



Photo courtesy of Austin Ahmasuk



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## Language Nest

Imagine children in the process of learning, and their first word is in their traditional language of Inupiaq. Throughout their early years they would become bilingual, learning both the Inupiaq and English language, and incorporate their culture and traditional ways of life into their learning. This is the goal of the Language Nest revitalization program started in Shishmaref.

...See more on the story on page 6



## Ready, Set, Drive!

The Bering Strait now has more licensed drivers on the road thanks to a partnership between Kawerak and NACTEC, with financial support from the Alaska Community Foundation. The program offered two classes thus far, and resulted in seven newly licensed drivers. These new drivers are ready to roll...literally!

...See more on the story on page 5





## A Message From the President

As we prepare for the changing of the seasons I am reflective of the bounty of the summer subsistence harvest, and grateful for our elders who shared their knowledge so we can continue to gather eggs, fish, and hunt walrus, whales, seals, birds, caribou, moose, and many other animals that bless us in our region. As the days grow shorter and the beautiful red, orange, and yellow colors appear on the tundra all across our region, it is bittersweet to say goodbye to summer and greet the brisk but fresh cold air. This too reminds me of our responsibility to be looking forward, not just backwards - we also need to be mindful of our responsibility for the next generation of hunters and gatherers, our responsibility to be the main teachers of our children, and our responsibility to pass on the knowledge of our elders to feed not just our bellies, but our souls too. Our culture, languages, and subsistence lifestyle must be nurtured and taught to young people for our culture to survive. Igamsiqayugvikamsi to those who are looking forward and making sure our youth are learning about our rich culture.

## GED Success!

Francis Rochon and Ashley Thomas officially became the first two graduates of Kawerak's new Pearson Vue testing center. The path to this success is not easy, so we commend them for this great accomplishment. Congratulations!!!



## Local Art Can Be Business

Artists interested in taking their art to the economical next level gathered to attend the Native Artist Professional Development training held in Brevig Mission on April 3 and 4, 2017. Bering Strait artists Marjorie Tahbone and Randall Jones facilitated the workshop to share tools and resources with attendees.

Workshops like these provide a great number of benefits. First of all, a gathering of artists form a cohort of individuals with the same passions, and who face the same struggles. Coming together gives the opportunity to talk about experiences, share knowledge, and discuss barriers faced when taking art into the business world. These conversations offer solutions through group problem solving and prepares others to know what they may face.

Secondly, having local artists as facilitators provide more than information; they can actually relate to the experiences of the participants. Lastly, providing the tools and resources for artists to continue their craft with funding opportunities and ways to reach additional markets, such as e-commerce, complete the link to bigger markets. Participants even practiced their elevator pitches with each other.

Stay tuned for the next training in St. Michael in August 29-30. These trainings are provided through Kawerak in partnership with First People's Fund.



# Test Center Transformation



Since test center opened for official testing on May 18, 2017, eight GED learners have taken some 29 separate official GED tests. Five additional learners are getting ready to schedule their tests.

In addition to testing, five intensive study courses have been held in the new classroom with instructors Pamela Cushman and MaryJane Litchard. Four courses were held during the day for learners traveling into Nome from the village, and one course was in the evening to accommodate working Nome residents.

We are so encouraged by the determination of learners, from teens to elders, to achieve their certificate goals. To find out how to attain your GED, call 1.800.478.7574 or 443.4468.

## Connecting to the Past Through Film

By Colleen Reynolds & Tanya Wongittilin

Shishmaref's Annual Inupiaq Days and Spring Carnival had an extra special treat this year. Katirvik Cultural Center staff, Tanya Wongittilin and Colleen Reynolds flew out to Shishmaref to share film taken of the community from the 1940's and 1950's that has since been stored in a private collection, the Dahle Film Collection.

The silent black and white footage from the 1940's and 1950's and color footage from the 1950's featured Inupiat life in Shishmaref, Mary's Igloo and Teller. Public viewings were held in Shishmaref during the evenings of April 19th

and 20th and also shown to the students during the school day on the 20th.

Footage included scenes from Cape Prince of Wales Government School, community members long shoring from the S.S. Baldwin and the North Star ships that brought supplies from Seattle. Other beautiful scenes of daily living included construction of an umiaq frame with women sewing a skin cover; reindeer corralling at Serpentine Hot Springs; a beluga whale harvest; beach greens; elderly women with facial tattoos; children in school; and a young couple getting married.

Many of the elders recognized parents in the films and also commented that there was more beach and grass on the ocean side than there is today. Also noted were the umiaqs and sleds being built with rawhide lashings and wooden pegs only. Community members were grateful and requested copies of the films. The expressions and conversation held were an amazing thing to witness.

The Dahle Film Collection was filmed by Elmer Dahle, a Lutheran missionary and operator of the weather station in Shishmaref.



# Traditional Knowledge Utilized in Map Review



*From Left to Right around the table: James Nixsik Sr (SMK), Austin Abmasuk (NEC/Kawerak), Kenneth Kingeekuk (SVA), Max Goldman (Audubon), Brenden Raymond-Yakoubian (Sandhill.Culture.Craft), Paul Nagaruk (ELI), Charles Ellanna (KI), Cindy Wieler (Kawerak), Melanie Smith (Audubon), Allen Atchak (WBB), Orville Abkinga (DIO)*

To inform Audubon Alaska's Ecological Atlas of the Bering, Chuckchi and Beaufort Seas, representatives from nine Bering Strait Tribes, the Eskimo Walrus Commission, the Ice Seal Committee, Kawerak and Sandhill.Culture.Craft gathered to share their perspectives in Nome on February 21 and 22. A series of maps were reviewed to incorporate Traditional Knowledge information into western science about multiple species and topics.

Ice seals, walruses, subsistence harvest areas, and sea ice dominated the conversation during review of draft maps. Ecological Atlases serve as a tool for policy-makers, resource managers, the Tribes and Kawerak. To have a resource published that shares the Traditional Knowledge of our region is not only exciting, it is another step forward to communicate the importance of this knowledge in current times.

The publication is also a resource for advocacy of the marine environment and our people.

The incorporation of Traditional Knowledge has been significantly underutilized and undervalued by the sciences, and Kawerak's Social Science program, continues to promote the importance of this knowledge in western science. "If Traditional Knowledge is ignored, it's like doing a research paper with only part of the information," reflects Kawerak's Social Science Research Assistant Niviaaluk Brandt. "With Traditional Knowledge you get a better picture of what is really happening; it is tens of thousands of years of qualitative observations."

Audubon's Ecological Atlas is slotted for publication later this year.

## Kawerak Inc's definition of Traditional Knowledge

"A living body of knowledge which pertains to explaining and understand the universe, and living and acting within it. It is acquired and utilized by indigenous communities and individuals in and through long-term sociocultural, spiritual and environmental engagement. TK is an integral part of the broader knowledge system of indigenous communities, is transmitted intergenerationally, is practically and widely applicable and integrates personal experience with oral traditions. It provides perspectives applicable to an array of human and non-human phenomena. It is deeply rooted in history, time and place, while also being rich, adaptable, and dynamic, all of which keep it relevant and useful in contemporary life. This knowledge is apart of, and use in, everyday life, and is inextricably intertwined with peoples' identity, cosmology, values, and way of life. Tradition – and TK – does not preclude change, nor does it equal only 'the past'; in fact, it inherently entails change."

## Ready, Set, Drive cont.

Congratulations are well deserved for Debbie Apatiki and Lucy Apataki of Gambell, Crystal Fagerstrom of Golovin, Brenda Nayokpuk of Shishmaref, Clyde Jackson of Shaktoolik, Leona Mayak of King Island, and Garrett Savok and Richard Hawkins of Nome, for completing the “Behind the Wheel” Adult Driver’s Education course with NACTEC.

The timing is also perfect as seven communities are slotted to receive patient transport vans for emergent and non-emergent medical transports to the airport. “NSHC was able to see our Community Health Aides obtain their license, which means they will now be able to operate the Emergency Transportation Vehicles for their Clinics,” explains Norton Sound Health Corporation’s Manager of Tribal Training and Development Kirsten Timbers. Health Aides Crystal and Brenda will now be able to drive the new vans for their patients.

Participants drove over 270 miles on Nome’s road system, gained behind the wheel time, learned proper signaling, parking, and completed a mock road test with NACTEC Driving Instructors Blake Bogart and Lisa Haugen. Clear expectations were set and with their guidance, attitude and pre-planning efforts this process was seamless from the beginning to end. Kerrie Barone at the Nome Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) helped the students through the licensing and road test process.

For more information on upcoming drivers education classes contact **Kendra Nichols Takak at 443-4388**. Kendra is now approved to proctor the DMV Drivers Knowledge Test for non-commercial use, and plans to administer the permit test when traveling around the region. These permits would be non-restricted, which enables drivers to drive outside of the village. After passing the written test, permitted drivers could then take the road test in Nome to become officially licensed! If you would like to become a proctor for your village and have this service year-round, contact Kendra at 443-4388 or 1800-450-4341.



*Top: Debbie Apatiki, Crystal Fagerstrom, Blake Bogart and Brenda Nayokpuk.*

*Bottom: Garret Savok, Leona Mayak, Lucy Apatiki, Richard Hawkins and Clyde Jackson.*



# KAWERAK INC



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# Taking Child Abuse Prevention by Storm

Nationally, April has been recognized as Child Abuse Awareness month. To recognize the importance and value of our youth in our community, St Michael planned safe, healthy and drug free activities for parents and youth alike.

These events were made possible through the collaboration and input of the local Kawerak employees Shirley Martin and Deidre Levi, St. Michael school, store, city, and tribe. Fun events kicked off with t-shirt decorating on March 29. On go Blue Day, April 4th, the school made announcements in awareness of child abuse, and youth proudly wore their shirts they made for go blue day.



To follow up these awareness messages and celebratory activities, on April 11th, 12th Trina Short, Community Of Hope Director, set a day and a half training of Strengthening Families in partnership with the Alaska Children's Trust. Participants included city, tribal and corporation employees, school teachers, health aides and



community parents.

Finally, On April 12, Shirley and Deidre hosted ribbon and cookie decorating. Plans were also made for a Choose Respect Walk and ice cream social event. They made bracelets that state "Choose Respect Every Child Matters St. Mi-

chael Storm". Other activities included an Honoring Our Children event to learn how to engage as a community to ensure children feel safe, loved, supported and successful.

These activities were made possible through the efforts of staff and the community including the school: Hallie & Michael Dingman, Robin Davalos, Heather Mathias; Trina Short; AC Company; City of St. Michael; St. Michael IRA.

Through the Community of Hope Project (COH), Deidre Levi was hired on March 20, 2017 as the Kawerak Family Liaison. Her work objectives include the prevention of kids in St. Michael from entering the custody of the State/OCS. She will focus on local establishing relevant support for families so that they can be strong and healthy. Shirley Martin is the Tribal Family Coordinator for Saint Michael.

## Language Nest cont.

Four children have been through the program in its inaugural semester. Children and parents received dual language learning materials, Inupiat singing and dancing practice, healthy breakfast/snacks/lunches, and a safe space to learn the Inupiat language with an elder, Morris Kiyutelluk and a fluent Inupiaq speaker, Felicia Nayokpuk. Morris incorporated cultural values with lessons told by oral tradition; he would story tell the purpose of Inuit traditional values and lessons by the seasons in Inupiat then in English.

