

# Kawerak Newsletter

"Qaniqta" meaning "Let's Talk" in the Inupiaq dialect

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

WINTER 2017

## Bering Sea Climate Resilience Area Established

By Danielle Slingsby, Outreach

ON December 9, 2016 President Obama issued an Executive Order (EO) to safeguard the Bering Sea and establish the Northern Bering Sea Climate Resilience Area. The Order is monumental to the Bering Strait and the Arctic, as the protection of the Bering Sea and its resources is essential to the survival of the peo-

ple of the Arctic.

The EO formally mandates the federal government to include the Alaska Native people in our region in deliberations that impact the marine environment, citing "All agencies charged with regulating, overseeing, or conducting activities in the Northern Bering Sea Climate Resilience Area shall do so with attention to the rights, needs

and knowledge of the Alaska Native tribes; the delicate and unique ecosystem; the protection of marine mammals, fish, seabirds and other wildlife; and with appropriate coordination with the state of Alaska."

To ensure input from the residents of the region, the EO requires the establishment of a Bering Intergovernmental Tribal Advisory Council by June 2017, to con-

sult with Alaska Native tribal governments and provide guidance regarding policies and activities to be conducted in the Bering Sea Climate Resilience Area (see Map). Kawerak looks forward to facilitating involvement of the people most affected by decision in the arctic—the people who actually live here—to guide management of the important ocean resources in our region.

...continued on page 9



**STRATEGIC PLANNING** Mary David, Susie Silook, Roy Ashenfelter, Brandon Ahmasuk and Rose Fosdick deep in thought at the Ivory Ban Strategic Planning Session on January 20th.

## Kawerak and Sikuliq Tackle Ivory Ban

By Danielle Slingsby, Outreach

CALIFORNIA, Hawaii, New York and Washington are four states that already passed laws to ban the sale, use or possession of ivory. The intent of the ban is to support the destruction of the illegal African elephant ivory trade, however the side-effects are ones that will destructively resonate in the Alaska Native Artists economy that rests on the use of walrus ivory.

Since these laws are inconsistent with the Marine Mammal Protection Act and are harmful to

the people of the Bering Strait, Kawerak programs such as the Eskimo Walrus Commission, Natural Resources Division, Subsistence Resources and Community Planning and Development joined together alongside Sikuliq a group started by artist turned advocate Susie Silook, and partners such as Inuit Circumpolar Council, Sitanasuk Native Corporation, Bering Straits Native Corporation and Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation have banded together to form the Ivory Ban

...continued on page 7

## Locally Owned Grocery Store Opens in Brevig Mission

By Alice Bioff, Business Planning Specialist

THERE'S a new store in town! F&T Store, a new locally owned grocery store, recently opened its doors in Brevig Mission. On October 10, 2015, local Community Development Quota (CDO) organization, Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC) offered a hand up to a young couple in Brevig Mission, Alaska by presenting Terrence and Frieda Southall a check for \$32,975 for their small business start-up.

Dedication and hard work on the part of Terrence and Frieda were essential components to reach that moment. It all began with a boat ride across Grantley Harbor and a 70 mile drive to Nome to meet with Kawerak, Inc's Business Planning Specialist to began developing their business plan. During this process, Terrence and Frieda worked through many critical pieces for their proposed business, including calls to local businesses in Nome for supplies and materials to renovate a vacant building, attending the Small Business Conference in Nome and making numerous calls to grocery distributors. This involved calculating their

Continued on page 17..

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**NEW VENTURES:** Frieda and Terrence Southall with their sons Tyrone and Curtis, photo courtesy of Frieda Southall

Kawerak Newsletter  
Kawerak, Inc.  
PO Box 948  
Nome, AK 99762  
(907)443-5231 phone  
www.kawerak.org



# A Message from Kawerak, Inc President



*Akighqukaaghaq  
(Melanie Bahnke)*

As the New Year is upon us, my heart is full with gratitude and pride for the vital momentum established in 2016 that paves the way for a positive outlook in 2017. For this, I'd like to begin by recognizing the Kawerak Board of Directors, who continue to provide our organization with valuable leadership and guidance in the work improving our region's cultural, political, economic, and social conditions and our staff who tirelessly work to realize the goals set forth by tribal leadership. Here are just a few highlights from Kawerak's 43<sup>rd</sup> year of progress in our mission "To advance the capacity of our people and tribes for the benefit of the region;"

**Cultural:**

- Katirvik Cultural Center Grand Opening**
- Language immersion programming for Head Start**

**Political:**

- President Obama Issues Executive Order**

**Economic:**

- Kawerak Joins Effort to Halt Ivory Bans**
- Kawerak provides funding for higher education and training**

**Tribal Support:**

- Tumet, LLC had another Profitable Year**
- Kawerak Board Invests Settlement Funds**

**Social:**

- The Child Advocacy Center provides record number of services**
- Community of Hope Initiative begun in St Michael**
- Beauty for Ashes Workshop held to address regional trauma**
- Regional Training empowers local leaders**

These highlights represent a small sample of the advance-

ments achieved in just one year on the 2016-2020 roadmap engineered by our Board. The Kawerak Board diversely represents our region; composed of 20 tribal representatives, Elder representatives, and the Norton Sound Health Corporation chairman. I'm confident 2017 will be another year of progress in our region, the Bering Strait; which truly stands out as forward-thinking, innovative, united, and rich in cultural pride.

As we bid farewell to 2016 we remember, cherish, and carry on the legacy of those who have passed on this past year, our culture bearers, family members, and friends. We also celebrate the newest members of our region, who carry the light of our future. With anticipation and excitement we welcome 2017, may you all have a successful and safe year and be blessed with the bounty of our land, air and sea.

## Board of Directors Kawerak, Inc.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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Frank Katchatag, *Unalakleet*

**1st Vice Chair**

Benjamin Payenna, *King Island*

**2nd Vice Chair**

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Theresa Kobuk, *St. Michael*

Larry Kava, *Savoonga*

Axel Jackson, *Shaktoolik*

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Josie Garnie, *Teller*

Anna Oxereok, *Wales*

Lincoln Simon, Sr., *White Mountain*

Merlin Koonooka, *Elder*

Charlie Fitka, Jr., *Elder*

Jacob Ivanoff, *Norton Sound Health Corporation*

## Kawerak Board of Directors Stand with Standing Rock

By Danielle Slingsby, Outreach

Kawerak Board of Directors signed a resolution on September 21, 2015 declaring the organization's commitment to support Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in their fight to protect their land from the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline, a 1,168 mile long stretch of crude oil that would travel over their ancient burial sites, places of prayer, significant cultural artifacts and their only source of water.

Kawerak, Inc is extremely thankful for Samuel Johns who volunteered to deliver the resolution in person to the Council. The importance of movements such as Standing Rock is to ensure that the

voices of our tribal governments are heard, consulted and respected in the government to government relationship with the U.S. Federal Government prior to project approval when tribal homelands and resources may be impacted. Thank you Standing Rock for setting an example for us all.



**RESOLUTION DELIVERED** Samuel Johns delivers the Kawerak Inc Resolution to councilman Dana Wellowfat on November 20, 2015.

## Local Young Adults Cited as Future Leaders

By Danielle Slingsby, Outreach with Excerpts from Arctic Deeply

"They are the ones we'll be watching in the years to come," states the article "The Sixteen Young Leaders Who Will Influence the Future of the Arctic" by Arctic Deeply. Marjorie Tahbone of Nome and Esau Sinnok of Shishmaref were highlighted as those who stand apart in culture revitalization and fighting climate change in the Arctic.

