref March 30-April 1
8-hour Hazwoper refresher training in Shishmaref on Mar. 31 for anyone qualified
8-hour Hazwoper refresher in Savoonga on April 2-3 for anyone qualified
24-hour Hazwoper training in St. Michael on April 27-29
8-hour Hazwoper refresher in St. Michael on April 28 for anyone qualified
10-hour OSHA (Occupational Safety Hazards Awareness) in St. Michael April 31-May 1
40-hour Hazwoper training in Elim May 4-8
24-hr and 8-hour Hazwoper refreshers in Elim also available during that time (check with instructor)

For more information contact: Lew Tobin at 1-888-898-5171 or (907) 443-4388
Olanna-Kakaruk Herd Separation Handling

By Lena Danner, Reindeer Herders Association Specialist

Some of Olanna's reindeer joined part of the Kakaruk Herd on the Kakaruk range near Teller. The herders had a separation handling in February, 2015. Herders returned the deer back to their own ranges and almost 1,000 reindeer were successfully handled, ear marked and ear tagged. Photos taken by: Tally Man: Tim Gologogergen, Jr.

Veggies for Pennies

by Simon Strickling, Planning Development Specialist

I've been growing fresh organic vegetables on my kitchen counter all winter for about $1/16 the cost of organic lettuce from the grocery stores in Nome. Bering Strait residents want more affordable fresh fruits and vegetables and some would like to grow their own. But gardening is especially challenging in our region because of soil quality, extreme temperatures, and equipment costs in addition to the time, skill, and energy required for success. I've been experimenting with growing sprouts because they are cheap, highly nutritious, easy to grow all year long, don't require expensive equipment light grow-lights, only need a few minutes of attention every day, and don't require any special skills for success. Any kind of seed or bean can be sprouted and I've tried about a dozen delicious varieties. The most common are probably bean sprouts like the kind found in many Asian recipes and alfalfa sprouts (as shown in photo) that go great on sandwiches and salads.

Alfalfa sprouts take five or six days to grow. Here's how the process works: first, the seeds are soaked in water for 8-12 hrs. Then they are spread in a single layer in the sprouting container. They are rinsed two or three times a day. When they have grown to the desired size, they are broken up, rinsed, and drained. They keep well in a refrigerator for a few days. www.sproutpeople.org is a great source of detailed information about sprouts and sprouting.

There are lots of excellent sprouting kits for sale on the internet. I am using a few of the Victorio VKP1014 4-Tray Kitchen Seed Sprouters because they have 4.5 stars on www.amazon.com.

Sheefish Chowder — by Minnie Barr, Shishmaref

- Get a frozen, filleted sheefish out of your freezer and start defrosting
- When it is about halfway defrosted take the skin off
- Boil ½ of a big sheefish in 1 quart of water
- Boil the fish until the meat becomes loose from the bone
- Remove from water and debone it with a fork, return de-boned meat to the pot
- Add about 1tbs of salt, several tbs. of curry, pepper, lots of onions, diced potatoes and carrots if desired
- Then add 2 cans of Cream of Mushroom soup with 1 cup of a (not too thick) flour and water mix
- Simmer until vegetables are soft

½ of a big sheefish prepared this way will serve 4-6 people

View of Shishmaref.

Food for the Soul - Bering Strait Non-Salmon Fish Preparation and Recipes

Compiled by Meghan Topkok & Julie Raymond-Yakoubian. Kawerak, Inc.

Find the whole recipe book at www.kawerak.org/socialsci.html

Alfalfa sprouts ready to eat after a few days (below: photo from www.sproutpeople.org).

Unsprouted alfalfa seeds (above: photo from www.sproutpeople.org).

From: Kawerak Social Science Program (2013)

Alfalfa Sprout Nutrition:
- Vitamins A, B, C, E and K
- Minerals: Calcium, Iron, Magnesium, Phosphorus, Potassium, Zinc, Carotene, Chlorophyll, Amino Acids, Trace Elements
- Protein: 35%
Kawerak, Inc.

Vocational Training

Kawerak’s Vocational Training provides scholarships for any tribal members of this region going to Vocational Training to receive an AA degree, or certificate, that can be obtained in two years or less. We allow a bigger scholarship for tribal members who are residents of the region, and a One-Time Only scholarship of $500 for tribal members who do not reside in the region. We try to keep all the training sites within the state of Alaska, if possible. Kawerak Scholarships do not cover the entire expense of the training programs, but are designed to help defer the training expenses, when combined with the other scholarships (NSEDC, NSHC, BSF, Pell Grants and the State DOLWI support) that are offered from this region.

We use the CACHE Scholarship application for our initial scholarship application which allows students to complete one application that can be used by NSEDC, NSHC, BSF and Sitnasuak. The State of Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Investment (DOLWI), and the Pell grants are separate, but vital, forms for the students who need the maximum support. We are different from the Higher Ed Scholarships which are designed for 4-year or more, College-Bound Students, although we both use the same CACHE application to start our process. We had 38 students in Vocational Training, last year. 15 of those students are carrying over to 2015, 21 finished their programs, successfully, 2 students dropped out last year. Most of our graduating students went to school inside the state (18 students) in one of six institutions (in order of most students to least): Alaska Career College [7 students], Amundsen Educational Center [4], AVTEC [3], NWC-UAA Nursing Program [2], UAF Airplane Mechanic, and [1] Ilisagvik Information Tech [1].