Outside of class time, Morris also started to host weekly family nights for enrolled parents and grandparents to increase opportunities for language learning for adults to reinforce language learning with the youth.

The primary objective of the program began as identifying ways to heal from assimilation and start the process of decolonization beginning with one of our most vulnerable age groups, children ages 0-3. And this is just a start. Enrollment numbers are looking to increase to 12 by 2018. Nome Public School's Superintendent

Shawn Arnold and Program Director Hattie Keller are also working on expanding the Inupiat learning language curriculum in an Inupiaq Immersion preschool for the next school year. In addition, the program aims to apply for expansion of funding to offer services in Gambell for 8 children with curriculum featuring the St. Lawrence Island Yupik language.

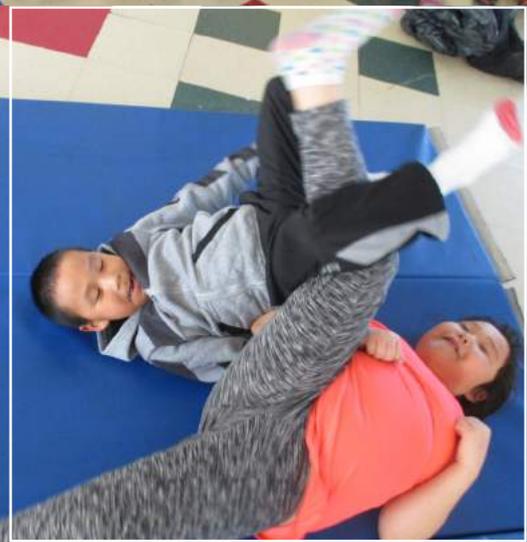
The Language Nest program is currently funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Seventh Generation Fund for Indigenous People's.

FAMILY  
FUN

Events in Brevig Mission, Koyuk, Anchorage & Nome during Child Abuse Prevention Month!

COMMUNITY

HONOR  
YOUTH



## WHAT DO strong families LOOK LIKE?

Strong families work together, respect each other, provide encouragement, help others, watch over each other, laugh together, are good role models and make healthy choices.

To strengthen families in Alaska, everyone needs to help families have:

### Social Connections

Positive friends, family, community who provide emotional support and assistance

### Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

Information about raising children and what they can do at different ages

### Concrete supports in times of need

Access to food, housing, health services, education counseling and other needed services

### Parental resilience

The ability to cope and bounce back from challenges

### Social and emotional competence of children

Children feel love, a sense of belonging and can get along with others



# We Breathe Again

It's not very often that we get to see Alaska Natives featured on the big screen. On June 15th the residents of Nome witnessed just that, as well as the remarkable courage it took those individuals to have their lives exposed, their pain re-lived, and their conflicts on display.

The film that bares it all is called "We Breathe Again." Kawerak hosted the premier of the film in partnership with the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and Gold Coast Cinema. Producer Evon Peter, and film subjects Paul and Carol Nagaruk, and Eddie and Kandis Tate travelled to Nome and were greeted by a packed house Thursday night. The guests of honor participated in a panel discussion following the showing making a huge impression on the audience.

"I liked that the movie balanced pain with nature and renewal," explains Nome resident Bridie Trainor. "Everything comes into perspective when you see the land and animals. Suicide in itself is overwhelming but when you feel

it in context with a whole person, family, and community it loses strength. It showed that we have everything we need to address trauma and also that dysfunction has been a natural response to history. There's too much shame and confusion without understanding the big picture and it's important to watch and create a new story together so this was great."

This movie addresses suicide, a subject that has to be recognized and talked about for emotional, mental, and spiritual restoration. It's a heavy subject and this movie digs deep into the roots of our depression as native people recovering from cultural suppression. This healing process is hard but it's for the best. "Kawerak has been at the forefront of facing these tough issues," says executive pro-

ducer, Evon Peter.

"We Breathe Again" has four premiers planned in Elim, Anchorage, Fairbanks, the Copper River Valley, Barrow and Kotzebue. Kawerak Wellness also coordinated with Seaside, a corrections re-entry program, to show the film on site to residents.

The documentary will air on PBS this late September nationwide.



*Kawerak Wellness Bertha Koweluk and Panganga Pungowiyi with producer Evon Peter*

## Bering Strait Marine Advocacy

*By Austin Ahmasuk*

The Kawerak Marine Advocate, Austin Ahmasuk, focuses on the impacts of marine shipping on individuals, subsistence resources and the environment within our region. The program advocates for local priorities and will propose actions to minimize negative impacts of increased shipping in the Bering and Chukchi Seas. Follow current issues and stay up to date on Facebook with Kawerak Inc, on the web [www.kawerak.org](http://www.kawerak.org) or in the newsletter. A summary of advocacy efforts and information are below.

### Bering Sea Management & Policy

#### *Executive Order*

The Marine Program worked closely with the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) and the Bering Sea Elders Group (BSEG) on implementation of an Executive Order (E.O.) which established the Northern Bering Sea Climate Resilience Area. The E.O. was revoked by President Trump in April 2017. However, the legal and policy issues that were developed from that time are being used to recapture as much as possible through congressional support. We are advocating for federal legislation that would address better management of the northern Bering Sea and inclusion of tribes and traditional knowledge.

*Port Access Route Study (continued on p. 21)*



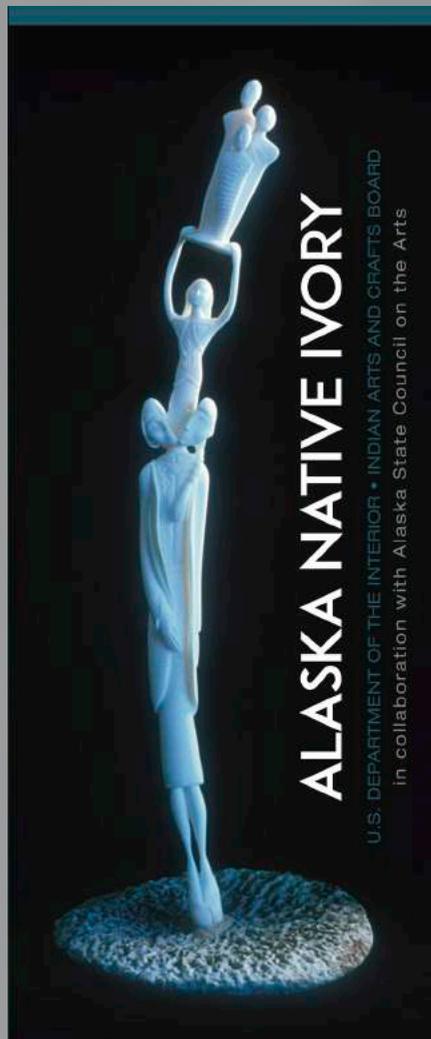
Kawerak is now  
on Instagram!  
Follow us  
**@kawerak.**

# The Ivory Market in Tourist Season

As many artists and advocates in Alaska now know, the threat of the Ivory market is present and real since the bans on ivory across the Lower 48. Buyers are uncertain and apprehensive to purchase legal Alaskan ivory, unsure if they will be prosecuted or if their purchase will be confiscated.

To correct these misconceptions and encourage ivory sales with tourists, Kawerak and the Eskimo Walrus Commission, in partnership with the Alaska State Council on the Arts, Indian Arts and Crafts Board and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service developed a brochure to be distributed to tour agencies, souvenir shops, and throughout the hospitality industry.

Electronic copies of the brochure are available online at [www.kawerak.org](http://www.kawerak.org).



# Out-of-Region Hires Find their “Berings” with KCC

Kawerak’s Katirvik Cultural Center (KCC) staff has partnered with Norton Sound Health Corporation to provide a cultural orientation to incoming providers unfamiliar with the region.



There is a high incidence of new staff from the Lower 48 providing services to our region’s people; learning more about the culture, history, historical trauma and values of the indigenous people of the Bering Strait better informs their approach to care, as well as ability to communicate more effectively to ensure mutual understanding. The culture of our region is rich, and the history is deep; this needs to be recognized and appreciated. We applaud NSHC for taking this step to training their employees and are proud to utilize our new center and knowledgeable staff for this important endeavor.

# Celebrating Solomon

By Pearl Mikulski

The Village of Solomon has enjoyed many successes over past few years since revamping their Local Economic Development Plan (LEDP). Due to excellent planning and hiring of new staff, five priorities from the 2011-2015 LEDP were attained. Solomon now hosts more tribal gatherings, enjoys a new water tank and improved driveways to campsites in Solomon, has improved safety with satellite phones and a shelter cabin, and addresses environmental concerns through their IGAP grant.



The tribe isn’t going to stop there. The April 2016 meetings determined concrete action steps to attain their newly identified priorities, including their top priority; obtaining a community hall or larger office building for tribal operations and events.

Other than the excitement of planning for the future, the meetings held another surprise. Since the Village of Solomon decided to hold meeting with their tribal members in both Nome and Anchorage, additional tribal members were able to attend and provide input. Unexpectedly, this decision resulted in a beautiful reconnection of members with the tribe, which is always the best reward.

A full copy of Solomon’s Local Economic Development Plan can be found at <http://www.kawerak.org/ledps/solomon.pdf>.

# Village Reports

## Brevig Mission

- NSHC Celebration March 17
- Waste-heat project started summer 2017
- Annual meeting held 3/25/17
- Supplies purchased new shelter cabin grant
- Grateful for NSEDC subsidy grant
- Graphite One rescheduled community meeting to April

## Council

- Two new members
- Annual Membership Gathering in Anchorage 10.8.16
- Annual meeting on 1.28.17 at Katirvik Cultural Center
- Plans to continue work on Ophir road trail
- Considering design work on Council road coming out of the river
- Susan Gray re-hired as Environmental Coordinator

## Diomede

- Reorganizing programs in Tribal office
- Preparing holiday celebrations
- Supportive of game nights to instill community wellness
- Utilize Ramah Funds for Development Coordinator, Polar Bear Watch, Wellness Coordinator, Eskimo Dance Coordinator, Elder Advisory Committee Meetings, ICWA Children Committee Meeting Stipends, Fire Department/SAR, Bereavement Airfares, Community Feast Order and Holiday Handouts, Insurance, Building Maintenance, Program and Office Supplies and Investment.
- Board Walk Repairs completed
- Development Coordinator Noele Weemes submitted many proposals
- IGAP approved to 2019 with coordinator Marlene Ahkinga
- Subsistence/Climate changes impacting our lives with food security and in weather and vegetation
- Uncertainty in transportation services
- Thankful for Essential Air service
- Thankful for Ahna Ozenna's term as board representative, welcome Samantha Ozenna as new representative

## Elim

- 537 Current tribal members
- Experiencing problems with water tank

- ANTHC will do an upgrade for water
- Students monitoring climate change
- Still trying to develop plans for boat harbor and paving roads
- Submitted a proposal for crime prevention & drug elimination
- Local representative on Bird Mitigation committee due to concern over bird sickness
- Housing still great need
- No local VPSO in community, or VPSO housing

## Gambell

- High winds and storms caused damage to homes and infrastructure
- Harvest of maklak and walrus
- New young mayor
- Native Corp Sivuqaq is at peak season, with tourist and gravel
- Elections held
- Annual Membership Meeting in December
- Hired Development Coordinator, Emily Rodgers
- NALEMP/DOD military debris clean up
- Working on updates to Marine Mammal Ordinance
- Sports teams doing well