Marjorie Tahbone's efforts in revitalizing the practice of Inuit tattooing demonstrate her commitment to her culture and her respect

for time honored traditions. She states "I've dedicated my life to perpetuating our culture for the betterment of our people and our youth for the next generation" in the video composed by Great Big Story called "Ancient Ink Reborn".



**Marjorie Kunaq Tahbone.** Photo by Monica Watchman

Marjorie has taken her skills around Alaska, and even painted youth with temporary traditional tattoos at the commemorative Grand Opening of the Katirvik Cultural Center.

Esau Sinnok travelled to Washington DC over the summer to champion a movement to fight against the impacts of climate change and encourage big change to do something about. He also attended the Paris climate talks in 2015 as a U.S. Arctic Youth Ambassador. He is working toward his vision to achieve more renewable energy in rural villages. His efforts

to raise awareness of the issues are motivated personally, and he states, "Whenever I make decisions, I always think of the next seven generations, the next leaders, the next Esau Sinnok Juniors."



**Esau Sinnok.** Photo by Juan Martinez

# Child Care Partnership Brings Quality Education

By Child-care Partnership Staff

**K**awerak, Inc. housed the Uiviilat Play and Learn Center in Nome, Alaska for many years prior to being awarded an Early Head Start-Child Care (EHS-CC) Partnership grant in 2015. The center employed 12 teachers who transitioned into the new program. Jessica Farley, Program Director, explained that there weren't enough existing staff, though, to implement the grant.



Nome staff after receiving their Child Development Associate credential! Back L to R-Ursula Lyon, Ruby Outwater, Marjie Simon, Heather Ongotwasruk, Bailey Immingan-Carpenter, Linda Hildreth; Front L to R-Candice Amak-toolik, Tashina Esparza, Steffanie Edson.

Recruiting in the community was ideal, but introduced qualification barriers. Instead of taking the search outside of the region, they instituted a training program to ensure each staff member could meet the 120 training hours requirement for the credential. Kawerak hired a trainer who flew in and helped staff through their CDA portfolios; the portfolio is the most difficult component of the CDA process. By flying in a trainer, staff were able to finish in a week's time.

next, another challenge. To get results, the program trained some local candidates to be Professional Development Specialists so they were able to do the onsite reviews.

These steps allowed childcare workers to become educators, contributing positively to their professional development as well as improving the quality of services Kawerak provides to the community.

Steffanie Edson, who went through the process, sees the benefit of the program's training process. "The program here offers

one-on-one help. The Specialists go through a very detailed verification process, and putting together the binder can be overwhelming. The Partnership program offers amazing support."

Meeting the EHS-CC Partnership teacher qualifications requires a lot of commitment and hard work. In recognition of this, Kawerak utilized Partnership funds to ensure competitive salaries for EHS-CC Partnership teachers. Jessica says "We've had very little turnover since making that decision. Before turnover was a constant 80-90% each year, but only a few have left since implementing the Partnership model." She credits professional development, reduced classroom ratios and the improved salaries as the reasons for the improved retention.

ment doesn't stop now that the teaching staff have received their CDAs. The program has instituted monthly trainings in partnership with the local college, the University of Alaska Fairbanks. As part of an ongoing relationship, the college donated use of their space, computer labs, and resources to allow staff to earn the CDAs. The college has conducted cohort classes for about four years, moving teachers through the Early Childhood Education associates degree program.

In reflecting on what the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership has meant in Nome, Jessica concludes "The Partnership program is great for families. It offers secure, affordable and high quality child care in communities. Also, anecdotal evidence reveals our parents are becoming employed, getting promoted, and securing better jobs because child care is no longer a barrier. Our staff have a lot to be proud of, and we are grateful to offer this service to our communities."

The verification process was

# Shishmaref Celebrates Newly Paved Road

By Danielle Slingsby, Outreach

**O**n Wednesday November 2nd the community of Shishmaref gathered for speeches and cake to commemorate the paving of a highly used road in the community. Hondas and bicycles littered the parking lot of the Community Hall in anticipa-

tion of the event.

Shishmaref IRA Vice President Tommy Obruk, Shishmaref Native Corporation President Stanley Tocktoo, and Kawerak President Melanie Bahnke, gave speeches about the important investment in the road and then fittingly cut the ribbon over the new road with a

freshly sharpened ulu adorned with an ivory carved polar bear. Kawerak's Director of Transportation Denise Michels commented, "We want to congratulate the community of Shishmaref on this infrastructure investment of paving the community streets and much needed maintenance of the sanitation road, obtaining rights of way for ANTHC and coordinating with DEC through Kawerak's Tribal Transportation Program."

Since the Shishmaref community announced their desire for relocation, the Federal and State Government stopped investing in the community. Even though relocation is still on the agenda, this process will still take many years to complete. In the meantime, Kawerak, Inc and the Tribal Council determined that this decision should not eliminate Shishmaref from maintaining their community



ULU AND RIBBON On newly paved section of road. Photo by Danielle Slingsby



RIBBON CUT Shishmaref Native Corporation President Stanley Tocktoo, Kawerak President Melanie Bahnke, and Shishmaref IRA Vice President Tommy Obruk (L to R) cut the commemorative ribbon held by Kawerak EVP Mary David with an ivory handle ulu over the newly paved road on November 2nd. Photo by Danielle Slingsby

# Caleb Scholar Highlight

**W**e had a quick check in with busy Caleb Scholar, Stefanie Armstrong of Kotzebue. Here's what she had to share:

"I am transitioning into my new role at Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium's Division of Environmental Health and Engineering program as a Civil Engineer. I have to study for a 6 hour exam in Febru-



SCHOLAR Stephanie Armstrong of Kotzebue, Masters of Science Engineering, UAA, December 2017.

ary that will give me my Engineer in Training Certification.

I will be working on water and waste water projects all over the state. With these projects I will be working under a Senior Engineer's supervision for some time. I'm happy! I'm loving what I do and the role that I have."

We are very proud of you Stefanie!

in the present and improving their quality of life.

Drake Construction, KNIK Construction and McKnight & Associates worked together to make the project a reality from design, project management and construction. The final contract amount including for the overall project was over \$5.5 million. Local hire wages were over \$219,000.

## OTHER FALL 2016 SCHOLARS

**Kaylene Iñuuraq Evans**  
BA Political Science & BA Ethnic Studies, University of Hawaii Manoa, May 2017

**Joanne Semaken**  
BS Biological Sciences, University of Alaska Anchorage, Fall 2017

**Marjorie Kunaq Tahbone**  
MA Cross Cultural Studies, University of Alaska Fairbanks, May 2018



Kawerak, Inc.

# New Test Center Opening Vital For GED Learners

By Kawerak Community Education Program

In September 2016 the University of Alaska Fairbanks budget cuts forced the doors closed on the Northwest Campus Pearson-Vue Test Center. This meant bad news, especially for GED test takers, as this test center was the only approved test center available in the Bering Strait region to take the official GED Test.

Without the test center GED learners' only option would be to travel out of the region in order to complete their GED requirements; thus making a GED certificate a pipedream for most students unable to pay significant travel costs. Kawerak and Northwest Campus both recognized the need to continue the test center.

Ron Huffman the Kawerak Community Education Program Director led the charge to brainstorm possible local solutions including identifying a space, securing funding, certifying test administrators, and meeting the rigorous Pearson-Vue testing center standards.

After many meetings and brainstorming, Kawerak was able to designate a space on the first floor of the Ublugiaq Building, 505 Seppala Drive. The site will be operational in early 2017.