Graduates of Alaska Career College from our region for the year 2014

Caleb Pungowiyi’s Passion Continues to Inspire Leaders

By Kristine McRae, Caleb Pungowiyi Scholarship Program Specialist

Isaac Bailey, the fourth graduate of the Caleb Pungowiyi Scholars program (see picture on page 9) earned his degree in Chemistry in December. He is from the Native Village of

Council, and among a growing number of Alaska Native college students to receive the prestigious Caleb Lumen Pungowiyi Scholarship. The scholarship, which awards $5,000 per semester to five Alaska Native students from the three northern regions, seeks to inspire future leaders who will take an interest in the balance and preservation of the Arctic’s marine environment. In addition to Caleb’s tenure as president of Kawerak in the 1990’s, he worked at local and international levels to create policy that recognized the importance of traditional knowledge in research and conservation efforts. Since 2012, four scholars have graduated with degrees in Biology, Chemistry, Alaska Native Studies, and Rural Development. Current scholars are: Stefanie Armstrong and Denali Whiting from Kotzebue, and Joanne Semaken and Malorie Johnson from Unalakleet. The program’s newest scholar, Shaylyn “Yosty” Storms, also from Unalakleet, studies Natural and Environmental Science at UAA. In addition to the scholarship monies, Caleb Pungowiyi Scholars also supports two scholars in summer internships, which provide work experience and opportunities for students to broaden their knowledge of Arctic issues. A five-member advisory committee serves to select students and to guide students through the academic programs.

To learn more about the Caleb Scholars Program, visit www.calebscholars.com or contact us via email at cpp.spec@kawerak.org.
Native Employment Services Program
by Katie Bourdon, Workforce Development Director

Kawerak’s Native Employment Services Program (KNEWS) is a fairly new program that partners with the Division of Public Assistance’s Nome Work Services Program. KNEWS serves ATAP (Alaska’s Temporary Assistance Program) families in our region by coordinating volunteer work activities at local organizations, so clients can earn their ATAP benefit, fostering job skills and a positive work ethic, as well as enhancing community services are KNEWS goals for clients. KNEWS would like to thank our local organizations in each community for their support and collaboration with our program and clients. The teamwork between everyone helps create a healthier community. Parents can volunteer and make a difference in their communities and earn their ATAP benefit for their families. KNEWS renews Site Agreements with organizations each year and updates available work activities at least annually. We have a PowerPoint Presentation about our program available on Kawerak’s website, www.kawerak.org, under the Program & Services tab, select Employment, Education, & Training and then select Native Employment Work Services. If the PowerPoint takes too long to download, then click on the Overview in the PDF format to easily read the slides. There is a KNEWS Timesheet located on the website too, so clients can document their work activity hours and have them signed off by their supervisor. Thank you again to all our work-sites for their support and to our wonderful clients who work hard for their families!

More Graduates
Continued from page 1

Erica Wood (right), is the granddaughter of Ron and Tula Huffman, and graduated in May with a Bachelor’s of Science in International Studies and Agriculture at Virginia Polytechnic Institute State University.

Nicole Atkins (below), is the daughter of Earl Atkins, Jr. and Emilieta Grays (Brown) and graduated in May with a Bachelor’s Degree in Human Services at Alaska Pacific University.

Natalie Longley (right), is the granddaughter of Berda Wilson and Gary Longley, and graduated in May with a Bachelor’s of Human Biology and a Minor in Psychology at Seattle Pacific University.

Training Opportunities
By Lew Tobin, Regional Training Specialist

Bering Strait Regional Apprenticeship Program (BSRAP) is a Federal Apprenticeship Program (of the same sort the unions use for their apprenticeships) that Kawerak started in 2005 and has maintained, since. We are a limited program in that we only accept businesses that are working in the Bering Straits Region, and only allow them to use residents of this region as apprentices. We have 12 apprentices total, allowed in only five fields of expertise: Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing, Heavy Equipment Mechanics and Operation, and Laborers (the latter two categories were added for special cases, and have not been used much). We have processed two apprentices through the entire program into Journey-people (Dennis Bahinke and Diaa Ellanna), and currently have a full slate of 12 apprentices, all in the electrical and plumbing fields. We are supported by the Bering Strait Regional Housing Authority (BSRHA), and the Bering Strait School District (BSSD) primarily, but have also worked with Emmons Mechanical, PK Electric, and NJUS in the past. Each Journey person on the job can only be responsible for one apprentice. The companies hire the apprentices, and Kawerak has been providing the administration and classroom training for the program. C.N.A. and Certified nursing Cohorts: Over the last 6 years, Kawerak has been part of the Bering Strait Health Consortium which was formed by a group of agencies in and beyond the Bering Straits region to create a nursing program specific to the Norton sound region, and in this way “grow” our own nurses from this region for our needs. We are on our third round of Nursing cohorts and have two students in the program: Darcee Perkins, and Katie Ellanna. We have graduated 7 nurses in two different cohorts. Each cohort last two years. We have had at least 2 Certified Nursing Assistant trainings in that time period. C.N.A. Training lasts 6 weeks. The next training will be this spring (May 18-June 12). Deadline for the applications to enter this training is March 27. Driver’s Education - Vehicle Training and final testing has been hampered by a lack of a DMV person in Nome until recently, and also by loosing the vehicle and instructor two years ago. We have a group of agencies (NSEDC, NACTEC, NWC-UAF and Kawerak) working towards restarting a program again.

Dumpsite Cleanup in Council
By Rhonda Hanebuth, Tribal Coordinator, Native Village of Council

The Native Village of Council partnered with Council Native Corporation and the community members to clean-up the dumpsite in Council. There was a lot of participation from the community, and without them this event would not have been very successful. Two side dump loads FULL of junk were hauled out of Council.

Before Cleanup Effort.

After the Cleanup Effort.

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Kawerak Newsletter
Savoonga developing reindeer resource

By Suzanna Caldwell
Alaska Dispatch News

Lifelong Savoonga resident Richard Toolie couldn’t wait to talk about the reindeer herd he manages.

But there was a catch that March day. Toolie, 52, had to meet a plane that was to carry precious cargo for Savoonga residents: reindeer meat they hope will provide much-needed cash in the mostly subsistence economy of the village of 650.

“Mother Nature is getting ready for all the sea mammals,” Toolie said of the snowy, windy weather. While those conditions are good for the walrus and whale St. Lawrence islanders will look to hunt this spring, it’s not so great for planes trying to get in and out.