## Golovin

- Parka sewing class from NWC and weekly sewing circle
- Energy subsidies completed
- Elections held and Tribal Membership Meeting followed on 2/18/17
- Golovin Native Corp shareholder meeting held on March 4
- Thankful for Development Coordinator funds
- Water and Storage Treatment Plant completed, running water coming
- Offering basketball camp/youth leadership development
- Family Fun night was a success by TFC Coordinator Kristie Ione

## King Island

- Annual meeting on 1.7.17, re-elections on 1.10
- New grants for expanded services for tribal members, such as BSRHA for tribal members to use the Rec Center
- Mini grant funds used for preschool scholarships, NWC activities, and sports scholarships.
- Megan Alvanna-Stimpfle and Benjamin Payenna met with EDA and

USDA for funding expansion of the Community Building

- Rahma fund priorities include low income housing projects, retrofit investments, King Island housing preservation on the island, and an investment account

## Koyuk

- Hired Development Coordinator to focus on Head Start Project, Office Assistant and Activity Coordinator
- Completed Halloween festivities
- Annual Meeting held 12.10.16
- Christmas activities success
- Completed trail staking toward Iguanuk/Portage, next project is toward Bear Creek
- Easter activities will also be held

## Mary's Igloo

- Tribal membership meetings to determine spending of Rahma funds
- Main priority is housing, other options is a fuel delivery truck and basketball court
- Windy weather and high water made spit inaccessible
- Ran out of gas, propane and oil until AVEC sale of 10,000 gallons and Brevig sales of fuel.
- Tank farm is in need of upgrade
- Facing state budget cuts that will affect employees and community holidays
- Traditional Council IGAP working with Teller to keep HBT running
- Climate change and shoreline erosion making a negative impact and causing extreme erosion in the cemetery and community is no longer able to set whitefish nets without earlier ice, however seal hunters can hunt later and berry gathering is earlier
- Thankful for elders passing down traditional values and knowledge

## Nome Eskimo Community

- Iditarod Basketball Clinic held in March
- Annual meeting in November
- Secured funding to operate tribal transit program
- Long Range Transportation Plan completed and adopted 1/2017
- NSEDC and Rasmuson Foundation funding for Tribal Council office renovations
- 2017 priorities youth programs,

community engagement/partnership, cultural programs, family services, tribal resources, housing, transportation, renovation of tribal office, and building capacity.

- Looking at OCS/tribal compacting
- Staffed with part-time associate for CINA cases
- Youth services include afterschool activities, Guys read, Life Skills Training
- Preschool voucher applications
- New rental assistance program
- Planning housing complex in 3-5 year timeframe, funding dependent
- Renovating 2 member's houses per year to increase energy efficiency
- New email for scholarships, scholarship@necalaska.org, deadline December 1
- Assisted with water quality sampling and E-waste projects
- Advocated for subsistence salmon issues
- Continued support for tribal services

### **Savoonga**

- Taking steps to regain BIA Road/HIP/ Small Boat Harbor, IGAP and NA-LEMP programs
- Climate change affecting subsistence harvest which is affecting health
- Tribal Coordinator engaging in many group meetings such as IGAP, Inter-Tribal Climate Adaptation Leadership Summit, Sharing Approaches on Community Solid and Hazardous Waste Management
- Tribal elections held 11.8.16
- Taking steps to upgrade Reindeer Operations, like owning a processing plant and creating jobs
- Ramah funds have been placed into savings
- Wind storms damaged many homes, over 30 and outside aid was sought
- Working with ACAT, NARF and Earth Justice among others to clean up the old military site
- Annual Membership meeting 3.3.16
- New clinic under construction
- New BSHRA housing projects
- Applied for funding for elder's nutrition program and IGAP

### **Shaktoolik**

- IRA moving to newly renovated office building thanks to Eugene Asick-sik

- Held annual tribal membership meeting
- Lots of snow
- Basketball coach positive influence in students lives..encouraging quitting tobacco, standing up to bullies and empathy
- Asking ANTHC for an increase in the daily meal stipend for medical escorts and patients from \$25/day
- BSSD schools are cold post-renovation

### **Shishmaref**

- Annual meeting on 2.1.17
- Welcomed in new Elder's Committee members
- Hired new Local Coordinator and Comptroller
- Received grant for sewing and carving classes called A Journey to What Matters: Increased Alaska Native Art & Cultural Grant
- Received Rasmuson grant for furniture in community building
- Environmental Program received new 4-wheeler and snow machine through BIA grant to collect backhaul items
- Attended ACTEM training
- Hosted a 3-day children activity to make Christmas calendars, wreaths & snowmen from donated items
- Collected many seal samples for ADF&G
- Tanner building renovation is complete
- Thanksgiving & Christmas feasts and events successful
- Hosted Black Friday shoot-out tournament
- Elder recognition day on 12.31
- Purchased 2 new washers for washeteria from Norton Sound mini grant and ANTHC sending 4 more
- ANTHC water line project in 2017, washeteria renovation in 2018, and heat recovery project with AVEC in 2019
- Late ocean freeze up
- New site selection election indicated West Tin Creek Hills as dominant choice
- Safety Patrol was out New Years Eve

### **Village of Solomon**

- Annual meeting in September
- Annual elections August 18
- Annual youth camp in August
- Attended Alaska Tribal Conference

- on Environmental Management, AFN, Alaska Forum on the Environment, and BIA conference.
- IGAP completed second year of water sampling in Solomon
- Applied for additional funding for solid waste management and cleaning up of debris
- Hosted educational gathering in Anchorage and honored Katie Stettinger for her service as elder rep
- Deliah Johnson creating videos on promoting the 3Rs
- Closed EPA grant and opened GAP grant with one added priority, renewable and sustainable energy
- Tribal Coordinator completed Foraker's Nonprofit Management course

### **Stebbins**

- Received council on election rules
- Received 1000lb halibut donation from Ocean Sea Beauties Seafood LLC
- 200 gallons of stove oil donated from Army National Guard.
- President traveled to WA for tribal leader workshop
- Johnson O'Malley funds sponsored 5 students to AFN
- Elections held on 10.28
- Adopted 7 new tribal members
- Christmas feast celebration with donations and volunteers
- Held Annual Potlatch with a long night of celebration with food, songs and dance.

### **St. Michael**

- Awarded joint wellness project venture with Stebbins through NSHC
- Hired Elizabeth Aketachunak as Development Coordinator
- Local city roads resurfaced and dust control by Tumet
- Community activities include basketball tournaments, Thanksgiving, Christmas, fireworks and teen dances
- Beginning pilot project, Community of Hope
- Cold weather snap froze water and sewer system, BSRHA supplied items to maintain hygiene and other organizations assisted to come up with a solution.
- Housing Improvement Program home inspected for pre-move in
- Not a lot of snow this winter

*Village Reports continued on P. 22*

# Employees of the Month

Kawerak is proud of all our staff for their hard work and dedication to our mission, "To advance the capacity of our people and tribes for the benefit of the region." We are pleased to recognize these select employees for going above and beyond the call of duty.



DECEMBER  
**Pamela Cushman**  
ABE/GED/ESL Specialist



JANUARY  
**Roberta Katongan**  
Head Start Teacher Aide/Janitor,  
White Mountain



JANUARY  
**Charles Titus III**  
Building Custodian/Light Maintenance



FEBRUARY  
**Frances Ozenna**  
Tribal Coordinator, Diomede



MARCH  
**Silas Paniptchuk**  
Head Start Teacher, Shaktoolik



APRIL  
**Colleen Deighton**  
CAC Client Advocate



APRIL  
**Shirley Martin**  
Tribal Family Coordinator, St Michael



MAY  
**Alice Bioff**  
Business Planning Specialist

## 30 Years of Service

**Alma Snowball**  
Head Start Teacher,  
St Michael

## 25 Years of Service

**Anna Aukon**  
Head Start Cook,  
Elim

## 20 Years of Service

**Linda Divers & Wilsa Sinnok**  
Tribal Family Coordinator, Program Specialist,  
Brevig Mission Shishmaref

# Special Commendations

Kawerak supports staff participation on boards and committees that contribute to the betterment of our communities. We also celebrate staff accomplishments, notable achievements and recognitions. Please join us in applauding these employees.



## **Julie Raymond-Yakoubian, Social Science Program Director**

Selected as one of 16 Salmon Fellow out of 131 candidate pool in April 2017 because of her depth of knowledge and leadership on salmon issues, and her work in the Norton sound Bering Strait region. The Alaska Humanities Forum developed the Salmon Fellows program to facilitate demanding conversations about salmon issues.



## **Denise Michels, Transportation Program Director**

Appointed by the Secretary of Transportation with the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation to the Tribal Transportation Self-Governance Program's committee for negotiated rulemaking. Denise will be representing tribes, tribal organizations and individual tribal members in the Alaska Region, one of the 12 Bureau of Indian Affairs Regions. Denise was also appointed to the Nome Port Commission.



## **Panganga Pungowiya, Wellness Director**

Selected as Nome Public Schools Board of Directors, School Board Member to affect policy, curriculum and connectedness for the Nome Public School District. Nome Public School, in active partnership with families and the community, educates and inspires students to become successful and responsible global citizens in an environment that represents our rich cultural diversities and local traditions.



## **Vera Metcalf, EWC Director**

Appointed as Vice President of the Inuit Circumpolar Council – Alaska. The ICC-Alaska exists to be the unified voice and collective spirit of Alaskan Inuit, to promote, protect and advance Inuit culture and society.

## **Congratulations to our graduating degree-seeking current and former employees!**

- Gussie Olanna - *A.A.S., Early Childhood Education*
- Krystal Hensley - *A.A.S., Early Childhood Education*
- Lucinda Wieler - *A.A.S. Tribal Management & Cert., Tribal Management*
- Katya Wassillie - *M.A., Rural Development*
- Heather Payenna - *B.L.A., Interdisciplinary Studies* (not pictured)
- Lillie Nylin - *A.A.S., Early Childhood Education* (not pictured)



# Higher Education Student Highlight



*Amber Cunningham*

*“Hello! My name is Amber Cunningham and I am from the village of Unalakleet. I began my post-secondary adventures in the fall of 2004 at UAA. When I began college, I did not know what degree to pursue, so I went into Psychology. After a couple years, I decided to change my degree to Elementary Education. With the help of local corporations like Kawerak, NSEDC, Bering Straits Foundation, and Norton Sound Health Corporation, I obtained two degrees: a Bachelors in Elementary Education and a Masters in Teaching and Learning. Currently I am working on a second Master’s degree in Special Education.*

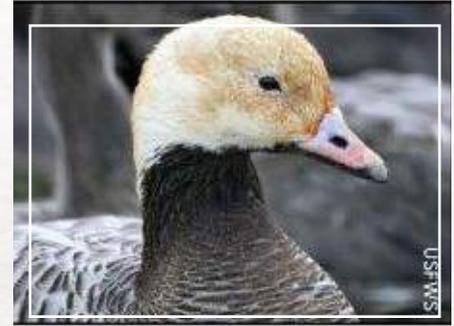
*I am the mother of three children: Keane (10), Brian (9) and Cassidy (1). A mother’s dream is to provide her babies with a better tomorrow. Everything I do today will affect my children’s future. I choose to continue my higher education pursuit to set a good example for my children. One day, I dream of them doing the same.*

*I work full-time as the Student Registrar for the Bering Strait School District. In the evenings, I take college courses via UAA’s distance education program. While working full-time, taking graduate classes part-time, and parenting takes a lot of time and energy, it helps to keep my brain in shape.*

*Education has enabled me to be an independent, responsible, and well-rounded individual. It has helped me to understand the world around me. It has also opened doors of opportunity for me. You ask me why I choose to further my education and I will tell you that education is the foundation of life.”*

## Geese Harvest Opens

After 30 years of conservation efforts, the first legal hunt for the Emperor Goose is open for spring and summer of 2017. Emperor geese are also known as “Alaska’s geese” since Alaska is home to eighty percent of the world’s emperor geese. They can be found on the coasts of Alaska and Siberia, but they spend most of their lives in Alaska. In the winter time emperor geese like to live on the Aleutian Chain, Alaska’s Peninsula, and Kodiak Island.