The Community Education Program staff will pursue certification for the testing center, as a



**ON THE MOVE:** Northwest Campus building that housed the testing center (L); New Testing Site (R) located in Kawerak's Ublugiaq Building to open in 2017. Photos by Ron Huffman (L) & Danielle Slingsby (R)

great addition to the services provided within the program, including the newly developed GED Ready Intensive Study Course.

The GED Ready Intensive Study Course began as an initiative designed by Kawerak instructors to help students understand and better prepare for the computerized official GED Test. Staff is able to travel throughout the region to work one on one with students preparing for the GED thanks to the 2016 Outside Entity Funding NSEDC Grant. The grant also brings learners to the Nome classroom for the intensive four day GED Ready course covering the skills and knowledge needed to pass the GED.

Learners who have completed the program will have the option to test in the new testing center, so Kawerak can provide a full-service to the students and meet the edu-

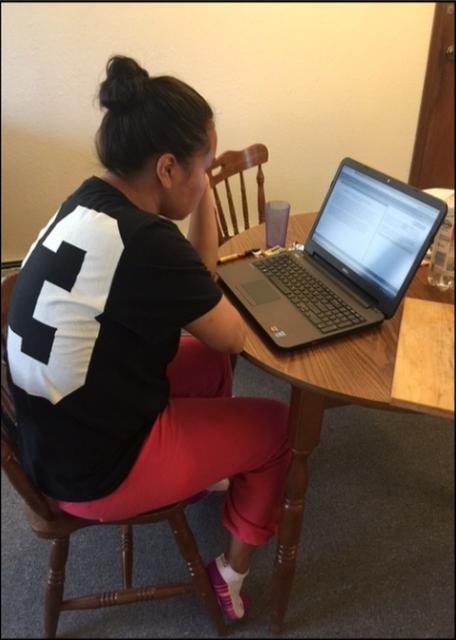
cational needs of those we serve throughout the region.

Kawerak is extremely grateful to the University of Alaska, Fairbanks (UAF) Northwest Campus (NWC) for their history and continued generous support. Although there is no longer a testing center at the campus, the campus still generously provides the Community Education Program with shared classroom space, office building, and parking.

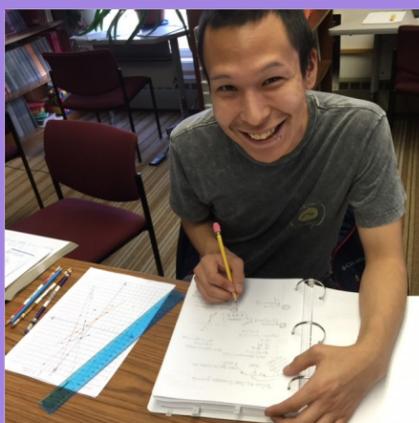
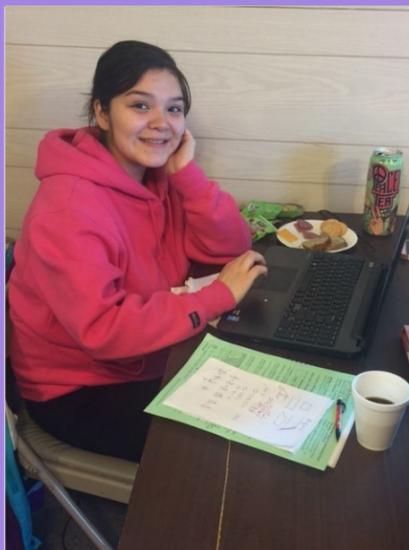
If you are interested in pursuit of your GED, come visit us! We are located directly behind the Aurora Inn, adjacent to the North West Campus.

If you are in the village we can be reached at **1 (800) 478-7574** or locally at **443-4470**.

**Office hours for Learners:**  
Monday through Thursday  
8:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.  
1:00 P.M. - 4:30 P.M



**LEARNING IN ACTION** GED student Adeline Pete in Stebbins. Photo by Pamela Cushman



## What Getting Your GED Looks Like

# #MYWAY

Kawerak Community Education Program



1 (800) 478-7574

907-443-4470

comedu@kawerak.org



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# Hope for Every Community

By Shirley Martin, CFS Tribal Family Coordinator

St. Michael, a community of hope, what a great idea to fathom!

Kawerak, Inc. was approached to administer a pilot project, Community of Hope, which would connect multiple sectors in a village and region to create awareness and enhance community-wide prevention efforts. The hoped outcome is to increase the safety and well-being of children and families as a whole. Since Kawerak's vision in service to all the villages of the Bering Strait is "Our people and our tribes are thriving;" the initiative provided a great opportunity.

The Community of Hope is a collective vision for positive change in the lives of our families and communities. Key partners involved are the Department of Health & Social Services, Kawerak, Inc., Casey Family Programs, Rasmuson Foundation, Alaska Children's Trust and the All Alaska Pediatric Partnership. The project goal is to invest in the prevention of child abuse and neglect. After various meetings, it was decided that St. Michael, having one of the highest Office of Children's Services (OCS) caseloads in our region, would be the first community

to pilot the project. Having said this, St. Michael also has the capacity and capability to take on such a project. In fact, every one of our Bering Strait communities has the power to affect positive change if they really want to; it's just a matter of what's important to the community's people.

Some of the reasons families get involved with OCS include substance abuse, domestic violence and child abuse, to name a few. However, the roots of the struggles that our families deal with go deeper than what we see on the surface of a person. Substance abuse, domestic violence, & child abuse are often the result of pain experienced for too long, often through multiple generations.

OCS is not the "bad guy" in all situations, but often times is seen as such. OCS cannot and should not be the ones to prevent child abuse from happening, nor should it be the work of any one person or organization to make a change. While it's great that we have existing services i.e.: Norton Sound, Kawerak, Public Assistance, that we will continue to utilize, I firmly believe that it's up to our strong, healthy people that we have already in our villages to take

a collective stand against this very achievable goal of caring for one another, of looking after our own.

Even though St. Michael was selected, our tribe also had the opportunity to accept or refuse this awesome challenge. I'm very pleased to say that the challenge was accepted and now we are in the early stages of implementing the Community of Hope project. We held an IRA Council and community meeting to learn more about the project and also discuss our strengths and assets for the project along with possible barriers to success. Immediate next steps include applying for grants that would support the current effort and creating a local multi-disciplinary team. The team would meet regularly and generate ideas on how to create positive change to keep our kids safe, families happy, and community culturally connected.

Positive vibes are already flowing among community mem-

bers. People are feeling empowered, speaking their truths and telling their life experiences. Stories of sobriety and health have been shared. Positive change is within the grasp of my community of St. Michael and I'm so honored to be a part of it. My hope is that we succeed so that we can share with others. If you truly want better for yourselves, it can happen with the support of your community.

I challenge all the villages and people of our region to start thinking about what each person and each community can do to strengthen your families. I also commend those who have been strong in culture and community. Thank you and I wish you continued success.

To everyone, God bless you and your family!



**AERIAL VIEW** Looking onto St. Michael. *Courtesy of Kawerak Archives*

# Fuel Shortage in Teller

By Obje Simmonis, Community Planning and Development Director

This fall, Teller Native Corporation (TNC) had quite the scare. Fuel was low, and possibilities to purchase fuel were non-existent. This situation would leave Teller residents without fuel for the aggressive Alaska winter. They decided to bring in partners like the State of Alaska Department of Commerce, Division of Community and Regional Affairs and enlist Kawerak Community Planning and Development (CPD) team for technical assistance.