It was a lack of those marine mammals in 2013 that spurred the people of Savoonga to take greater advantage of another natural resource in their free-roaming reindeer herd.

For a village that relies heavily on walrus not only for food but for cash generated by ivory sales, 2013 brought an economic disaster for the communities of Gambell and Savoonga, with the state issuing a disaster declaration allowing them to access emergency-relief funds.

The situation served as a wake-up call for Savoonga. Fearing another year of poor harvests, the village came together to expand its economy and get more access to cash—crucial in a place where food can cost triple what it does in urban Alaska and gas costs $6.50 a gallon.

“We have great deer out here. We might as well make use of it,” said herder Michael Kraulik. “It’s something good to lean on for the winter.”

“Instead of wringing their hands and crying about it, they actually did something about it,” said Greg Finstad, program manager for the UAF reindeer research program and a faculty member at UAF’s Northwest Campus. Finstad developed and now runs the high-latitude range management program, a certificate program that caters to animal herders in the region.

“The reindeer herd is owned by the Savoonga tribal council, giving members of the tribe access to the animals. There have been limited sales for years, but with help in the form of an NWC mobile processing facility delivered to the island in March, the council hopes to give markets and restaurants even more access to the locally grown meat.

Finstad said villagers could safely harvest 600-800 reindeer annually from its herd of about 3,000. Each carcase can sell for $1,000 to $1,500—major money for the village.

To help promote that, Finstad and others traveled to Savoonga in March to teach a course on processing reindeer meat according to state and federal standards.

But Finstad gets the sense that it goes beyond just another class for villagers. In a phone interview, Finstad said the class started with 17 students but grew to 25. Class sizes usually shrink, he said. But as word got out, more people kept showing up.

“I’m so in awe with the people out there,” he said. “As an educator, it was great.”

Finstad also brought with him NWC’s U.S. Department of Agriculture mobile processing unit, a Conex trailer that will stay on the island for the next few years. The USDA unit allows them to slaughter and process animals in such a way they can sell the meat to a broader range of markets and restaurants. They can make value-added products, including sausage and other prepared meats.

“The field-processed animals come with certain caveats—including that the meat must be frozen from the time it’s killed until it is sold to the end user. Even then, the meat comes with a note saying it must be cooked to 160 degrees to be safe to eat. Animals processed in the new facility will not have such restrictions and will be sold in a manner similar to that of any other commercial meat.

State veterinarian Bob Gerlach said having access to that USDA stamp means producers can sell their meat for a higher price. It also means better food safety, Gerlach said. For example, if there is a food-borne outbreak of disease in USDA-certified food, it can be traced back to the source.

It’s been a challenge to keep reindeer meat in stock, according to Greg Giannulis, owner of Mike’s Quality Meats in Eagle River. He’s been buying the meat for the past month. The butcher shop gets its reindeer from many villages in Northwest Alaska, Giannulis said. No matter where it comes from, it always sells quickly.

With more people interested in local food, Giannulis said, he could easily double his sales.

“People can’t get enough,” he said. That’s a sentiment the people of Savoonga are happy to hear about.

“It makes me feel great,” Toolie said. “It’s a little income and employment for people who took classes. It’s a long winter with no jobs out here.”

Reprinted from the Alaska Dispatch News, with permission.

The University of Alaska Fairbanks Northwest Campus offers a 32-credit certificate program, High Latitude Range Management (HLRM), that prepares students for a career in the Alaska Native reindeer industry. Students from the Bering Strait region meet in Nome three times per year for intensive courses. Additional training is offered online.

During the fall 2014 semester, a new cohort of Savoonga residents participated in their first hands-on HLRM course on St. Lawrence Island. Students were introduced to two mobile reindeer production vans that will be used to process and package reindeer meat. USDA and state rules and regulations were learned firsthand in March, with students drafting customized standard operating procedures and a hazard plan for inspected reindeer meat.

The HLRM Program collaborates with partners at the community, national, and international level. An applied approach to scientific learning rooted in traditional knowledge guides curriculum development.

Students enrolled in the Northwest Campus High Latitude Range Management Program gathered in Nome for a 10-day intensive this March. Students studied business math, and took an HLRM course in which they learned about tundra plants eaten by reindeer.
NWC bringing more courses to area villages

UAF Northwest Campus is bringing more courses to regional villages, thanks to partnerships with local and regional entities.

NWC delivered 26 village-based courses over the last two years, working closely with tribes, cities, and schools to provide instructional space and other support for mostly short-term courses like the Off-Highway Driver License workshop, Modern Kaspeq Sewing, or Beginning Ivory Carving.

The most common courses requested for face-to-face delivery include the off-highway driver license workshop, the off-highway commercial driver license course; boiler troubleshooting and burner repair; modern kaspeq sewing; and beginning ivory carving.

Some courses are taught by adjunct instructors who travel to area villages. In many cases, a village resident is qualified to teach a course in his or her village and works with NWC staff to develop the course. The off-highway driver education courses we provide prepare students to pass the state written exam, which allows residents to get an off-highway driver license without taking the “behind the wheel” test.

Off-highway driver and off-highway commercial driver licenses are valid only in communities not connected to a road system.

Although these licenses are not valid in cities like Nome, Anchorage or Fairbanks, they often meet employability requirements for village jobs. They are also adequate for people who want to drive legally in their village but do not plan to drive in cities.

The Boiler Troubleshooting and Burner Repair course has also been extremely popular in the region.

This 28-hour course introduces students to the world of facility maintenance and provides an in-depth understanding of how boilers and burners work, equipping students with the skills needed to provide heat and hot water in homes and community buildings.

Instructor Dan Phinney has traveled to a number of villages to teach the course. He uses a mix of hands-on demonstrations and practice, a diverse collection of YouTube videos, and other multimedia resources to make his course relevant to students of all ages.