In the 1980’s, the emperor goose population dropped significantly and went on a closure in 1987. Since subsistence has opened up again, the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council will keep the population and harvest data in check to ensure future hunting is possible. Alaska’s Department of Fish and Game has also prepared guidelines for a fall and winter harvest on emperor geese.

## Sign Up for Our E-Newsletter!

Get information faster and get connected with email updates from Kawerak, Inc! Just text KAWERAK to 22828 and you can get enrolled. E-newsletters are in design, and the plan is to roll out around the start of the new year.. Don’t worry, our paper newsletters will continue. Let’s keep in touch!

Just send your email address by text message:

Text

**KAWERAK**

to **22828** to get started.



## Satellite Upgrades



Kawerak’s IT Department travelled to 13 villages to increase the speed of the internet through satellite upgrades for Kawerak staff; these upgrades will improve local staff’s ability to perform essential job functions that serve their community.

# Generous Donors Give \$2735

These funds furthered the mission of Kawerak by funding the operation of our new Katirvik Cultural Center and their amazing programs and services. Every year when you apply for your PFD you are able to make a tax-deductible contribution to Kawerak.

## To Our Donors:

Alice Bioff•Arlene Charles•Tara Cicatello•Jovan Dull•Barret Eningowuk•Trevor Eningowuk•Calliope Huett•Donna James•Diane Kaplan•Linda Leary•Robert Michaud•Odin Miller•Nathanial Perry•Panganga Pungowiyi•Miles Reader•Tohcyahdaymah Tahbone•Robert Tokeinna•Rosalia Towarak•Timothy Towarak•Rebecca Young•  
 Quyannaqpak•Igamsiqanaghalek• Iiganamiik•Quyaanaqpak•Quyann• Cakneq•Taikku•Thank you

## Kawerak Strategic Plan 2016-2020

**Vision:** Our people and tribes are thriving

**Mission:** To advance the capacity of our people and tribes for the benefit of the region

### Priority One - Culture and Language

Language, cultural awareness and teaching subsistence preservation

Traditional healthy lifestyles

### Priority Two - Public Safety and Well-Being

Children, youth and families

Ensuring the safety and security of our people

### Priority Three - Arctic Resource Enhancement & Protection

Preservation/conservation

Protection our subsistence way of life

Arctic policy engagement

Increased marine traffic and climate change

### Priority Four - Regional Capacity Building

Tribal partnerships and capacities

Village technology advancements

Funding strategy for tribes

Education and workforce development

Infrastructure development and improvements

Economic development

### Priority Five - Internal Capacity Building

Technology advancements

Funding strategy for Kawerak

Streamline policies and processes

Workplace cultural integration

Communication and public relations



# Creating Great Visitor Experiences

By Barb Nickels

Last year Kawerak's Community Planning & Development (CPD) program successfully hosted a training specific to tour guides in Nome. In anticipation of the 2017 tourism season, the CPD program looked to combine the objectives of both the guide and host training to increase relevance to more professionals.

Facilitator Linda Nicklin of Juneau, Carol Gales of Northwest Campus and Kawerak CPD staff then developed, Alaska Tourism Training: Creating Great Visitor Experiences.

Fifteen participants from Nome and the region signed up to attend the training August 2-4. All came from varying positions within the tourism industry; from frontline customer service to tourist experience entrepreneurs were among the registrants.

Over the 2.5 day training participants listened intently to the facilitator relate her personal experiences, studied from a workbook, spoke of their own



Graduates Danielle Slingsby, Karen Nanouk and Ahne Schield with Instructor Linda Nicklin.

experiences and engaged in many interactive moments of role playing. Some learned skills included recognizing and assessing visitor's needs, customer service, creating and guiding your own tour, cultural sensitivity, communication, problem solving, and the art of interpretation and storytelling.

CPD is eager to continue working with those participants and others wishing to start a business within the tourism industry!

# 2nd Annual Berry Festival Success

By Barb Nickels

The 2nd Annual Berry Festival was held August 20 on the grassy green nolls at Anvil Square on an especially bright Sunday. The festival coincided with the arrival day of the Crystal Serenity; a luxury cruise ship that would off load 750 passengers and crew members to explore the town of Nome. The passengers, many from Canada, had hours to spend on the ground in Nome to participate in local tours and spend lots of time at the festival.

Guests and locals alike were greeted by the many vendors with food, crafts, book signings, visitor surveys, Pilgrim grown produce all the while enjoying Nome's finest local musicians and dance groups.

Kawerak's Community Planning & Development (CPD) program once again was a co-sponsor for the event supporting small businesses and local arts and crafts. Additionally, Kawerak sponsored all vendor ta-

ble fees and hosted seven regional artists to bring their crafts to Nome and be a part of the Berry Festival. Artists travelled in from Shishmaref, Brevig Mission

and Gambell with their art and stories; stories like Harrison Miklahook, Jr shared about his art with a buyer who was so inspired, they stated they were going to share his work in their home community.

The CPD program assists regional artists year round through their small business planning and E-Commerce programs. Regional carvers and crafters are able to sell and advertise their art through the public Bering Strait Arts and Crafts Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/beringstraitart/>. Artists can utilize the E-commerce Center to photograph their art, create business cards, etc. Contact Brian James at 443-4369 to connect!



## I keep hearing about this new thing called “immersion learning.” What on earth is it?

Have you heard the buzz this year about language learning in the region? Yes? Then this article is for you! Oh, you haven't? Well, read on, because this article is for you, too!

From Shishmaref to Nome, from Kotzebue to Wales to Utqiagvik, people young and old are fanning the flames of our native languages. Our elders, parents, and young leaders recognize the need for our native languages to be spoken at school so that our children are learning our languages while they are in modern public education. The way to do this is for our people who are fluent speakers to be the ones teaching in the classroom.

These fluent speakers are teaching through immersion learning. This unique and proven effective teaching style is used in school systems across the globe, from the lower 48 states to Asia to Europe to down under. Immersion learning is actually grounded in a simple concept—in order to speak a language, you have to hear it and use it throughout the day.

As part of Kawerak's partnership with the Bering Strait School District, one goal is for children to learn Inupiaq language during their early childhood years. How do they do this when the children learn and speak English at home? They learn at school! Kawerak started an immersion program at Head Start, which is lead by a teacher who is fluent in Inupiaq, and the teacher only speaks Inupiaq during the immersion classes—so the students are completely immersed in an Inupiaq-speaking environment. So, if you want your child to learn Inupiaq, they will be in a classroom with a teacher who is fluent in Inupiaq, speaking only Inupiaq with the class. Pretty simple right?

A critical piece of immersing children in a language is using the language to communicate every day concepts. The teacher is not speaking randomly in Inupiaq, they are delivering lessons in Inupiaq. So, if a pre-school student is learning about the seasons of the year, they are learning to see the things around them in the language. This helps shape their brain to think in the native language, as well.

This style of teaching is actually more closely related to our traditional ways of learning. Story-telling, watching how things are done, and then practicing those activities is a way that our ancestors and elders passed their knowledge forward since time immemorial. We have always been immersed in our environment, and we grew from our environment. So we know immersive experiences are the best way to learn! No wonder modern schools are finally catching on!

So, when it comes to immersion learning as a teaching method, you can thank traditional indigenous teaching styles. From our ancestors to modern classrooms across the globe, you're welcome, planet Earth!

Kawerak is a proud sponsor of Native Youth Olympics.  
Congratulations to all athletes!



## Kawerak Internship Experience

By: Victoria Ramirez

This summer, I worked with the Social Science Program and Eskimo Walrus Commission at Kawerak. I was able to participate in Archeology Camp, conduct research, transcribe interviews, and learn. It was worth the experience and I would definitely recommend an internship with Kawerak to anyone.

In preparation for my trip with the Archeology Camp, I had the opportunity to look through the archives in the Eskimo Heritage Program to find information on Pilgrim Hot Springs. It was incredible to learn about how Pilgrim Hot Springs played a role in some elders' lives; it became a home to many after they had nowhere to go. The history behind this place is important to who they are and what they had gone through as a community. My experience about learning about the Pilgrim Hot Springs helped me see the truth and the hardship about how the western culture has affected the Alaska Native people. Its history needs to be known and the history needs to be shared with others.

My research on Pilgrim Hot Springs also led me to learn about the geothermal energy in that area. It shows that the Earth has so many ways it can help us naturally (ie power source for Nome); I was quite amazed this idea is a possibility. It was even more amazing to take a trip to Pilgrim Hot Springs and witness the irrigation system that is being developed there. They

are growing plants and selling it to the people of Nome at a better price for them...it is amazing that these people are really trying to support their community and help it grow.

As a counselor for the Nome Archeology Camp, I would have to say I was nervous at first. Once the week passed on, I

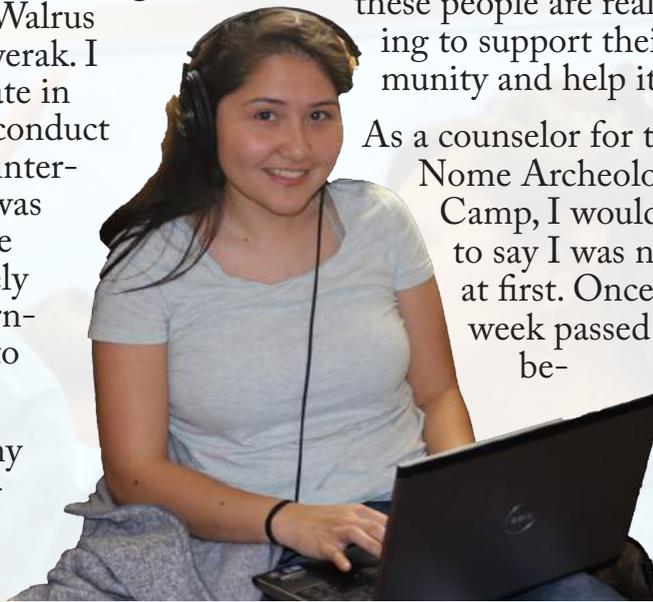
be-  
came  
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and

helped the lead counselors. The very first day at Salmon Lake was Media day and I was able to learn how to use a camera; it definitely drew the interest of all the students and it was amazing how they could learn so fast and take amazing photos. The next day we hiked to two different archeology sites. This was an amazing opportunity because it was a view into our past of how our ancestors of this region fed their family and community. This really caught my interest because this proves that the Alaska Native people were far more intelligent than they were thought to be by outsiders coming to Alaska. They had their own way to practice subsistence and it worked for them for years and years. This experience was followed by an oral history day where two elders were brought to the camp to talk about their experience in tribal healing. This was probably the best experience I had. Maria Isma Dexter explained the importance of tribal healing

for our people and this opened my eyes to a subject I knew little about. These lessons were reinforced by a visit to the Katirvik Cultural Center. We read about clothing, objects, and listened to videos about culture. It is quite beautiful that they have a place for youth to go to learn about their culture and tradition; the more knowledge we have about our culture, the more it proves that our people are extraordinary.