The CPD department worked with the TNC to address their fuel needs for the 2016-2017 winter season. After a long search effort for fuel delivery, it was determined that the needed fuel would not be able to be secured this season. As an alternative, CPD reached out to several regional and local entities for other options to avert the crisis.

Of the entities contacted, the Alaska Village Electric Co-Op (AVEC) agreed to sell a large portion of the needed heating fuel. Additionally, Brevig Mission Native Corporation is aware of the upcoming shortage and has agreed to sell to Teller resident's a limited amount of gasoline and heating

fuel to ensure both communities have access to necessary fuel throughout the winter.

To prepare for the future, CPD

also contracted with Del Conrad with Rural Alaska Fuel Services (RAFS) to provide business planning assistance to TNC. Both CPD

and RAFS met with the TNC Board in November to provide technical assistance and a productive solution focused conversation.



**A BEAUTIFUL VIEW** Teller in early October 2016, just before the fuel shortage announcement. *Photo by Danielle Slingsby*

## TRIBAL COORDINATORS LISTING

Tribes	Tribal Coordinator	E-Mail Address	Phone Number
Native Village of Elim	Valerie David	<a href="mailto:tc.eli@kawerak.org">tc.eli@kawerak.org</a>	907-890-3737
Chinik Eskimo Community	Donna Katchatag	<a href="mailto:tc.glv@kawerak.org">tc.glv@kawerak.org</a>	907-779-2214
Native Village of Koyuk	Freida Moon-Kimoktoak	<a href="mailto:tc.kka@kawerak.org">tc.kka@kawerak.org</a>	907-963-3651
Native Village of Shaktoolik	Karlene Sagoonick	<a href="mailto:tc.skk@kawerak.org">tc.skk@kawerak.org</a>	907-955-3701
Stebbins Community Assoc.	Jacinta Martin	<a href="mailto:tc.wbb@kawerak.org">tc.wbb@kawerak.org</a>	907-934-2393
Native Village of St. Michael	Emily Kobuk	<a href="mailto:tc.smk@kawerak.org">tc.smk@kawerak.org</a>	907-923-2304
Native Village of Unalakleet	Velma Johnson	<a href="mailto:tc.unk@kawerak.org">tc.unk@kawerak.org</a>	907-624-3622
Native Village of White Mt.	Dorothy Barr	<a href="mailto:tc.wmo@kawerak.org">tc.wmo@kawerak.org</a>	907-638-3651
Native Village of Brevig Mission	Walter Seetot	<a href="mailto:tc.kts@kawerak.org">tc.kts@kawerak.org</a>	907-642-4301
Native Village of Council	Rhonda West	<a href="mailto:tc.cou@kawerak.org">tc.cou@kawerak.org</a>	907-443-7649
Native Village of Diomedea	Frances Ozenna	<a href="mailto:tc.dio@kawerak.org">tc.dio@kawerak.org</a>	907-686-2175
Native Village of Gambell	Tyler Campbell	<a href="mailto:tc.gam@kawerak.org">tc.gam@kawerak.org</a>	907-985-5346
King Island Native Comm.	Janice Knowlton	<a href="mailto:tc.ki@kawerak.org">tc.ki@kawerak.org</a>	907-443-2209
Native Village of Mary's Igloo	Tanya Ablowaluk	<a href="mailto:tc.mi@kawerak.org">tc.mi@kawerak.org</a>	907-642-3731
Native Village of Savoonga	Cerene Seppilu	<a href="mailto:tc.sva@kawerak.org">tc.sva@kawerak.org</a>	907-984-6414
Native Village of Shishmaref	Jane Kakoona	<a href="mailto:tc.shh@kawerak.org">tc.shh@kawerak.org</a>	907-649-3821
Village of Solomon	Elizabeth Johnson	<a href="mailto:tc.sol@kawerak.org">tc.sol@kawerak.org</a>	907-443-4985
Native Village of Teller	Charlene Isabell	<a href="mailto:tc.tla@kawerak.org">tc.tla@kawerak.org</a>	907-642-3381
Native Village of Wales	Joanne Keyes	<a href="mailto:tc.waa@kawerak.org">tc.waa@kawerak.org</a>	907-664-3062

Kawerak, Inc.

# Economic Development Assessment Team Visits Bering Strait

Photos and Story By Danielle Slingsby, Outreach Director



**LOOKING FORWARD** Economic Development Assessment Team looks out over the Bering Sea and the locally constructed coastal erosion barrier to protect the vulnerable coastal island of Shaktoolik, Alaska.

**P**romise of a more sophisticated economy, climate change adaptations, development of Marine transportation and Arctic Shipping, and increased tourism are among the future developments to occur following a visit from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration's (EDA) inter-

visit, regional leaders and economic development experts, alongside officials from federal partners — U.S. Departments of Treasury, Interior, Agriculture, Commerce (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Economic Development Administration), Transportation, the Small Business Administration, and the Denali Commission participated in a series of economic development sessions, tours, and briefings.

As part of the ongoing EDAT process, after the three-day visit regional and local stakeholders will

\* Promote a positive vision for the region as it adapts to the effects of climate change to grow the region's economy.

In early 2016, EDA invested \$70,000 to support the development and implementation of a comprehensive economic development strategy (CEDS) for the region which includes the communities of Brevig Mission, Diomed, Elim, Gambell, Golovin, Koyuk, Nome, Shaktoolik, Stebbins, St. Michael, Unalakleet, Teller, Wales and White Mountain. The CEDS process is designed to bring together the public and private sectors in the creation of an economic development roadmap to diversify and strengthen the regional economy.

Since 2008, EDA has invested nearly \$44 million to support 152 projects/applicants in the state of Alaska. These projects have helped to create/save an estimated 8,646 jobs and generate about \$233 million in private investment.

In addition to EDA's commitment to Alaska, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is investing \$40 million in electric and water funding for rural Alaskan communities. The investments include:

\* \$16.5 million to the Naknek Electric Association to build or improve 12 miles of line, improvements that aim to increase system efficiency while reducing emissions and the cost of electric power.

\* Nearly \$11.9 million in water and waste water funding to Alaskan communities which will provide the technical assistance and financing necessary to develop drinking water and waste disposal systems.

\* \$10.8 million in Rural Alaskan Native Village grants to help 14 remote Alaskan Villages provide safe, reliable drinking water and waste disposal systems for households and businesses.

\* \$1.1 million in water and waste loans and grants for a project in the city of Akutan.

"Investments in rural infrastructure, including electric utilities and projects that provide safe drinking water and sanitary waste water disposal are vital not only to public health, but also to the economic strength of rural America," said Administrator Brandon McBride of USDA's Rural Utilities Service.

Kawerak, Inc leadership wanted to ensure this event would lead to actual assistance and dollars, as opposed to times in the past where federal officials were paraded around the region in more of a "dog and pony show" with nothing to come of it. Shaktoolik Mayor Eugene Asiksik made a similar comment by mentioning that most of the time people come in to the village, do studies or tests, leave and they never see results or receive money or assistance to fix the challenges they are dealing with. Kawerak Inc will continue to follow up with the Economic Development Assessment Team to ensure they follow up and



**EXPRESSING CONCERN** Shaktoolik Mayor Eugene Asiksik addresses members of the Economic Development Assessment Team, consisting of various federal agencies to express concerns about the lack of resources allocated to Shaktoolik's health and safety, in Shaktoolik on December 9th. Pictured are Amy Holman with NOAA (L), Karen Murphy with the US Fish and Wildlife (center), and Asiksik (R).

agency Economic Development Assessment Team (EDAT).