During class, students get experience and develop confidence in their new skills by working on boilers and burners in village homes or at the local IRA building, church, or even the post office.

In Shishmaref, students worked with Phinney to repair 14 boilers and burners in the community within a week. In Wales, students found what was causing a carbon monoxide detector to sound at the IRA building, and were able to test the boiler for combustion efficiency.

NWC plans to continue expanding the list of courses offered throughout the region.

We work with tribal and city councils, community members, and regional partner organizations to identify courses that promote self-sufficiency, workforce skills, small business ventures, and creativity and self-expression.

In many cases, village courses are funded by community-based training grants from Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation, or by funds from Kawerak’s Employment, Education and Training Division.

To learn more about organizing courses in your community, contact Patti Lillie, NWC village outreach coordinator, at 1-800-478-2202, ext. 8406 / polillie@alaska.edu.

The following courses were taught in Bering Strait villages during the 2014-15 academic year:

**Off-Highway Driver License Workshop**
- Instructor Glenn Tate
  - Unalakleet
  - Gambell

**Boiler Troubleshooting and Burner Repair**
- Instructor Dan Phinney
  - Shishmaref
  - Wales
  - Elim
  - Gambell
  - Koyuk
  - Brevig Mission

**Modern Kaspeq Sewing**
- Instructor Michelle Kong
  - White Mountain
  - Shishmaref
  - Shaktoklik
  - Golovin

**Fur Skin Sewing**
- Instructor Alex Akeya
  - Savoonga

- Basic Accounting and QuickBooks
  - Instructor Dawn Hjartar
    - Golovin

- Inupiaq Parry Sewing
  - Instructor Ruby Jones
    - Shishmaref

- Introduction to Facilities Maintenance and Repairs & Interior Repairs
  - Instructor Larry Kava
    - Savoonga

- Introduction to Facilities Maintenance and Repairs; Interior Repairs; Flooring Installation
  - Instructor Ryan Ford
    - St. Michael

NORTHWEST CAMPUS ACADEMIC ADVISING TEAM

Northwest Campus advisors are an important resource for our students. Contact your community’s advisor using the information below!

**ANNIE WEYIYOUANNA**
Northern Region Advisor
- Based at NWC’s Shishmaref Learning Center
- Toll-free: 855-649-2287 / 907-649-2287
- a.weyiouanna@alaska.edu
- Skype: annie.k2000

**AMELIA BUDD**
Nome Advisor/Student Services Coordinator
- Based in Nome
- (907) 443-8427
- a.budd@alaska.edu

**KATHY COMMACK**
Southern Region Advisor
- Based at NWC’s Unalakleet Learning Center
- Toll-free: 888-624-3158 / 907-624-3157
- kcommack@alaska.edu
- Skype: KathyCommack

New leader of UAF rural campuses visits NWC

Evon Peter was named vice chancellor for rural, community and Native education in August 2014. He visited Northwest Campus in February to meet with staff, the NWC advisory council, and the public. Peter, who is Neetsaii Gwich’in and Koyukon from Arctic Village, brings a wealth of leadership experience to the position. Above, he is pictured (at far left) with NWC advisory council members, including (from left): Nathan Pitt, NACTEC; Laurell Ivanoff, Nome; Brandy Arrington, Nome Public Schools; Shawn Arnold, Nome Public Schools; Carl White (back), BSSD; Mary David, Kawerak; Angie Gorn, NSHC, Brian James, NSHC, and Bob Metcalfe, NWC director.
Each year, during the December Full Board meeting, the Kawerak Board selects the Board Member of the Year. Robert Keith, Kawerak Board Chair is pleased to announce that the Kawerak Board selected Frank Katchatag as Board Member of the Year for 2014 by secret ballot. Frank received a Kawerak jacket, a plaque and two round trip tickets on Alaska Airlines. Congratulations Frank on this recognition. Guyanna!

2014 Board Member of the Year

Frank Katchatag
Native Village of Unalakleet

This award is given to an employee who helps make Kawerak a great place to work, who has a fun, positive attitude, a great 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.

Kirstie Ione, Golovin Tribal Family Coordinator
Nominated by Donna Katchatag

Other nominees included:
- Rose Atuk-Fosdick
- Alice Bioff
- Barb Fagerstrom
- Jessica Warren
- Daniel Harrelson
- Donna Katchatag
- Sarah Krishiansen
- Sara Lizak
- Donna Ray
- Deb Trowbridge

Matthew Iya Award 2014

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- Barb Fagerstrom
- Jessica Warren
- Daniel Harrelson
- Donna Katchatag
- Sarah Krishiansen
- Sara Lizak
- Donna Ray
- Deb Trowbridge

Employee of the Year 2014

Donna Ray, Chief Financial Officer

Donna Ray, CFO, was voted as 2014 Employee of the Year by Kawerak employees. Congratulations Donna! Other eligible nominees included:
- Donna James
- Olga Downey
- Sara Swann
- Mary Jane Litchard
- Cora Ablowaluk
- Heather Peyanna
- Pearl Mikulski
- Lola Hannon
- Marilyn Sheldon
- Bryant Hammond
- Charlene Isabell

20+ Years of Service

Robert Keith, Native Village of Elim

After 20+ years of service as Kawerak Board Chairman, Robert Keith is taking a reprieve. Robert will continue to represent the tribal organizations of the Alaska on the national Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee, and will provide continued leadership to the people in Elim in his role as the Vice President of the Elim IRA. Robert has been our Kawerak Board Chairman for 18 years, and was on the Kawerak Board for 20+ years consecutively. He was selected by his 22 fellow board members as Board Member of the Year in 2003, 2009, and 2010. He was also on the State of Alaska’s Rural Governance Commission years back, along with the current Lt. Governor Byron Mallott. He has held other noteworthy positions in the region, such as being on the Norton Sound Health Corporation Board, the Bering Strait Regional Housing Authority Commission, the Tumet Ltd. Board of Directors, to name a few. Under his leadership, Kawerak’s array of services for the region increased significantly, and our revenues have increased from an estimated $5 million/year to around $30 million/year. He is well-known on the national, state-wide, and regional level for being a stand-up guy who speaks eloquently on behalf of the people in the region. He has provided our organization with great leadership, and led the Kawerak Board with humility, integrity, wit, and wisdom. He has a thick skin and is a problem-solver with a knack for bringing a sense of calm wherever he is.