Following Archeology Camp, I spent the last of my time transcribing interviews of elders in Stebbins about the supernatural. This was meaningful because I was able to transcribe interviews from the place where my grandfather is from. I was able to hear their experience and what they believed in. There would be people that would say that these stories are a myth and that couldn't possibly be true; however these supernatural happenings are a part of people's lives. They have affected their culture and their view of the world. These stories and experiences have widened my perspective to understand that there is more than meets the eye.

My experience here has really changed how I see the culture and traditions of the native communities, compared to the urban city I live in. Everyone knows everyone and there is a closeness I can view that is not really present within the city. My overall experience here was worthwhile and more than I expected my experience would be before I arrived. Kawerak is a place of togetherness and helping our people grow through our own way; like culture and tradition.



# Katirvik Celebrates Iditarod

There was no better place to be during Iditarod (aside from under the burlled arch to welcome in a musher) than Katirvik Cultural Center. The events of the week kept tourists and residents alike busy with exploring the fascinating aspects of the Bering Strait Region's culture. Activities included practicing the delicate art of crafting baleen baskets with artist MaryJane Litchard, a book reading of "Menadelook: An Inupiat Teacher's Photographs of Alaska Village Life, 1907-1932" with author Eileen Norbert, an art exhibition and ivory advocacy talk with artist Susie Silook, as well as continuous tours by gracious host Lisa Ellanna, director of Katirvik Cultural Center.

Katirvik Cultural Center is going full speed and consistently is hosting workshops, events and engaged in cultural activities. Official hours of operation are Thursday Friday and Saturday, 2pm-6pm. Private tours are also an option, call 443-4340 anytime between 8am and 5pm, Monday through Friday to schedule.

## Caleb Scholars Update

Summer is still in full swing, and fall is just around the corner—are you living it up? As folks are putting fish in our freezer and berries in our buckets, we're grateful to share what our amazing Caleb Scholars have been up to.

## Human-Fish Relationship

The recently published book, *Shared Lives of Humans and Animals: Animal Agency in the Global North* edited by Tuomas Räsänen and Taina Syrjämaa, University of Turku, Finland, includes a chapter co-authored by Kawerak's Social Science director Julie Raymond-Yakoubian and Vernae Angnaboogok. The chapter is titled "Comological Changes: Shifts in the Human-Fish Relationships in Alaska's Bering Strait Region," and discusses human-fish relationships in the Bering Strait Region over time.

The book is a part of the series: Routledge Human-Animal Studies Series. The book "explores the reciprocity of human-animal relations and the capacity of animals to act and shape human societies."

If you are looking to purchase the book from Routledge, you can receive 20% off with the code FLP40.

This summer is particularly exciting for newest Scholar Tonia Osborne of Nome and White Mountain. Tonia, welcomed into the Caleb Scholars Program in January 2017, is pursuing a BS degree in Marine Biology at University of Alaska Southeast, and she's been a student with AK Native Science & Engineering Program since middle school. Her experiences with ANSEP continue to pay off, as she got the internship of her dreams this summer working on a research vessel with Fish & Wildlife Service studying sea otters! Check out some pics of Tonia hard at work on the open ocean. We're proud to collaborate with ANSEP to support Tonia's educational journey! Quyaana, Tonia, for all your hard work to learn about protecting our oceans and marine life into the future!

*Scholars continued on p.24*



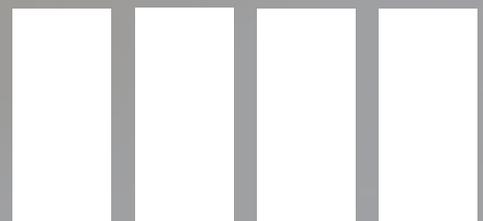
*Susie Silook guides guests through her art pieces at the art exhibition.*



*Caleb Scholar Tonia Osborne*

Kawerak has moved to a four division structure... and we would like to share!

Kawerak  
Restructuring



# Annual Small Business Conference

Tips of the trade were shared at the Small Business Conference in Nome, Alaska on April 25th and 26th. Ukallaysaaq Okleasik delivered a motivational speech to participants from around the Bering Strait. He explained that although small business is hard work, the rewards are also bountiful.

“Small Business Development opens up opportunities for individuals to become change agents in their communities,” says Kawerak Business Development Specialist Alice Bioff. “They have the ability to improve infrastructure, create jobs, and offer services that may not otherwise be available.”

The conference comes at the perfect time to help individuals prepare for the Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation’s (NSEDC) Small Business Initiative Grant. This year grants will be awarded up to \$50,000. The grant program will be offered every 2 years going forward, so the next opportunity to apply won’t be until 2019.

To set the future entrepreneurs on the right path, Alan Carraway from Alaska Small Business Development

Center (SBDC) gave great tips regarding the basics of starting a business, the most important facts to consider, and tools for success. Other presenters included Clark Bihag of Small Business Association, Jake Slingsby of Wells Fargo, Bob Hafner of the Nome Chamber of Commerce, Carol Gales and Miranda Musich of Northwest Campus Business Courses, Dot Staff and Department of Labor Staff. It was definitely a jam-packed two days!

Additionally, participants were offered special opportunities for one-on-one consultations with Erin Lillie of LT Nome Law, Mark Johnson of Johnson CPA and Allan Carraway of SBDC. These free consultations provided valuable insight on business-specific issues and challenges, an opportunity not always easy to come by. Special thanks to these individuals for making the time to offer these services and support the generation of small businesses in our region! “In today’s subsistence/cash based economies entrepreneurship is powerful,” says Alice, “it is a means to provide for ourselves, our family and our communities.”



## Graduate Sees A Bright Future

Sigfred Brown demonstrated a love of vocational training since high school. Opting to complete ten NACTEC classes until senior year, he was fully prepared to enter the NACTEC/AVTEC transitions program. The Transitions program gave Sigfred a clear view of what life would be like at AVTEC. With financial support, assistance with the transitions program, and dedication to success, Sigfred then accomplished his next goal, graduating AVTEC. Although it was difficult to settle on a specialty at first, careful consideration led Sigfred to chose the Plumbing and Heating program.

Following graduation Sigfred plans on continuing his education and will pursue his journeymen level in a plumbing and heating career. He says, “During my time as a trainee, I was grateful for scholarships; FAFSA, BP, Alaska’s School Counselor, as well as Kawerak’s financial assistance. I have been awarded the Construction Technician Cert, the highest awarded certification offered by AVTEC in that department. I encourage seniors of the future to apply as many scholarships as they’re offered.”

### Administration

- Leadership
- Legal
- Accounting
- Human Resources
- Information Technology
- Outreach
- Transportation
- Cultural & Regional Development
- Eskimo Heritage Program
- Katirvik Cultural Center

### Community Services

- Tribal Affairs
- Community Planning & Development
- Children & Family Services
- Child Advocacy Center
- Wellness Program
- Village Public Safety Officer Program

### Natural Resources

- Eskimo Walrus Commission
- Land Management Services
- Reindeer Herders Association
- Subsistence Resources Program
- Social Science
- Marine Program
- Environmental Program

### Education, Employment & Support Services

- Community Education
- Employment & Training
- Education Development
- Tribal Welfare Assistance
- Native Employment Work Services
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Head Start
- Language Revitalization
- Child Care Services



## Savoonga Independence Day celebration, 1980s.

*Courtesy of the Eskimo Heritage Program Archives*

Quyaana  
Safety Patrol  
Volunteers!

NSHC  
Employees

Nome  
Community  
Center

Alaska  
Missions

Kawerak &  
Community  
Volunteers

## Grant Writer Workshop

**K**awerak strives to support Village Development Coordinators through professional development opportunities like February's four-day Regional Grantwriting Training. Because Village Development Coordinators assist the tribes with expanding programs, services and obtaining equipment, it is imperative they receive support and training. Training translates to achieving successes that will greatly impact their community.

The training, organized by Patti Lillie of Kawerak, covered the following topics in a five-day period: Project Planning and Development, State of Alaska Community Development Block Grant Program, and HUD Indian Community Development Block Grant Program. "Funding applications have specific requirements and standards," says Patti. She explained that the training makes the requirements understandable and attainable, for development coordinators to then write winning grant applications.

Three Stars Alaska co-sponsored the training with Kawerak. "The partnership with Three Stars Alaska allows us to provide in-depth training on federal grant applications designed to benefit tribal communities," Lillie explains.

Kawerak was also able to open slots for members of community non-profits like Nome Community Center. We look forward to seeing continued development of our region through successful grant applications! For more information on workshops, call 443-4254 or 877-219-2599.

*To Students, With Love - Kawerak and partners organizations prepare care packages for students in the region attending higher education away from home.*



*Front row, L to R: Elizabeth Aketachunak (St. Michael), Debbie Aningayou (Stebbins), Patti Lillie (Kawerak CPD), Mary Amuktoolik (Elim), Brit Oxereok (Wales), and trainer Angela Camos.*

*Back row, L to R: Rene Kuzuguk (Shishmaref), Emily Iknokinok-Rodgers (Gambell), Wilma Osborne (Nome), Ann Soolook (Diomed), Francine Johnson (Kawerak LMS), Elizabeth Johnson (Solomon), Anthony Caole (CEO, Three Star Alaska), Jim Sanders (Three Star Alaska), and Emory "Chuck" Wheeler (Nome).*



## Bering Strait Marine Advocacy (cont)

### *Port Access Route Study (continued)*

The U.S. Coast Guard issued a federal register notice with proposed alternatives for a Bering Sea/Bering Strait Port Access Route Study (PARS). Kawerak issued comments on the PARS and supported Alternative 2 to establish 'Areas to Be Avoided' (ATBA) near Saint Lawrence and King Island and within the Bering Strait.

The notice can be found at: <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=USCG-2014-0941-0039> and Kawerak's comment letter can be found at [www.kawerak.org/marine.html](http://www.kawerak.org/marine.html).

### *International Maritime Organization and the Arctic Commitment*

The Marine and Social Science Program contributed to a marine mammal avoidance paper submitted to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for consideration at its July 2017 Marine Environment Protection Committee meeting in London. Marine Advocate Austin Ahmasuk spoke during the international forum and presided over an international panel on the impacts of Heavy Fuel Oil on the Arctic. During that time Kawerak made significant history and was one of several indigenous organizations represented to sign the Arctic Commitment to phase out Heavy Fuel Oil (dirtiest fuel used by large ships). If your tribe would like to consider signing on to the Arctic please contact Austin Ahmasuk, [aahmasuk@kawerak.org](mailto:aahmasuk@kawerak.org) or (907) 443-4368. The Marine Program will continue to work towards inclusion of indigenous perspectives at the IMO. The Arctic Commitment can be found: <http://www.hfofreearctic.org/en/arctic-commitment/> and at [www.kawerak.org/marinelinks.html](http://www.kawerak.org/marinelinks.html).