After a visit to Nome and a quick trip to the village of Shaktoolik the Team's task is to evaluate new and existing economic strategies that can inform the Bering Strait Region's current infrastructure and business development planning. The EDAT will also brainstorm solutions for the impending economic challenges related to climate change adaptation.

"EDA and its federal partners are committed to working closely with Alaskan stakeholders today and in the years to come to help the Bering Strait region work toward building a more robust and enduring economy," said Assistant Secretary Williams. "With the EDAT, we hope to expand workforce development efforts, create jobs, and outline concrete plans to address current and perceived challenges related to climate change and the overall health of the region's economy."

During the three-day EDAT

continue to work with federal partners as they develop a bottom-up strategy designed to foster robust economic growth and recovery for the region. The group was informed of the local challenges of resource juggling, rights of ways, non-existent local services, and other challenges associated with living in remote Alaska. The EDAT will assess, outline guidance and gauge opportunities to provide a local nonprofit; tribes; and tribal members in the region with resources to:

\* Gain the skills needed to start and/or expand tourism-related business.

\* Acquire the knowledge and skills to prepare for positive and negative impacts of increased shipping, and to start /expand businesses in Arctic shipping and marine transportation industries.

\* Evaluate and provide formal recommendations on appropriate infrastructure to accommodate increased shipping vessels, oil spill response, emergency response, vessel traffic pollution.



**LOCAL PERSPECTIVE** Megan Alvanna-Stimpfle of King Island Native Community addresses the EDAT Team presenting the challenges faced by the tribes in the region.

are held accountable to meet the goals set to attain prior to their visit to Nome. Since the visit, Kawerak CPD has received a \$398,000 Technical Assistance Award from the EDA. This award allows CPD to hire an Economic Development Specialist who will work on advancing the priorities and solutions of the EDAT over the next three years.

Kawerak, Inc.

...*Kawerak and Sikuliq cont. from p.1* working group. Goals of the group include educating federal and state lawmakers to end the passage of these laws before more states pass similar bans, as well as reverse or amend the laws that were already passed. An-



**IVORY CARVER** Photo by Gay Sheffield

other approach is focused on media and outreach efforts to Inform the region about the ban with postcards, presentations, and a booth at AFN. A third strategy includes educating the public about the ivory traditionally used by Alaska Native artists, differentiate it from elephant ivory, explaining the non-threatening use of ivory and demonstrating its significance to the culture and traditions of our region.

Since the new laws make possession or sale of walrus, mammoth and mastodon ivory illegal in the individual's state, tourists from those states would be unable to purchase ivory in Alaska and bring it home legally. Stores in these states cannot sell legally made ivory art, and the income to Alaska Native Artists dependent on their art and jewelry sales will be lost. Quick action is paramount, as any market can be destroyed from action like this, such as what happened with the sealskin market for indigenous artists after the seal ban in the European Union.

The Ivory Ban working group requests you continue to wear your ivory and educate people on the importance of walrus, mam-

moth and mastodon ivory as a subsistence resource, a traditional way of life, and a non-threatening use of resources from the species. The traditional harvest and use of walrus has been a part of our life for time immortal, and it is imperative to our culture, economy, and traditional ways.

Kawerak thanks the City of White Mountain, City of Nome, City of Savoonga & Kukulget, Native Village of Koyuk, Qayassiq Walrus Commission in Dillingham, Eskimo Walrus Commission, Native Village of Barrow, Alaska State Council on the Arts, Inuit Circumpolar Council and the Alaska Federation of Natives for their resolutions passed supporting the rights of Alaska Native artists. Kawerak would also like to recognize and thank Susie Si-look for her amazing advocacy work around the Ivory Ban.

**To stay informed** about the Ivory Ban, please join the [Sikuliq Facebook page](#), and "like" the [Kawerak Facebook Page](#).

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Call 443-4344 with content,  
comments or suggestions.

## Bering Strait Voices Vision for Action Summit October 12-14 2016

By Austin Ahmasuk, Marine Advocate

Over three days residents from the Bering Strait region gathered at the Nome Covenant Church as part of the **Bering Strait Voices Vision for Action Summit** from October 12-14, 2016 in Nome, Alaska, the regional gathering was held to convene as many Bering Strait leaders and ocean policy professionals in one place to discuss the potential impacts from increased shipping and climate change and to look at ways to move forward and develop a vision for action.

The Kawerak Marine Program strives to ensure that the local voices from the Bering Sea, Bering Strait, and Chukchi Sea are adequately described and this workshop is one of the ways to ensure local voices are heard. The future



**PROTECTING THE FUTURE:** Bering Strait Leaders and ocean policy professionals gather on October 12th at the Covenant Church to discuss potential impacts from increased shipping and climate change to protect the local resources as well as capitalize on potential economic growth. Photo by Austin Ahmasuk

of Bering Strait region residents is tied directly to decisions that are taken to address an increasingly ice free Bering and Chukchi Sea.

On the third day participants developed a vision as follows:  
**"Guided by Yupik and Inupiaq values and traditions, we will continue to build sustainable capacity to uphold our spiritual and cultural tradi-**

**tions 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."**

The summit utilized a small group cohort throughout the three days, which allowed for group conversations and, if needed, more detailed conversations to occur between participants. The small group cohort was designed to stimulate active participation and rich conversation, build trust and strengthen relationships between participants, and encourage emergent recommendations/responses to specific questions.

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# Katirvik Cultural Center Grand Opening Success!

Photos and Story by Danielle Slingsby, Outreach

October 28th marked the day when a vision of Bering Strait elders came to life as the Katirvik Cultural Center. Years of planning, fundraising, forging partnerships, and garnering items for the collection came

together to open the only Cultural Center for the Bering Strait Region.

The Grand Opening started with the invitation to dignitaries on October 27th for an evening of celebration with speeches, dancing, donor recognition and mingling. The celebration continued the next day to the official public grand opening, that boasted of events at Katirvik Cultural Center like tours, sealskin bracelet making, tattoos and a bird skin parka presentation. Both events were well attended, even in spite of the bitter cold stormy weather.

The word Katirvik can be translated into Inupiaq and Central Yupik to mean "A Gathering Place." The goal was to create a physical space in the region dedicated to celebrate, educate, and share the rich culture and heritage of the Bering Strait.

Katirvik Cultural Center host displays to represent four themes that embody certain aspects of the region's culture to the Inupiaq, Central Yupik and St. Lawrence Island peoples. These themes emerged from a long collaborative effort of representatives from around the region to form the Culture Advisors Committee. Different items will be on display to represent the themes, and they will rotate on a biannual basis. New themes will be conceived every four years.

Culture in the Bering Strait has always been alive and thriving. This project is intended to further promote and strengthen efforts to celebrate and perpetuate Alaska Native culture. It will provide a physical space to improve access to the heritage resources of the entire region through curation, educational programming, community ceremony, traveling exhibits, visiting artists and visiting researchers. The four goals of the center include:

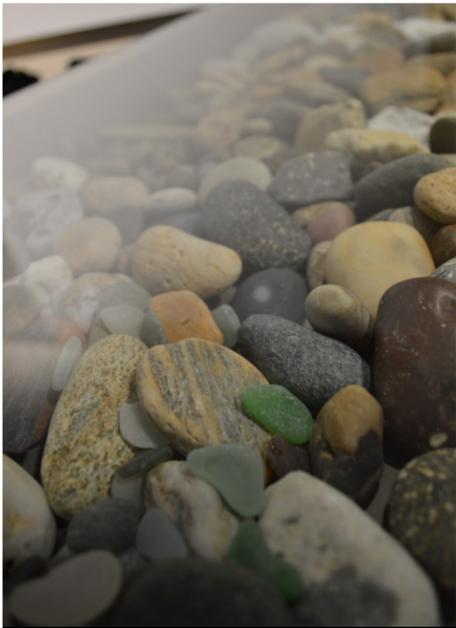
- Sustain living languages



**GROUP SHOT** Kawerak Board Members, staff and Cultural Planners gathered to commemorate the Grand Opening Ceremony on October 27th. (Top L to R) Kirstin Timbers, Blanche Okbaok, Amy Russell-Jamgocian, Betsy Pikonganna, Lucy Oquilluk, Merlin Koonooka, Robert Keith (Bottom L to R) Ahna Ozenna, Vince Pikonganna, Janice Doherty, Lisa Ellanna, Melanie Bahnke.