Robert’s leadership as the Kawerak Board Chairman leaves very big shoes to fill. In his typical optimism, his response was to chuckle and say "you guys will be alright." At the Spring 2015 Board Meeting, Frank Katchatag was elected Kawerak board Chairman.

Congratulations!

to the following employees & board members who were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the mission of Kawerak. Please join me in recognizing their performance for 2014!

Melanie Bahnke, Kawerak President

Kawerak Newsletter
Kawerak Employees of the Month

January 2014
Pearl Mikulski

May 2014
Donna Ray

September 2014
Cora Ablowaluk & Charlene Isabell

January 2015
Deborah Apatiki

February 2014
Olga Downey

June 2014
Marilyn Sheldon

October 2014
Heather Peyanna

March 2014
Lola Hannon

July 2014
Mary Jane Litchard

December 2014
Colleen Deighton

April 2014
Sara Swann

August 2014
Bryant Hammond

January 2015
Deborah Apatiki

Choose Respect March 2015

Cpl. VPSO Barr and Sgt. Olanna along with students and teachers participated in the Choose Respect March in Brevig Mission.

Several organizations in Nome participated in the Choose Respect March.

Choose Respect Marchers joined others around the state of Alaska on Wednesday, March 25 to challenge Alaskans to stand up against domestic violence and sexual assault. For more information go to ChooseRespectAlaska.com.
Kawerak Full Board of Director’s Meeting held Sep. 24-25, 2011 in Nome, Alaska. Below are the Village Reports from each representative.

**Native Village of Brevig Mission**—We had Elias Johnson as the Environment Assistant in Aug. Rhonda Hanebuth was hired as the Native Village of Council representative. We also hired Barb Gray as the Administration Assistant. There was a new member elected for the summer cleaning crew. The USCG also hired cleanup crew to organize paperwork. So we are not Eskimo dance or even care about social gatherings. We need to inter-vene and support families that are raising our future generation. We need to promote more care to the few elderly who are left in our community. There is a long wait for EAS funding to improve the runway at the beginning of this year. As of June no new services. Evergreen Helicopters sold out to Erickson Helicopters. There are a lot of people here that depend on subsistence traditional life-style. Changes are slow here. We are grateful for the older people here that are still working on the Natural Resources Committee. AEWC posted representatives, Andrea Okpealuk-Nanuuq and EWC Commissioner Wanda King. Andrea Okpealuk-Nanuuq and EWC Commissioner Wanda King will stand as the community of Diomede, and she will be missed. In Jul. our long term TC, Etta Ahkinga resigned and will be missed also. Our transportation services have seen very little improvements. There is a long wait for EAS funding to match for Monday’s passenger’s services. We still pay $400 direct to Nome and $200 to Wales. This cost has reduced travel, and the weather has its toll with sched-uled services. Evergreen Helicopters sold out to Erickson Helicopters at the beginning of the year. As of June no new services. Erickson Helicopters would no longer take passenger’s in a helicopter due to the fees they allow people to travel out. Mostly patients leave unless outside business people are here and staying. Now we know that our transportation services will be the biggest part of our future concerns. Last winter there was no ice runway which affected our healthcare, although NSHC Dental and Eye Care came as scheduled. During this time we usually got a doctor and other practitioners and specialists to Nome which were very much needed. We are waiting a week to return home. We do appreciate EAS days; we recognize that Kawerak’s efforts have made it possible. We are expecting to see more vessel traffic this summer. We did see some barges and the Coast Guard vis- ited once. This summer Diomede was a hot spot for swimmers from Africa, Morocco, Russia and a lone kayaker from France. One tour ship visited and another is scheduled in Sep. This is a time when our community works together to entertain by Eskimo dancing and guiding them around.

**Subsistence hunting was rather poor. We got one wal- rus this spring, a dozen bearded seals and a few ringed, spotted, and ribbon seals. Weather and ammunition shortages are to blame. There could have been more days the boats would have gone out. We are hoping the fall hunting will make up for the spring hunt. It was a great summer for murre egg hunting and birding. Summer days the boats would have gone out. Subsistence hunting was rather poor. We got one wal- rus this spring, a dozen bearded seals and a few ringed, spotted, and ribbon seals. Weather and ammunition shortages are to blame. There could have been more days the boats would have gone out. We are hoping the fall hunting will make up for the spring hunt. It was a great summer for murre egg hunting and birding. Summer days the boats would have gone out. The fishing was productive. We saw more than 200 fishing vessels this summer. This summer Diomede was a hot spot for swimmers from Africa, Morocco, Russia and a lone kayaker from France. One tour ship visited and another is waiting a week to return home. We do appreciate EAS days; we recognize that Kawerak’s efforts have made it possible. We are expecting to see more vessel traffic this summer. We did see some barges and the Coast Guard visited once. This summer Diomede was a hot spot for swimmers from Africa, Morocco, Russia and a lone kayaker from France. One tour ship visited and another is scheduled in Sep. This is a time when our community works together to entertain by Eskimo dancing and guiding them around.

**Native Village of Nome**—We need to change our community to work on what problems we have. There was less hunting and subsistence fishing was good except for restrictions on Kings. Silver runs were strong, but it was too damp and cool for making dry fish. We received a grant from...