### *America First Offshore Energy Strategy*

President Trump issued the America First Offshore Energy Strategy Executive Order (E.O.) directing agencies to review and reconsider a suite of offshore energy policy and laws. The E.O. also declared a review of Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Oil and Gas Leasing options for the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). BOEM issued a federal register notice seeking comments on inclusion of these areas for the 2019-2024 Oil and Gas leasing program. Kawerak submitted comments and proposed that areas of within the Norton, Hope, Navarin, and St. Mathew Hall basins be excluded from lease sales. The marine program is preparing to meet with BOEM officials to reiterate our concern. The Official register can be found here: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/07/03/2017-13998/request-for-information-and-comments-on-the-preparation-of-the-2019-2024-national-outer-continental> or at [www.kawerak.org/marinelinks.html](http://www.kawerak.org/marinelinks.html). Kawerak's comment letter can be found at [www.kawerak.org/marine.html](http://www.kawerak.org/marine.html).

## Cross-Strait Relations

The Marine and Social Science program contributed to a report titled: "Bridging the Gap- Strategies for Civic Engagement and Diplomacy in the Bering Strait Region" to improve regional governance in the Bering Strait Region through cross-strait relationships with Brown University's Bering Strait Policy Team. Their presentation recaps the history of the Bering Strait and recommendations going forward, and can be viewed at: <https://brown.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=6c2ceb15-b901-4701-ac8f-662a163a5d6e>

## Oil Spill Impacts

The Marine Program hosted a workshop with tribal representatives of the Bering Strait Region to understand the impacts of an oil spill in the region. The Defenders of Wildlife shared the Bering Strait Response Teaching Tool, an oil spill simulation tool, to help communities see the potential reach of an oil spill. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service spoke of the noise impacts from increased shipping upon marine mammals. The Marine Program will be contributing to noise maps for the northern Bering Sea and southern Chukchi Sea. You can view a video on the Bering Strait Teaching Response Tool here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zjLVUMJr\\_98&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zjLVUMJr_98&feature=youtu.be)

## Bering Strait Voices: Vision for Action Summit Report

The marine program published the highly regarded Bering Strait Voices: Vision for Action Summit report from the October 2016 summit held in Nome. The summit participants developed a vision to guide Kawerak in its advocacy for the northern Bering Sea and southern Chukchi Sea:

"Guided by Yupik and Inupiaq values and traditions, we will continue to build sustainable capacity to uphold our spiritual and cultural traditions and relationships, by inspiring healthy choices, and protecting our natural resources to ensure food security for our future generations. We proactively adapt to climate and other changes experienced by our people."

You can access the summit report and more on the Marine page, [www.kawerak.org/marine.html](http://www.kawerak.org/marine.html).

## Village Reports (cont)

### Teller

- Cultural Festival September 30-Oct 1
- IGAP program closed 4 year cycle and purchased furniture, vehicles and a storage van
- Teller Traditional Council made donations to NEST and Make a Patient Smile programs
- Graphite One held a community meeting
- The Council reorganized
- No applicants for Development Coordinator, so utilizing floating grant-writer
- Ice took a long time to remain frozen, which reduced opportunities for ice fishing
- Part-Time janitor/maintenance person hired
- Elders Lunch program started
- Ran out of heating oil, but assisted by Brevig Mission and AVEC
- Water level got high at the end of 2016 and forced a road closure
- Selected Berda Wilson as Tumet Representative
- Met with Water Policy Consultant to discuss comments to DNR re:Graphite One's water use permit
- Laundromat closed due to freezing of holding tanks
- Attended Backhaul training, AIJ Climate Change and Adaptation workshops, ACTEM Workshop, Alaska Rural Water Association Conference, ANTCH Annual Meeting, BIA Conference, AFE, Shipping and Oil Spill Response workshop, IGAP and Migratory Bird Meeting.
- Supported community activities such

as holiday celebrations, family fun nights and school events.

- Patient transportation is still provided in village

### Unalakleet

- Annual meeting 2.4.17
- Directly contracting with BIA for tribal self-governance/sovereignty for ICWA, General Assistance, JOM, Roads, and Aid to tribal government monies.
- Looking forward to future of social services and children and family matters being taken to tribal courts, and preparing structurally and financially for that opportunity
- Elder Services cuts are affecting elder program
- Assisting elders with paperwork for assistance
- Elders Nutrition program continuing
- Food Bank operation beginning
- Still planning to build an assistive living facility
- Waiting for local clinic to be fully staffed by NSHC
- Water and sewer system is old and in need of overhaul
- Looking to limit community water use
- New public safety building for police department

### Wales

- IGAP busy with clean up
- Attended ATCEM & BIA Providers
- Updated SCERP
- Successful 2016 Kingikmiut Dance Festival thanks to volunteers and traveling dance groups, Anchorage, Diomede, Gambell, King Island, Point Hope, Shishmaref, Teller, Wain-

wright and Wales.

- Rahma funds were received
- LEDPs were reviewed
- NSEDC OEF funding request submitted
- Hoping doctor visits remain constant and for an extended time
- Clinic and other buildings had extensive power outage

### White Mountain

- Thankful our entities work very well with one another
- Annual meeting held on 12.17.16
- Advertising for Development Coordinator
- Priorities include roads/gravel source, fire break, new Head Start building, youth programs/teen center, subsistence, water shed, elder programs, solid waste management, language, new housing
- Met to update Long Range Transportation Plan
- In need of gravel
- Continue grant-funding for Ichupak In-stream flow reservation and Chinook enhancement, elder lunch, IGAP, and eskimo dancing/drumming
- New store moving forward with building process
- Bed bugs an issue for community, received hot air equipment from NSEDC
- Honor Our Elder potlucks monthly
- Sewing nights
- NSHC assessment of village clinics to determine needed improvements
- Family Nights are a continued success, held every other week
- Strengthening Our Families parent cafe monthly



## More Shelters, More Safety

Winter travel is fun, but when the weather turns a safe place close by makes all the difference and saves lives. We applaud the **Village of Solomon** for their efforts to protect winter travelers by making their Okitkon Shelter Cabin accessible and available to those in need for emergency shelter and communion in the winter. The Okitkon Shelter Cabin was built thanks to the vision of the Village of Solomon and a successful proposal to NSEDC for Outside Entity Funding. Quyaanaqpuuk.

# Tradition and Culture Abound

The community of Nome gathered throughout the weekend to share dancing, stories of missed cross-cultural cues, stories of connection with seal and cow gut, food such as gimbob, and history in celebration of community and culture.

It all kicked off on February 16th with Katiluta, an Inupiaq word meaning “Let’s Gather Together,” which has become an annual event since its inception in 2012.

This year’s celebration recognized another important day, Elizabeth Peratrovich Day, in recognition of



Alaska’s start in fighting for social justice and civil rights even prior to the Civil Rights Movement in the Lower 48.

Dr. Barb Amarok shared the Nome history of discrimination in the Dream Theater, and highlighted local hero Alberta Schenck who stood up for her rights to sit where she wanted to resulting in her arrest. Her letter to the governor along with advocacy from Elizabeth Peratrovich, spurred the Anti-Discrimination Act in Alaska in the 1940s.

Following the powerful story of brave Alaska Na-



tive women standing up for their rights, the Nome St. Lawrence Island Dancers assumed the stage with reverberating drum beats and formidable dancing. Joined by children and adults alike the Mini Convention Center was alive with connection and strength.

The celebration didn’t end there. Friday and Saturday World Cultures Festival ensued at the Katirvik Cultural Center.

Traditions were shared from around the world, including Europe, South America, Asia, and around the United States. Treats like “broken underwear,” a South



American snack shared by Paula Norris, Gimbob shared by Tina and Quan Yii, and rosettas a Norwegian treat shared by Kirsten Bey.

Many thanks to Kawerak’s Katirvik Cultural Center staff for these wonderful events, Lisa Ellanna, Colleen Aukongak Reynolds and Tanya Wongittilin. Their hard work and preparation opened the door for connection, culture, and celebration across our small but very diverse region.

## Kawerak Welcomes Program Interns



*Willow Hanson*



*Pauline Ahkvaluk*



*Victoria Ramirez*



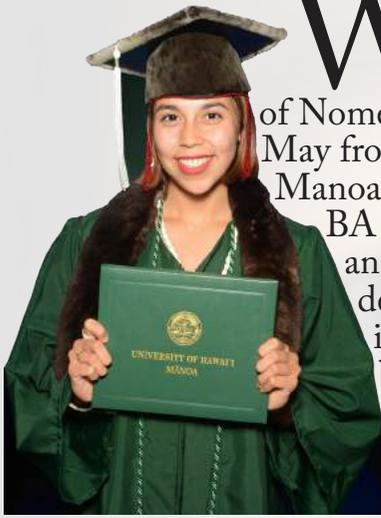
*Cassandra Johnson*



*Makiyan Ivanoff*

This summer Kawerak had many new, young faces around! Five program interns assisted with projects at Head Start, Eskimo Heritage Program, Social Science, Eskimo Walrus Commission and Outreach. We were so lucky to have them! Also Kawerak’s Summer Youth Program employed 22 youth still in high school to work around the region. This program assists local businesses with hired help and gives young people job skills and resume building opportunities...and not to mention cash! We wish them all continued success with their educational goals.

## Caleb Scholars Updates (cont)



Scholar Kaylene Evans

We're happy to congratulate Caleb Scholar **Kaylene Evans** of Nome! Kaylene graduated in May from University of Hawaii at Manoa, earning not one but two BA degrees, in Political Science and Ethnic Studies. Kaylene's depth of reflections on learning amongst our indigenous brothers and sisters across the Pacific are coming home for some time with family in Nome. Before that though, and on top of her graduation, Kaylene

jumped right into alumni engagement, and showcased her commitment to gaining leadership skills—just one week after her graduation!

In May, Kaylene joined Program staff to represent the Caleb Scholars Program at an indigenous leadership meeting in late May in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada. Hosted by the Arctic Funders Collaborative, the convening brought together 7 indigenous leadership organizations from Alaska, Canada, and Sweden to celebrate our shared heritage, and discuss how our programs tackle the issues and goals that our communities share across the Arctic. Fun fact: Caleb alum Yosty Storms of Unalakleet was also present representing ANSEP! An amazing part of the experience was Dene elder Paul Andrew, long time reporter for CBC news in Canada. His warm presence offered wisdom about the importance of protecting our oceans and environment: "That lake out there? And the land? That's our mother. It

## Elder Appreciation

To recognize Elder Abuse Awareness day, June 15th, Kawerak staff traveled to XYZ Senior Center and Quyaana Care Center in Nome delivering ice cream and yogurt to our elders. This was the last day of the Elder Appreciation #respectoureldersak campaign on Kawerak Inc's Facebook Page. Here is a sample of the words shared on one day,

*"Our elders, the patriarchs and matriarchs of our communities, lead us in the right direction. They teach and guide upcoming generations to stay connected with our ancestors. Listen, learn, and experience our traditions and customs. Elders deserve respect for their family roles and their hard work. They anchor our families and community to our Inupiaq values. Without them we would lose track of our heritage. We*



*need their guidance and wisdom to preserve our traditional ways."*

Quyaana for our elders in the Bering Strait, without you we would be lost. We cherish you, respect you, and honor you.