**TATTOOS** Marjorie Tahbone mimics traditional tattoos for kids using paint at the Katirvik Cultural Center Grand Opening on October 28th.



**NOT JUST ROCKS** With the support of the region's villages, Katirvik Cultural Center was able to collect rocks from every village in the region to showcase in the front counter for the Center.



**DANCE CELEBRATION** King Island Dance Group performed at the Grand Opening evening event on October 27th.

- through public, school and community programming
  - Be a place for community ceremony and celebration
  - Identify and provide stewardship of cultural resources through collection, curation and display
  - Be a space for communal sharing and gathering of Alaska Native knowledge
- The mission of the Katirvik Cultural Center is to preserve, celebrate, share and educate about the unique Indigenous knowledge and cultures of the Bering Strait Region of Alaska.

2. Rasmuson Foundation
3. Kawerak, Inc.
4. Bering Straits Native Corporation
5. Sitnasuak Native Corporation

Quyaana to everyone who has donated to ensure Katirvik Cultural Center remains an important resource for our region that will continue to benefit our people for generations to come.

If you would like to donate to KCC, log onto [www.kawerak.org/katirvik.html](http://www.kawerak.org/katirvik.html) or [Pick.Click.Give](#) to Kawerak for your 2017 PFD.

- Katirvik Cultural Center top 5 donors:
1. Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation

*Welcome* (English) *Quyakamsi* (St Lawrence Island Yupik) *Paġliugipsi* (Inupiaq) *Waqaa* (Central Yupik)



**DISPLAYS** Members of the public browse through the displays representing four cultural values chosen by the Cultural Advisors Committee.

**Kawerak, Inc.**

...Executive Order cont. from p.1

The Bering Strait region is ground zero for climate change and is also the chokepoint for marine traffic, which is increasing dramatically as a result of the lessening sea ice. The Tribes in Alaska were the first natural resource managers, the first participants in arctic commerce, and the first en-

vironmentalists. For us, a healthy ecosystem is a matter of food security, and it also allows us to maintain our unique cultural identity and rich heritage.

Our way of life is truly dependent on the environment that we live in and the natural resources that provide for us. The establish-

ment of the Executive Order will protect the vital subsistence economies that have lasted for millennia. For this action, Kawerak is extremely appreciative of President Obama's courage to take this step promoting the importance of indigenous knowledge in monitoring, observation and research.

## Strengthening Families Together

By Heather Payenna, King Island Tribal Family Coordinator

At Kawerak's Children and Family Services Annual Training on October 24-28, a partnership with the Child Welfare Academy out of UAA allowed our Tribal Family Coordinators (TFCs) to receive the Strengthening Families Curriculum that is also used by the Office of Children Services (OCS). The sharing of this curriculum allowed for a lot of dialogue between service providers and tribal members

who help identify services needed.

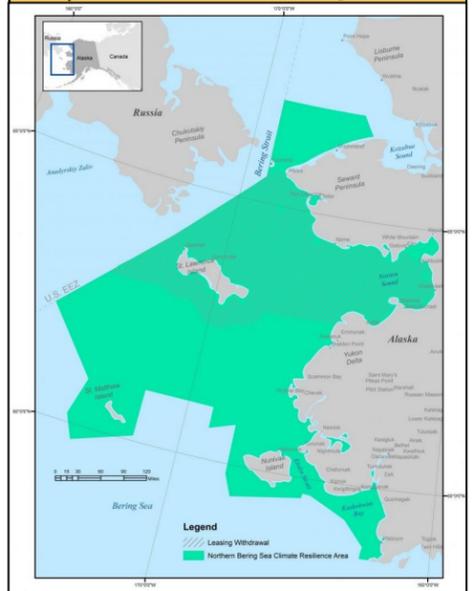
The intention of the Strengthening Families curriculum is to educate communities, providers, and families on how they can embed five protective factors seamlessly into their ongoing work to the benefit of families and children. The five Protective Factors are the foundation of the Strengthening Families Approach:

- Parental resilience
- Social connections
- Concrete support in times of need

- Knowledge of parenting and child development
- Social and emotional competence of children.

Research studies support the common-sense notion that when these Protective Factors are well established in a family, the likelihood of child abuse and neglect diminishes. The training was partly funded by Casey Family Programs who also sent a trainer up to provide basic ICWA training and new ICWA regulations training to our TFCs and one IRA council member

**MAP:** The Bering Strait Coastal Resilience Area designated by President Obama's Executive Order passed on December 9, 2016.



from each of our compacted villages for two days. Jack Trope was the trainer who came up and is the Senior Director in Indian Child Welfare Programs for Casey Family Programs.

Staff from local organizations such as Nome Community Center, Norton Sound Health Corporation, and the Office of Children's Services were also invited to participate in the training to encourage promotion of the Strengthening Families approach.

**Resources:**

- <http://www.casey.org/about/>
- <http://dhss.alaska.gov/ocs/Pages/families/default.aspx>



**GROUP SHOT** Participants of the conference representing agencies like Kawerak, Norton Sound Health Corporation, the Office of Children's Services, Nome Community Center and Kawerak Inc. Photo by Danielle Slingsby

## Village Report Highlights September Meeting

**BREVIG MISSION**

Teen Center opened. Taking steps to be more energy efficient. Building a shelter cabin. Don't want natural deep water port to become commercialized. City working on water and sewer. Interest in opening a tannery.

**COUNCIL**

NVC Transportation Program is doing a road maintenance project in Council on an overgrown road from Council to Ophir. NVC Environmental Program has completed their second successful season of collecting baseline water quality data in the Niukluk River Watershed.

Landfill education completed at the Environmental Youth Summit, a beach cleanup, and ongoing education for tribal members on recycling and proper disposal of household hazardous waste.

**DIOMEDE**

Great year for subsistence, but less murre on the cliffs this year. Diomedede is still actively participating in seal research by sending out samples of seals harvested. The tribe approved the Diomedede Bird Study Project, working with

Bethel Alaska-Biologist Hector Douglas, looking at diseases on the auklets. The two years study reflected no signs of H1N1. School numbers are back up with 36 kids enrolled.

Development Coordinator Noele Weemes obtained grant funding for a Burial Site Upgrade Project. Department of Energy grant desired for the purchase of a generator for Diomedede Joint Utilities. Challenges include possible shortage of heating fuel, lack of trained local law enforcement, phone and internet connection outages. IGAP continues to have success with education, outreach and coordination of city clean up activities, including the purchase of a better burn unit incinerator.

The Diomedede Reunification Project with the Russians continues.

**ELIM**

Looking for money for sewer after ANTHC completed water loops. Local Quickbooks training held. Working on trails.

**GAMBELL**

Great subsistence season. IGAP recycling and Military Debris Cleanup are active projects in the

community to help make Gambell a clean and safe place.