Continued on page 15

Kawerak Newsletter Spring 2015

**Native Village of Brevig Mission**—The tribe is still in the process of hiring the Post Office and the Fish and Game Dpt. Secretary, Kristy Kunayak, and the community of Diomede, and she will be missed. In Jul. our long term TC, Etta Ahkinga resigned and will be missed also. Our transportation services have seen very little improvements. There is a long wait for EAS funding to match for Monday’s passenger’s services. We still pay $400 direct to Nome and $200 to Wales. This cost has reduced travel, and the weather has its toll with scheduled services. Evergreen Helicopters sold out to Erickson Helicopters at the beginning of the year. As of June no new services. Erickson Helicopters would no longer take passenger’s in a helicopter due to the fees they allow people to travel out. Mostly patients leave unless outside business people are here and staying. Now we know that our transportation services will be the biggest part of our future concerns. Last winter there was no ice runway which affected our healthcare, although NSHC Dental and Eye Care came as scheduled. During this time we usually got a doctor and other practitioners and specialists to Nome which were very much needed. We are waiting a week to return home. We do appreciate EAS days; we recognize that Kawerak’s efforts have made it possible. We are expecting to see more vessel traffic this summer. We did see some barges and the Coast Guard visited once. This summer Diomede was a hot spot for swimmers from Africa, Morocco, Russia and a lone kayaker from France. One tour ship visited and another is scheduled in Sep. This is a time when our community works together to entertain by Eskimo dancing and guiding them around.

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Kawerak Village Reports (continued from page 14)
Native Village of St. Michael—The EPA/IGAP continues the educational outreach for the village. On Apr. 22, we held an Earth Day class for the elementary students in the IRA Library building. We held spring clean up for all ages including adults from May 19 –30. Picnic and plans that given to the volunteers who picked up the most ALPAR bags with trash. The staff took erosion measurements as scheduled in Jun. The DoD Nalennp/ Tribal Response IRA programs had a HAZWOPER class with 16 participants. The program also started again on the Dredge Point site for the Army Corp of Engineers under the DoD Nalennp program in May with a crew of 3 tribals. The quarterly reports for the St. Michael IRA programs and major grants occurred during this time. The BSRHA contractor, TBI Construction, is in the finishing stage of the 2 new homes in St. Michael. The home improvement project and the 2nd tribally-owned home that were completed are to be delivered. The St. Michael IRA Housing Improvement Program home construction will begin in Jul. after the barge arrives. The St. Michael Katherine L. Kobuk Memorial Clinic has one new health aide for the village and is in process of hiring another new health aide. The local water and sewer system had frozen water pipes for the entire village. We have a shelter at mile 11.5 of the Stebbins Highway. A new gravel road was installed. A satellite phone will also be installed before the road closes in the fall. Our youth camp stacked it with drift wood as well.

We also received 25,000 from the Rasmuson Foundation for the purchase of a 15 passenger van replacing our old van that was mainly used for transportation during our annual youth camp. For the past two summers, our youth held a car wash during youth camp as their contribution toward the purchase of the van. We also had a new Environmental Coordinator, Deliah Johnson, who will carry-out the remainder of our IGAP grant, ending this month. We have a 5 member environmental planning team charged to review the results of last year’s assessment and brainstorm ideas for long term and short term solutions. With IGAP funds we purchased a 200-gallon water tank and 4 bear resistant trash containers. The water tank will be stationed down hill just west of the community maintenance building. The wood stove was installed and the cabin has been painted red. A satellite phone will also be installed before the road closes in the fall. Our youth camp stacked it with drift wood as well.

Native Village of Shishmaref—This summer, we have experienced some thunder and lightning (this happens rarely) along with the village of Gambell, which was hit harder. After 15 long years, we had the pleasure of welcoming 12 members, our relatives from Russia. They stayed 3 weeks and went home with gifts. We enjoyed gathering and having fun with them. Fishing season was getting ready to wrap up until NSEDC approved 10,000 additional points to the quota. The fishermen are pleased and are still fishing until that quota is met. NSEDC is supporting the transitional temporary entry level employment for the tribe to hire an Office Worker which will benefit our offices. We will hire after our regular monthly meeting in Sep. NSEDC also has hired local people for beach clean-up and are still out there. We are currently working with UAF on an experimental reprocessing plant and hope that one day we will have a Reindeer Processing Plant for commercial packaging. The FUDS program far and wide of land has yet to be determined. The St. Michael IRA Housing Improvement Program home construction will begin in Jul. after the barge arrives. The St. Michael Katherine L. Kobuk Memorial Clinic has one new health aide for the village and is in process of hiring another new health aide. The local water and sewer system had frozen water pipes for the entire village. We have a shelter at mile 11.5 of the Stebbins Highway. A new gravel road was installed. A satellite phone will also be installed before the road closes in the fall. Our youth camp stacked it with drift wood as well.

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4th Annual Lemonade Day June 13, 2015

by Alice Boff, Business Planning Specialist

This year will be the 4th Annual Lemonade Day within the Bering Strait Region. Lemonade Day is a FREE community educational program designed to teach youth how to start, own and operate their own business – a lemonade stand! The program kicked off in Nome for the first time in 2012, but just in Nome. In 2013, the event went region wide. The days leading up to the event take some planning and preparation with a caring adult by their side.

Using the free “Lemonade Day” workbook provided, the youth learn the following life skills: setting goals, planning for success, budgeting, finding investors, advertising their product, purchasing supplies and serving their customers. They learn that it is not impossible - they can do this! Having a business is attainable! Most importantly, we want to see the kids have fun, learn the basics of business and empower the youth to take ownership of their lives and become active members of their community.

The youth are not limited to just lemonade. There can be stands with baked goods, ice tea, coffee, trinkets and arts and crafts! Youth are encouraged to set a goal and plan for what they would like to do with their profits: saving some, spending some, and giving back to the community by donating some to a charity. It is especially remarkable to see so many of the youth donate portions of their profits to things like: the Nome Food Bank, the King Island Project and St. Jude’s Research Hospital.