*Elders Gabe Payenna, Arlene Soxie, Betsy Pikon-ganna, & Fred Ryan Sr.*

is our job to protect her." Another awesome piece of wisdom came after we learned traditional Gwich'in hand games: "It is not our virtues that make us human. It's our songs, dances, and games that bring us together. We have to keep playing our games to keep it alive." To us, traditions connect us as people so we can discover our shared heritage as being the original conservationists!

In more alumni news, we're happy to announce a brand new alumni engagement opportunity with the Caleb Scholars Program—an alumni seat on the Caleb Scholars Steering Committee! We recently welcomed alumna **Denali Whiting** of Kotzebue as the first ever alum on the committee. Denali has stayed closely connected with the Caleb Scholars Program since earning her BA in Alaska Native Studies. From social media management and outreach to her most recent role as creative consultant on a current promotional project, Denali has regularly woven "Caleb Scholars Program ambassador" into her post-collegiate roles. We're honored to officially invite her on board, and looking forward to her positive energy, creativity, and unique insights as a Program alumni. Denali is joining her first meeting with the Committee this month as the Committee reviews applications for the fall 2017 cycle.

In closing, we commend all the amazing young people who are our future. We meet students from Unalakleet and Kiana building computers; from Wales sharing research on walrus reproduction, Utqiagvik traditional dancers interested in environmental science, and young environmental leaders from Shishmaref—we're inspired by the smarts, passions, and ambitions of our students in the Arctic!



Intern Makiyan Ivanoff delivering sweets



Ashley, Kyla and Jason -  
Brevig Mission

# Young Entrepreneurs Across the Bering Strait Squeeze out some Business

Lemonade Day, June 10 2017

Sponsored by Kawerak Business Development



Brianna & Melissa - Diomedea

Thank You!!

Wells Fargo, Bering Song, City of Nome, Northwest Campus, Nome Community Center, Nome Elementary School, Nome Rotary club, E-Z Enterprises, Nome Visitory Center, Alaska Commercial Company, Bering Air, Hansons, US Post Office, KICY, KNOM, Boys and Girls Club, RAVN Air Sitnasuak, Subway, Bering Tea, Andrea Irrigoo, Emma Olanna, Linda Divers, Joseph Murray, Tami Shwooko, Kirstie Ione, Freida Moon-Kimoktoak, Frances Ozenna, Cerene Seppilu, Gail Evan, Feliia Nayokpuk, Thomas Kirk, Richard Elachik, Alexa Agibinik, Heather Branch, Joanne Keys, Carol Smith and Dolly Kugzruk!

**2017  
Statistics:**  
214 participants  
from the region  
\$10,279.01 in sales  
reported  
\$973.45 donated  
to charity



Morgan & Abby - Nome

## The Framework of Our Culture



June 8th brought a new gift to Katirvik Cultural Center in the form of yellow cedar, spruce and pine. A 20 foot traditional umiaq built by five students from Northwest Arctic Career and Technical Center (NACTEC) under the leadership of Maligiaq Padilla of Greenland, who has been building umiaqs since he was 16.

The group spent three weeks crafting this important piece not only representing their history, but the continued powerful presence of their culture and tradition. At the presentation of the gift inside the Katirvik Cultural Center Maligiaq explained, "The umiaq frame represents us,

and the skin (of the boat) represents our culture. Without the skin or culture, we will sink."

Intern Cameron Okboak from Teller worked alongside Maligiaq for the second year in a row and assisted with the project through NACTEC. Student Cody Iya of White Mountain participated in the project for the second year in a row with Belinda Simpson and Eric Daniels from Elim, and Elijah Capelle from Shaktoolik going through the process for the first time. The students will not only take away a valuable skill from the project, but they will also be encouraged with confidence to perpetuate their culture into the future.



This beautiful boat was modeled after the umiaqs used in the Bering Sea by villages such as Wales and Shishmaref. Historically these boats were 24 Feet long designed to endure the rough arctic seas for hunting and transportation and seat 10 people. It is now on display at the Katirvik Cultural Center.

# Using 3D Technology to Preserve & Share Museum Collection Pieces

By Medeia Csoba DeHass, Alexandra Taitt, and Julie Raymond-Yakoubian

In the past months, the University of Alaska Anchorage, the Alaska Heritage Museum at Wells Fargo, and the Social Science Program of Kawerak Inc. have been collaborating on a pilot project that uses 3D modeling technology. Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Alaska Native Studies, Dr. Medeia Csoba DeHass, and UAA graduate student, Alexandra Taitt, approached Kawerak Inc. Social Science Program Director, Julie Raymond-Yakoubian, to ask about some pieces in the collection of the Alaska Heritage Museum at Wells Fargo. The available documentation on the pieces vary. Some of them originated in the communities of the Bering Strait region, while others cannot be directly linked to any of the communities. Yet, they are a good representation of Yup'ik, St. Lawrence Island Yupik, and Iñu-



Scraper from the collection of the Alaska Heritage Museum at Wells Fargo.

piak items.

The goal of this pilot project is to create 3D models of selected culturally significant items and make them available on the internet so that community members in the Bering Strait region can view them on their own computers. For example, one of the items the team worked with is the scraper. Alex Taitt created a digital 3D model of this scraper as part of her Master's thesis project. To share the 3D model with interested community

members, the team uses a free platform, Sketchfab, which is like Youtube, except instead of displaying videos, it contains 3D models.

The project draws on the concept of digital repatriation, which is the practice of taking some digital form of an item and sharing it with origin and descendant communities via a digital platform. Digital repatriation does not involve the physical reparation of the item itself, but it can complement the process and to help origin communities reconnect with their heritage on their own terms.

In this pilot project, Julie Raymond-Yakoubian helped with selecting some of the pieces from the Alaska Heritage Museum's collection. As she explained, her reasons for choosing certain items, such as the ice scoop and the grass basket for 3D modeling was influenced by past and ongoing work with Kawerak's communities. Due to the colonial history, collections are often located around the world, and only a few people can afford visiting them. Bringing a group of Elders to museums is a good solution, but the experience is limited to select few and not the entire community. The Native American Graves



Ice scoop selected from the Alaska Heritage Museum collection for 3D modeling.

Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) that regulates the return of specific items to federally recognized tribes does not apply

internationally. There are very few tribal museums in Alaska, and when items are repatriated to communities, they are often stored permanently in regional hubs or in Anchorage. The expense of travelling to a hub or Anchorage can be a limiting factor to many people. The physical repatriation fulfills the legal requirements, but these heritage items often do not return to their origin and descendent communities. Using 3D technology to assist communities in creating a local presence that people can intellectually and emotionally engage with can provide a useful alternative.

Some of the pieces in the Alaska Heritage Museum's collection were of special interest to the Social Science Program and Julie Raymond-Yakoubian, as they coincide with Kawerak's current project on documenting traditional knowledge about the supernatural. Both the tupilak and the kikitook are supernatural beings. While the kikitook was easy to model due to



Grass basket from the collection of the Alaska Heritage Museum at Wells Fargo.

its porous whalebone surface, the tupilak represents one of the items that is extremely difficult to model. It is made of highly polished ivory that is shiny and lacks texture. This makes it difficult to find distinct connecting points that could be used for building the 3D model.

To create the 3D models, the team uses the techniques of photogrammetry and structure from motion (SFM). Instead of lasers in a laser scanner, SFM uses a series of photographs to reconstruct the digital representation.

Pictures are taken all around the target piece covering all angles, with enough overlap to match unique points together. The photos are uploaded to the software Agisoft Photoscan, and edited before the modeling process begins.

The software's first step is to align all the photos based on camera position. This creates a sparse point cloud and basic structure of the piece. From those points, a dense point cloud is created, extrapolating on the sparse cloud data to create more data points. These points are then connected when building the mesh, creating small triangular faces that make up the actual structure of the model. After the mesh is complete, the original photos are used to create a

texture. The result is a photorealistic model of the original item, but with an added dimension beyond the standard photographs.

Photogrammetry and SFM can model a wide array of items, but some items, shapes, and materials model better than others. In general, compact items, rougher surfaces, and hard materials such as wood and stone tend to model better.

Objects and materials that are challenging to model include long and thin items, shiny and smooth surfaces, and some soft materials. There are ways to work with these challenges, including adjusting light sources, using different lenses, using polarizing filters to eliminate glare, or manually connecting points on the model.

The team hopes to continue this work and use the results of the pilot project to secure funding that would allow them to visit the Bering Strait region and ask

community members about their opinions using 3D technology to digitally reunite them with their cultural heritage. Their future goals are to work with communities in developing a plan on what pieces should be 3D modeled and how they should be shared in the region. The models can be viewed on the internet by anybody interested in learning about the Alaska Native traditions of the Kawerak region. The point clouds, which are needed to produce a digital model or to print a 3D copy, will not be shared publicly. Rather, the team will give the point clouds

to both Kawerak, Inc. and the Alaska Heritage Museum at Wells Fargo for digital curation.

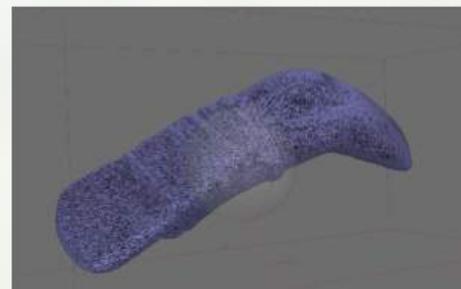
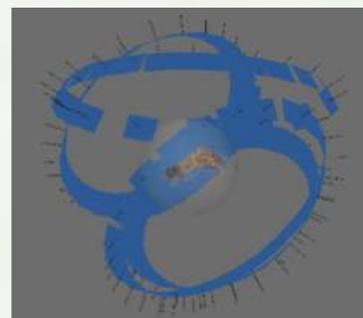
The project team would like to thank the following persons and organizations for their help and support: UAA Technology Innovation Grant, Tom Bennett, Curator of Alaska Heritage Museum at Wells Fargo, Kawerak Social Science Program, Dr. Gennady Gienko, Professor of Geomatics, UAA.



*Kikitook, mythical creature figure made of whalebone*



*Tupilak made with highly polished ivory. The reflection off of the surface off of the tupliak makes it difficult to model.*



*Photos left to right and top to bottom. 1. Alexandra Taitt taking photos of a collection pieces at the Alaska Heritage Museum at Wells Fargo. 2. Camera set up for taking photos for 3D modeling. 3. Medeia Csoba DeHass taking photos of the tupilak using a polarizing filter and macro lens. 4. Photos surrounding the point cloud in the photogrammetry program. 5. The blue points on the scraper will be used to build the 3D model. 6. A close-up photo of the dense point cloud. 7. The mesh in the shape of the scraper forms the structure of the 3D model.*

# From the Busy Season of A College and Career Guide

By Mariah Morgan

## Higher Education Exploration

To inspire confidence in graduating seniors through their quest determining their next step, the concept of Exploratory Trips was born. These trips allow students to see what college campuses are like first-hand to make a more informed decision about their post-secondary education. In the past, Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC) sponsored students from the Bering Strait School District (BSSD) on these ventures in the spring. This year, funding for the sessions was a little different; the school needed to pay for the trip ahead of time and would then be reimbursed by NSEDC. Because some schools weren't able to come up with enough money upfront to send their students on this trip, Kawerak's Education, Employment and Supportive Services sponsored three villages, St. Michael, Shishmaref and Gambell to ensure their ten collective students could still have the opportunity to attend. NSEDC then reimbursed Kawerak. Ten villages in total participated in this exploratory session in April 2017, and it was an incredible success.