Land and Title were officially transferred to Sivuqaq Inc. (Gambell) and Kukulget Inc. (Savoonga) from the BLM in July.

The new Health Clinic is under construction.

**GOLOVIN**

STG is constructing a new or relocating the GCI tower on the upper part of town, to extend cell service. Looking to expand the Chinik Traditional Store to increase space and profit.

New piping water storages and treatment plant is good, but not all houses are connected.

Housing is an issue.

The VPSO had a meeting to recruit a Volunteer Fire Department. Beach Clean-Up through NSEDC this summer. The Point was also cleaned up/sorted and organized.

**KING ISLAND**

The three KI entities are working on increased collaborative efforts. Focus to build a community hall. Language education is a priority; currently in the relationship building stage with school institutions. RAMAH funds will be put to immediate use for stabilizing homes on

King Island and retrofitting the Community building.

**KOYUK**

EPA/IGAP work has been a priority to protect the environment. Cemetery restoration project on hold for Rural Cap grant. Youth programs are a priority including the completion of the Head Start project.

Pool Hall opened for community and youth activities thanks to grant from NSEDC.

**MARYS IGLOO TRADITIONAL COUNCIL**

Scrap Metal Backhaul program continues. Good subsistence year.

Facing fuel shortage challenges. National Geographic came to Teller to hear people's concerns about global warming and erosion. Cultural camp was a huge success.

**NOME ESKIMO COMMUNITY**

Welfare assistance serviced 130 applicants, of which 76 were approved. Burial assistance, Direct Employment, Higher education scholarships, vocational training, career development all provided assistance (Jan. 2016-June 2016).

...continued on p. 22

Kawerak, Inc.

# NiGipiaq Night!



**BEAUTIFUL PERFORMANCE** Nome St. Lawrence Island Dancers performing at NiGipiaq Night on November 19.

## Katirvik Cultural Center a Valuable Resource for Gathering and Sharing

*Photos and Story by Danielle Slingsby*

**K**awerak's Katirvik Cultural Center quickly proved itself as a valuable resource for groups and activities. Even prior to its official opening, groups such as the Elders Advisory Council and Archeology Camp utilized the space for workshops and to share in traditional activities.

Katirvik Cultural Center Director Lisa Ellanna welcomes groups, and actively forges partnerships to utilize the space and fulfill its intended purpose as a center to "celebrate, educate, and share the

rich culture and heritage of the Bering Strait."

The Center has kept active since grand opening, with its first event on Sunday October 30, the day following the busyness of Grand Opening. The Center hosted a book reading by Eileen Norbert to share the work of her grandfather, Menedelook, the only Inupiat photographer of his time. The event drew a large crowd including Menedelook's descendants.

NiGipiaq night on Saturday November 19th was another suc-

cessful event. The evening was sponsored by Inusiq Inc, an organization whose mission is focused on Language Revitalization. There was a traditional foods potluck, singing, dancing, and tips on incorporating language into daily life.

Lastly, Mary Kunnuk came to the Center to share her sewing and beading talent with the public just before Christmas on Sunday December 18th. All ages came to craft beautiful creations with her expert guidance.



**Top to bottom** Nome St. Lawrence Island Dancers; a sample tasting, Tula Huffman and Lillian Monson; Nome St. Lawrence Island Dancers all at NiGipiaq Night on November 19, 2016.

## Mary Kunnuk Shares Sewing & Beading Skills



**EXPERT TEACHING** (left) Mary Kunnuk offers guidance to Dawn Miller with her beading project. **FAMILY TIME** (above) A mother and son spend time together learning how to bead.

## Book Reading with Eileen Norbert



**TEAMWORK** (L to R) Marguerite LaRiviere, Eileen Norbert and Lisa Ellanna worked together to host the Book Reading on October 30, 2016.



**A FULL HOUSE** Menedelook Book Reading by Eileen Norbert drew a huge crowd on October 30, 2016.

\*A book signing is planned at the Iditarod Craft Fair, so stay tuned and make plans to get your copy of Menadelook!

## In Loving Memory



By Amy Russell-Jamgocian

The son of Aloysius and Clara Pikonganna, Vincent Ang'maluq Pikonganna of King Island, passed away Sunday December 18 after over 30 years of battling a severe heart condition. If anything, he had one of the strongest hearts of anyone I ever met. In the five years since I came to Nome to work for Kawerak on its Cultural Center project, I had the great privilege of working with Vince. Vince supported and advised me throughout the development of the Cultural Center.

Vince was intimately involved with the community when it came to promoting Alaska Native Culture and tradition, particularly among young people. He attended numerous events where community partners discussed efforts to support young people. He participated in every Kawerak Regional Conference and Cultural Planners event. He urged the Native community to continue hosting the annual Kaatiluta celebration, and was a prolific drummer at Eskimo dances. He would tell me that his main purpose in staying so active into his elder years was to keep cultural gatherings and traditions alive to pass on to young people for their current and future survival.

Vince would bring the attention of all our staff back to young people and his worries for them every time we met. He would say you should never hesitate to encourage a young person to do good things in their life; that encouragement and caring could have a profound effect on them and the choices they were facing.

Vince would bring the attention of all our staff back to young people and his worries for them every time we met. He would say you should never hesitate to encourage a young person to do good things in their life; that encouragement and caring could have a profound effect on them and the choices they were facing.

Many elders often voice their worry that young people might be irreparably losing their culture, but with Vince his worries were sources for ideas and inspiration on how to help. He wanted to bring young people and elders together. He wanted to host informal culture camps, traditional skills classes, local regional elder and youth conferences, and story nights; he wanted to mentor and advise young men who were struggling, and create a place where youth could always go that affirmed their culture, the strengths and the knowledge of their people.

Perhaps because Vince had not

ing, and living in peace with their environment.

In addition to great wisdom, Vince also brought us great cheer. He embodied the traditional value of humor. He told so many funny stories. I miss his laughter at a good joke. Fun fact, he had an astonishingly good Southern accent.

Although Vince never had worked as a professional public speaker his public speaking skills were profoundly good. Fear never kept Vince from speaking when his heart dictated that he should. I think of this as one of his defining and finest qualities. Even if afraid, or in the presence of people who did not admire him, he found the courage to speak out and speak up

Park Service for projects that benefited youth, such as the harpoon head 3D printing project. He traveled to Anchorage to study the King Island kayak in the Alaska Gallery of the Anchorage Museum, and helped work out an arrangement between the King Island Native Community and the CIRI Foundation for future repatriation of that kayak in Nome. Little known to others, he was one of the KCC's major collections donors, placing the greatest treasures from his father's tool chest permanently at the Center, so that young people could learn more about them for the future.

He was very concerned that someone should preserve the polar bear dance traditions of King Island, and share knowledge that would keep young men safe while they were hunting. And I feel it's important to list these things now at his passing precisely because few people knew how much effort Vince devoted to the Center and how much the wonderful opportunities of the Center that young people will have now are a legacy that Vince worked many years to provide.

"Let Your Work Do the Talking For You." As a promise to Vince, we kept a sign up in Cultural Center Director's office while it was being planned, that read the simple quote above, a saying Vince had learned from his father, Aloysius. This principle of doing good work without advertising it, but humbly letting the good work speak for itself was a mantra for us during the development of the Center, and Vince so wholeheartedly believed in it, that I believe many of his good deeds may have gone unnoticed.