Lemonade Day is a National program brought to Alaska by: UAA’s College of Business and Public Policy and Center for Economic Development. There is a tremendous amount of coordination that happens to support the youth. Without the many volunteers, participants, sponsors, and partners, Lemonade Day within the Bering Strait Region would not be possible.

If your organization is interested in bringing Lemonade Day to your community, please contact (907) 443-4366 or email: bp.spec@kawerak.org. Lemonade Day this year will be Saturday, June 13, 2015.

Kawerak Village Reports (continued from page 16)

Continued from page 16.ings. He is working on a Small Community Energy Response Plan toolkit which is to be later reviewed with City and other key players for completion; and planning to work with the City on the USDA Rural Project Water and Waste Grant in order to acquire City landfill burn boxes.

Tribal Enrollment Officer, Hazel Sagonick, reported. The amended Tribal Membership Ordinance with the blood quantum change has created a flurry of activity, along with the issuing of IDs for the new students going to college. The collection of family trees is on-going and all Tribal Members are being asked to come in or call in to see that their family tree is correct and files are up-to-date.

The Elders Nutrition Program was open all summer thanks to the NSEDC OEF program. Donations of traditional and customary foods including wild game that is whole or quartered, seafood, berries, vegetables, and wild plants may again be accepted and is requested to help supplement the store-bought foods of this most important program.

Sub-Regional Clinic: Henrietta "Tia" Wilson was unanimously chosen as the NVU Representative to the NSHC Board because of her past experience as a long-time healthcare provider and because she is a strong advocate for ALL the people in our region. Dr. Bieberly is now here with his wife until Oct. and Dr. Goslin has left with his family. The maintenance upkeep on the Regional Clinic: Henrietta "Tia" Wilson was

Kawerak, Inc.

Spring 2015
On February 3, 2015 Samuel Johns, known as the AK Rebel, an Ahtna and Gwich'in Athabaskan motivational speaker, traditional musician, and rapper came to Unalakleet. He lives in Anchorage now, but grew up in Copper Center, a village on the road system that had few opportunities and easy access to alcohol. He said that living in a village is a hard life. Some people find peace living the subsistence lifestyle which has many challenges, but others get caught in the cycle of addictions. He shared that he suffered depression after losing family members to addictions and turned to alcohol himself for about five years. He regrets the time he was not present for his first daughter during those years.

Samuel believes one way to break the cycle is to have good local role models, and now he shares his story with youth living in rural villages. He’s proud to tell everyone that he has been sober for seven years. He reaches out to youth with his stories and his songs, because he believes that drumming and story telling are healing, help unite people, and connect us to our Native cultures.

Samuel performed at the Unalakleet School Gym in the evening and spoke about alcohol and drug addictions, subsistence, and lifting hope. There was a good turnout of youth and adults that attended. Samuel sang some traditional songs with his drum, then he sang some rap music. The audience enjoyed his performance, especially the young children and teens. After he shared his stories and music, everyone stayed for refreshments and to socialize with him. The youth took this opportunity to ask Samuel questions about his life and his music, and adults told him they appreciated him for making the time to come and share his story. Now when you walk the halls of the school, you can hear the youth listening to Samuel’s music on their iPods. The community members would like to thank the Unalakleet School, the Native Village of Unalakleet and Kawerak for helping to make this event possible. It was a huge blessing to participate in this successful event.

Samuel Johns premiered his latest music video, “Wake Up,” at the 2014 Alaska Federation of Natives Convention in Anchorage in Oct. The song is about the need to rise up against suicide and domestic violence. His songs are available on Sound Cloud, Facebook Vimeo and YouTube.

**The “Alaska Rebel” Comes to Unalakleet**

*by Marie Ivanoff, Tribal Family Coordinator, Unalakleet*

Samuel Johns with Cody Ivanoff, son of Burker and Carol Ivanoff.

**The Importance of Trail Stakes/Markers**

*By Denise Michels, Kawerak Transportation Program Director*

Traditional routes are actively used as a road system for subsistence hunting, fishing and trapping to provide food and income throughout the winter. These same routes are also used to travel between villages and to hub communities for meetings, appointments, shopping and to visit family and friends by snowmachine and ATV.

Winter weather conditions such as blowing snow, along with white out conditions can make travel nearly impossible and make it hard to find routes that are not marked. Trail markers aid lost travelers to the nearest community. Most importantly trail markers are valuable resources in airborne search and rescue efforts by guiding search and rescue teams to lost travelers.

The Kawerak’s Transportation Program (KTP) project agreement with the State of Alaska’s Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOTPF) completed trail stake construction and placement along various routes in the Bering Strait Region. Trail stakes were placed between the Kougarock Bridge to the National Park Service (NPS) Serpentine Hot Springs border and from Shishmaref to the NPS park border in 2008. In 2013 stakes were placed between Brevig Mission and Wales. KTP conducted trail stake maintenance in September 2014 for both projects. Many of the trail markers were missing or destroyed. It was disturbing to find that trail stakes had been sawed off and only 3 feet of the stakes remained (the top with reflectors lying on the ground being useless to travelers) in one section of the trail between Kougarock and the Serpentine border. On other sections trail markers were destroyed and used to get ATV’s unstuck, or used to cross long strips of wet tundra. Of the missing stakes, we found some that were used to create a tent frame at North Fork.

We thank the land owners: State of Alaska, Bering Land Bridge Alaska (BELA), and Village Corporations for being committed in providing site control for public safety.

**Good Samaritans**

Trail markers play an important role during the winter by aiding travelers who are disoriented and most importantly help search and rescue personnel locate lost travelers. Please be a Good Samaritan and report to Kawerak Transportation if you notice any destroyed markers of if you had to use any markers to get you out of a bind. If you are traveling on a route where you see a trail marker that has fallen, please reinstall it for other travelers. One day you maybe in a position of needing trail markers to get you home to your family safely. KTP’s phone number is 443-4395.