Students either went to visit University of Alaska Anchorage, University of Alaska Fairbanks, or Job Corps. Students found themselves attending campus tours, meeting with the Native and Rural Student Services Departments, and having the opportunity to register for fall classes. Ultimately, students were able to collect information to decide if one of these post-secondary options were their best fit. Visiting a college campus prior to enrollment is a huge factor in success because it helps students think about the size, location, environment, and campus opportunities alongside the hard facts of degree choice and cost of attendance.



## AVTEC Transitions

Fifteen Bering Strait School District Students traveled to Seward to live like an AVTEC, Alaska's Institute of Technology, student for three days in the AVTEC Transitions Program through Northwestern Alaska Career and Technical Center (NACTEC). They experience the school's food, slept in the dorms, attended classes, and also took placement tests. Students were broken into different classes during the day: construction technology, Information Technology Business & Office Technology, and Welding. It was another amazing opportunity for students in the region to try new post-secondary educational opportunities on for size.

In order to attend this unique session, students had to have an application process. Once selected, students were officially enrolled in NACTEC's Session 17, AVTEC Transitions. Kawerak's College and Career Guide for BSSD Mariah Morgan assisted NACTEC with the student's travel to AVTEC in Seward.

During the session, Mariah hosted a scholarship workshop for the students, as AVTEC is not a free institution. Students developed drafts of their personal statement essay and gathered documents such as unofficial transcripts and future class schedules. They were told about the FAFSA, pell grant, and local scholarship opportunities like the CACHE; students from the Bering Strait can apply for 5 regional scholarships simultaneously online at [www.my-cache.org](http://www.my-cache.org). This new website was designed to make the application process easier for students. Since most regional scholarships ask for the same information, student's information is automatically transferred to each application. To ensure follow up, Mariah continued working with the NACTEC students through the remainder of the year searching for and submitting scholarships.



## Inspiring Future Leaders in Mental Health

Nine Bering Strait School District (BSSD) students participated in Alaska's Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Behavioral Health Camps designed for students ages 15-21 June 11-16th. Students represented the communities of Circle, Elim, Koyuk, Gambell and Golovin. The young adults explored career pathways in the field of behavioral health while earning one college credit. They gained insight into behavioral health topics including abuse, neglect, addiction grief, stress and mental health, explored the biology of the mind, and also gathered experience with wellness techniques and positive coping skills. Students learned

techniques to use art, music, yoga and meditation in therapy, which was thoroughly enjoyed.

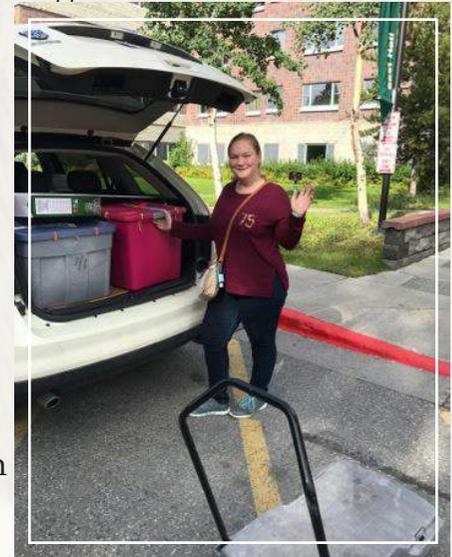
The camp was based at Northwest Campus and students were housed at Northwestern Alaska Career and Technical Center (NACTEC). Students earned a certification in Mental Health First Aid, which like medical first aid, teaches the students how to respond if they come across someone in a mental health crisis. Five Norton Sound Health Corporation Behavioral Health employees spoke to students about their jobs and their journey into the health field. Additionally, the students watched the film "We Breathe Again," a documentary about suicide in rural Alaska; it really hit home for some.

Lastly, the students' were required to complete a final project, which included researching a specific behavioral health topic. They then had to host an open house presentation on the topic, such as one student's choice to use the topic of talking circles. The camp was a great success and there are hopes to continue the project in the future. The AHEC camp was started and operated by Ilisagvik College for this year, however future years are dependent upon identifying a new funding source. Kawerak supported this project through provision of a camp counselor, College and Career Guide Mariah Morgan.

## Summer Transition Program

The Kawerak Summer Transition Program is designed for freshly graduated Bering Strait School District (BSSD) students who are relocating to the University of Alaska Anchorage or University of Alaska Fairbanks for the new university school year. The goal of the program is to make sure the students have the needed resources, get oriented to their new environment, and are prepped for success for the coming school year.

Twelve students from BSSD participated in the Fall 2017 program from the villages of Gambell, Shishmaref, Golovin, Elim, Savoonga, Koyuk, Unalakleet and Shaktoolik. Participating students completed regular check-ins with their College and Career Guide, Mariah Morgan, throughout the summer. Before their trip, students completed meal plan and housing applications, course registration, books and school supply purchases, CACHE scholarships, Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and airfare purchase. Although these numerous tasks seem daunting, assistance from Mariah makes the process much easier.



On the trip out, students were greeted in Nome, received well wishes, transportation assistance, support and luncheon send offs from Northwest Campus staff, Norton Sound Economic Development (NSEDC) staff, and Kawerak staff. Students were then greeted again at their final destination, be that Anchorage or Fairbanks to get them settled in. They were hosted at a welcoming dinner, checked into orientation and housing, connected with Student Services, walked through campus to find class buildings, assisted in navigating payment of tuition and fees, shopped for essential items, and rode city buses if classes were off-campus to learn the bus routes. Along with College and Career guide Mariah, Kawerak intern and current UAA student Makiyan Ivanoff was also a key player with assisting students with learning the ropes on campus. Additionally, Native Student Services at UAA and Rural Student Services at UAF were essential in the success of the student's transition. We wish our new students continued success on their new journey!

**1-800-450-4341 for more information!**

# Caring for Our Environment...It's Not a Fad



*Regional Participants at Landfill Utility Workshop*



*E-Waste Event in Nome*

**K**awerak's Environmental program doesn't "waste" any time when it comes to addressing hazards to our communities air, water and land. Although it's a global problem, we can't wait for someone else to do something about it; we only have one earth to live on, and one amazing, beautiful place called the Bering Strait, so it's up to us to care for it.

Although funding is limited, the program works to address varying aspects of local solutions simultaneously, from hands-on clean ups to training individuals on ways to make their communities healthier. Initiatives like the

E-Waste/Backhaul Event does on the ground work collecting toxic waste from entering our landfills, like computers and batteries. Contaminants are gathered from the region, properly packaged, and then shipped out in container vans. Trainings, such as the Landfill Utility Workshop create opportunities for individuals to learn how they can better their dump to make it functional, and safe. The Brownfields Program works to identify contaminated sites in need of clean up, funds clean ups and identifies ways to reclaim the land for use. Trainings such as the Landfill Utility Workshop ad-

dressed what can be done with dumps in poor condition, and how they can get a makeover and become a functional, well-working landfill through utility fees.

Environmental issues continue to be a source of worry with the effects of climate change steadily making impacts on our subsistence and landscape. The problem won't disappear, but we can work to address issues contributing to the problem. For more information about the program and services, call Anahma Shannon at 443-4249 or your local IGAP Coordinator.

## Hours Adjust for Early Head Start Families

**B**ased on parent feedback, the hours of operation for the Nome Early Head Start Program will be extended for the 2017-2018 school year! Service hours will now be from 7:45am -5:15pm.

Working parents were having a difficult time getting to work on time and picking up their children on time when the hours were 8am-5pm. Director Deb Trowbridge and her team deliberated to find the best

solution. Deb commented, "After carefully reviewing our budget and creatively rescheduling staff, we are very pleased to be able to adjust our service times to meet the needs of our working families." Applications for Head Start, Early Head Start and Child Care Partnership programs are accepted year-round, call Brenda Adams at 443-9057 for more information about enrollment and eligibility.

## Child Find Fair

**A** collaboration of organizations, including Nome Public Schools Special Education Department, Kawerak Head Start & Child Care Center, NSHC Infant Learning and Nome Preschool hosted the Child Find Fair on February 17th for children newborn to 5 years. The group offered Developmental Screenings, speech screenings, hearing screenings, vision screenings, registration opportunities, book giveaways and door prizes. The event was a huge success, all due to the collaborative spirit between organizations in the community.



# Unalakleet Proposals Get Valuable Returns

By Joan Domnick

The Native Village of Unalakleet (NVU) would like to thank Kawerak for their support of regional planning and community development. The Community Development grant award from Kawerak partially supports NVU grant writing efforts. Last year NVU successfully applied to the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and the Rasmuson Foundation for upgrades to the kitchen in the Community Building. The kitchen is used for the preparation of daily lunches for the Elders Nutrition Program, and is also used for community-wide events such as

funeral potlucks and holiday celebrations. The facility was not in compliance with State of Alaska DEC regulations for food safety, and the renovations brought the kitchen up to code to be able to continue the program. NVU also received State and Tribal Transportation funding for the purchase of a handicapped van for Elder transport. The improvement of Elders services and supports was identified as a major Unalakleet social and economic development priority, and funding successes like these help make it a reality.

NVU is currently working to

secure funding for an Assisted Living Facility that will accept regional Elders who are no longer able to live safely within their homes, but are not eligible for nursing home residency. We have completed site preparation and architectural design and are now seeking funding for the construction of the building itself.

Other recent NVU community development efforts resulted in the start-up of a local food bank; energy-efficiency improvements to the Tribal Office and Community Building; and a Youth Suicide Prevention Program.

## Food Programs available for your Village

### with Food Bank of Alaska *By Kristie Ione*

Do your children, family, friends, relatives, community members need help with food in your village? Food programs include Summer Meals Program, After Meals Program, or local food bank.

In order to start your own food bank, there needs to be an assigned Site Manager; someone who fills out the daily meal sheet, keeps track of inventory, stores inventory in a safe place, informs families of opportunities, recruits volunteers, hangs required signs from Food Bank of Alaska and secures a location for a meal or distribution to happen daily. There also needs to be a Site Monitor, responsible for filling out two reports to submit to Food Bank of Alaska and ensures site compliance. Both the Site Manager and Site Monitor get a stipend for setting up this program in their village. Call Dynasti Otis at 222-3107 or email dotis@foodbankofalaska.org for more information. Imagine the amazing feeling of providing this service to your family, friends and community!



## Looking for Everyday Heros: Become a Foster Parent

*Because It Takes a Village*

## Tribal Coordinators Gather Together



Tribal Coordinators traveled to Anchorage to attend the Alaska Tribal Administrators Associations (ATAA) symposium from March 29-31.

Front Row: Frances Ozenna, Cerene Seppilu, Cheri McConnell, Charlene Isabell, Tanya Ablowaluk  
Back Row: Dorothy Barr, Jane Kakoona, Valerie David, Joanne Keyes, Donna Katchatag, Jacinta Martin, Velma Johnson, Elizabeth Johnson. Missing but in attendance: Freida Moon-Kimoktoak & Karlene Sagoonick.

# KAWERAK News

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