**INUIAQ VALUES:**

Language Task Force

By Moriah Saffallie, Cultural Center Development Coordinator

Kawerak’s Cultural Center staff brought together a task force of Inupiaq, Yup’ik and St. Lawrence Island Yupik language experts to brainstorm ideas for a new name for the cultural center that is culturally appropriate and inclusive of all three major Indigenous languages of the Bering Strait and Norton Sound Region. More details coming soon about the selection of our new name and how you can be involved. Please call Moriah Saffallie at 907-443-4341 for more information.

Left to right, front: Rose Attatayuk (Yup’ik), Phyllis Walluk (St. Lawrence Island Yupik) and Josie Bourdon (Inupiaq)

Left to right, back: Ursula Lyons (Yup’ik), Linda Golagergen (St. Lawrence Island Yupik), Annie Conger (Inupiaq) and Bernadette Alvanna-Stimpfle (King Island Inupiaq). Photo taken by Amy Russell-Jamgochian.

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Kawerak every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at AmazonSmile, you’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to Kawerak. Tens of millions of products are eligible for donations. You will see products marked “Eligible for AmazonSmile donation” on the website. Log on to smile.amazon.com, and select Kawerak as your charitable organization before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com they will donate 0.5% of your purchase to Kawerak. Donations are made by the AmazonSmile Foundation and are not tax deductible by you. The AmazonSmile Foundation is a private 501(c)(3) foundation created by Amazon to administer the AmazonSmile program. All donation amounts generated by the program are remitted to the AmazonSmile Foundation. In turn, the AmazonSmile Foundation donates those amounts to the charitable organizations selected by customers. Amazon pays all expenses of the AmazonSmile Foundation; they are not deducted from the donation amounts generated by your purchases on AmazonSmile.

What does Kawerak do with the Proceeds?

Kawerak, Inc. places all AmazonSmile proceeds into Kawerak’s donation funds. Kawerak’s donation policy states that donations over 1,000 must be approved by the Executive Committee or Board of Directors. All donations are governed by the following guidelines. All Kawerak donations: 1) must benefit a community or tribal member in this region, 2) may benefit cultural heritage or traditional activities, 3) may support or promote Alaska Native issues, 4) may promote activities such as educational development and healthy activities or lifestyles for tribal youth, or 5) may assist families or individuals in need who need funeral assistance or lost items in a fire or other disaster.

Donations Made Easy

By Donna Ray, Chief Financial Officer

For more info: Anchorage at 443-4249 or env.coord@kawerak.org

Electronic Waste Event - Fri. and Sat. May 29 – 30, 11 am – 4 pm

We’ll take: TV, computers, VCRs, monitors, printers, laptops, stereo, cell phones, etc.

Drop off location in the parking lot between Kawerak & The Methodist Church, Septa Dr. Fee is $150/lb. or $120 per load

Why should you recycle your electronics?

• Electronic waste (e-waste) is easily recycled into new products.
• E-waste is filling our landfills faster than any other product.
• Electronic waste contains hazardous materials such as lead, arsenic, and harmful plastics that contaminate our environment.

For more info: Anchorage at 443-4249 or env.coord@kawerak.org

Nane Eksimo Community

Kawerak Newsletter

Spring 2015

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The RPC is an annual gathering designed by rural Alaskans who are substance abuse treatment providers, youth, Elders and family members interested in celebrating the continual growth of the Alaska Native Sobriety Movement. This year’s RPC is in conjunction with the Kawerak Regional Conference and will feature ceremonies, hands-on cultural events, talking circles, workshops, keynote speakers and more! Each evening will be filled with Traditional Native Dancing, other entertainment and a potluck on Wednesday evening. Please bring a dish from your community to share.

**QUESTIONS?** Contact Barb Nickels @ 434-1833 or rc.coordinat@kawerak.org

Bridget McCleskey @ 694-5321/800-478-7227 or confcoor@gci.net

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**Kawerak Services Directory**

- **Children & Family Services Division**
  - 443-4375
  - Child Advocacy Center
    - 443-4376 or 443-5231
  - Children & Family Services
    - 800-443-5153 or 443-4376
  - Head Start & Early Head Start
    - 443-4376
  - Wellness Program
    - 443-4393

- **Community Services Division**
  - 443-4244
  - Community Planning & Development
    - 437-219-2599 or 443-4248
  - Business Planning Assistance
    - 443-4366
  - E-Commerce Center
    - 443-4269
  - Regional Recycling & Backhaul Program
    - 443-4249
  - Tribal Affairs
    - 443-4257
  - Village Public Safety Officer Program
    - 443-4252

- **Education & Employment Training Division**
  - 800-443-4342 or 443-4358
  - Childcare Services
    - 443-9703
  - Community Education
    - 800-443-5231 or 443-4376
  - Employment & Training
    - 443-4358
  - Tribal Welfare Assistance
    - 800-443-5231 or 443-4370
  - Higher Education Scholarships
    - 443-4358
  - Village Based Training
    - 443-4388
  - Vocational Rehabilitation
    - 877-759-4362 or 443-4362
  - Youth Employment
    - 443-4356

- **Natural Resources Division**
  - 443-4269
  - Eskimo Heritage Program
    - 443-4386
  - Eskimo Walrus Commission
    - 877-277-4392 or 443-4360
  - Land Management Services
    - 800-443-4316 or 443-4326
  - Marine Advocate
    - 443-4352
  - Natural Resource Advocate
    - 443-4358
  - Reindeer Herders Association
    - 443-4358
  - Social Science Program
    - 443-4373
  - Subsistence Resources
    - 443-4365

- **Administration**
  - 443-5231
  - Accounting
    - 443-4334
  - Human Resources
    - 443-4353
  - Information Technology
    - 443-4357
  - Planning
    - 443-4358
  - Beringia Center of Culture & Science
    - 443-4340
  - Transportation
    - 443-4389
  - Tumet Industries, LLC
    - 387-0630

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**Ublakaun suli** translated in the inupiaq language means: Tomorrow again! Quyaanna!