Vince was not only a hard worker, and passionately devoted to helping young people find strength and safety from their culture, he was a person of great heart and capacity for love. It's our job now to share that love with those who gather at the cultural center, and to continue to encourage young people with the knowledge that many people care deeply about them, and among those was a dedicated and generous elder named Ang'maluq (Vince), who helped create the cultural center for their benefit, and who greatly inspired us all.

Vince vowed to help us any way he could to create the Katirvik Cultural Center, going above and beyond the efforts of most community supporters. He spoke strongly and persuasively at City Council and Kawerak Board Meetings, developed grant projects with us, and taught at Archaeology camps, youth events, and cultural skills workshops. He served on our Cultural Advisory board, and attended our Cultural Planners meetings. He was always available to interview on traditional knowledge where it was needed. He worked with tribal offices and the National

for what he believed was right. And he was persistent.

People should know that the Cultural Center owes its existence largely to Vince's support and his persistence. He inspired the Cultural Center's planners to stick to our guns and do our best in pursuit of this place for Yupik, Inupiaq and St Lawrence Island Yupik people to gather, and connect their youth to their cultures and traditional ways of life.

Vince was not wealthy but always spoke with gratitude about the knowledge he had gained by listening to elders in the qargi, staying close to King Island elders on East Beach after the community had relocated. He would return to the island to relive memories and stories from King Island elders. He spoke of this knowledge as the greatest wealth he had found and how fortunate he was to have had opportunities to learn it.

walked the straight and narrow path in his own life, he never acted superior or intimidating to others. And he cared deeply for young people facing similar struggles. He was the first to tell you of his former struggles with alcohol and his troubles as a young man, and to point to how the traditional knowledge of his elders helped to connect him to a better path in his life, and guide him out of these difficult times.

Like many elders, he worried that young men were losing the knowledge needed to keep them safe while hunting and boat-

ing, and living in peace with their environment.



**"Eskimo Dancing feeds the People, it makes them belong, it makes them laugh, it makes them share." Vince Pikonganna**

# Bering Land Bridge Link Builds Connection



**GROUP SHOT** Workshop participants from the Bering Strait Region and Chukotka gather for a group photo, September 21.

*Photos and Story By Danielle Slingsby, Outreach*

**S**ixteen Russians from Chukotka travelled over to the United States to build their knowledge and learn best practices around the issue of solid and hazardous waste management. In Chukotka, there are many barrels butted up against playgrounds and littering the countryside full of toxic waste left by the government. Residents began experiencing negative health effects, and decided it was time to do something about it.

Major funding through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and supportive funding through the Institute of the North and Kawerak, Inc. made it possible to create the opportunity for education, sharing, and building relationships between the Russians and Alaskans. Participants spent two and a half days exchanging presentations, participating in hands-on demonstrations, taking field trips and sharing culture. Although the focus of the workshop

was on methods of backhauling hazardous material, the agenda included such topics as reindeer management, Inuit history and culture, as well as a wonderful performance of Eskimo dancing.

"I think my favorite part of the workshop was when our Nome-based Savoonga dance group was performing and three of the Chukotka women joined them on stage executing the exact same dance moves," said Anahma Shannon, Kawerak's Environmental Coordinator, "It was amazing." The two groups of dancers had never seen each other or spoken, yet shared the common language of song and dance.

Two interpreters, Leonid Kokaurov and Svetlana Barton, both of Anchorage, made it possible for the people who live on either side of the Bering Strait to communicate in a meaningful way.

During the week people had the chance to tour the Bering Air hangar which has backhauled e-waste and lead-acid batteries from

the villages to Nome steadily for the past 6 years, the Kawerak staging area which processes those items and to the Alaska Marine Lines yard where those items are shipped for free to Seattle. Participants also got to drive out the Kougarok to the Midnite Sun Reindeer Ranch and were hosted by Bruce Davis and his reindeer, Brownie.

Opik Ahkinga, Diomedé's Environmental Coordinator, gave a moving presentation which showcased the clean-up efforts funded by both EPA and the Norton Sound Economic Development Company, showed the close proximity of Diomedé and Chukotka as well as highlighted their shared history. She made everyone laugh with her tales of getting world-class swimmers, who had aspirations of swimming the Strait, to grab garbage bags and help pick up trash during community clean-up events.

It took many months of planning, invitations, visa-free waivers, translated emails and documents

but the work was well worth it. We enjoyed a week full of cultural exchange kicked off at the start by Nome's own Mayor Beneville and ending with laughter in Bering Air's lobby as the Russians awaited their charter flight home going back more empowered to take action to clean up their community, preserve their subsistence resources and improve their health.

The planning team would like to thank Vera Metcalf and Austin Ahmasuk for helping with the process of invitations and the visa-free waiver, Bruce Davis, the Savoonga Dancers, Bering Air, and the Bering Strait communities who took part and showed their support. It would not have been possible without the dedication of Nils Andreassen with Institute of the North, Erica Zell at Battelle for facilitating, Santina Gay and Katherine Buckley of the EPA for tirelessly planning, and the brilliance and patience of our dear interpreters, Leonid and Svetlana.



**DANCE** Nome St Lawrence Island Dancers perform during a workshop break and are joined by Chukotka Dancer, September 21.



**LEARNING** Workshop participants listen to presentations about the dangers of environmental pollutants on September 20.

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# Holiday Memories for Our Children By Ian Foster, Foster Care Recruiter

**O**n December 11th, Kawerak held a Christmas party for foster parents at the Katirvik Cultural Center in the new Richard Foster building. The space which is used as a practice area for many of our drumming groups, was converted into a festive food and crafts area, where seven of our foster parents, along with 20 foster and biological kiddos came out for the food, friends, and fun.

There are a lot of considerations for an event like this. One consideration is photography. It's against general policy to take pho-

tos of kids in foster care to post in public forums. When a fun event happens, you either have to be there or imagine it; I can't share photos of the fun actually happening. I illustrate this point to say that many times we don't see the foster kiddos, or the foster parents, or the foster program happening, but it is.

And though I can't share photos of the party with all of you, and they won't be documented on the company Facebook page, there were a lot of happy kids eating loads of delicious food and having tons fun.

Events like these are to ensure our foster families feel appreciated. Although there are many challenges that make the "system" difficult for parents, foster parents and foster kiddos to navigate—they do so with a sense of purpose, and I see little miracles happen every day. We still have a great need for foster parents in our region, but we are moving in the right direction, and a lot of good things are happening.

At the time of year between Thanksgiving and Christmas, we spend a lot of time thinking about family and expressing

gratitude. Thanks to all the foster families and also to those who support them in all the little ways. For our event, special thanks to Shoni Evans for the crafts, Jessica Farley for the decorations, Michael Burnett of Bering Wellness for donating his time with shoulder massage, Milano's for the delicious food, and Lisa Ellanna for making the space available on a weekend. It truly takes a village.

**Interested in becoming a Foster Parent?**  
Contact Foster Care Recruiter  
**Ian Foster, 443-4372**

## Employer Foster Friendly Policies Make a Difference

*By Children and Family Services*

**K**awerak's Child Advocacy Center (CAC) provided services to a record-number of children this past year. Although this can be seen as a very negative statistic, we believe that this spike in services is due to the fact that people know that children will receive the care that they need, justice will be sought for them, and they will be safe from the abuse they were experiencing.

A rise in children in care equals a greater need for foster parents. Recruiting foster parents isn't easy. There are many challenges faced by foster parents once they enter the "system." One of those barriers can be employment as caring for a child may not always work around the demands of a job. However, an invested employer makes all the difference.

From a participation standpoint, Kawerak's employees are by far the largest contributors of foster parents in our region, more so than any other organization. Kawerak has foster-friendly policies that recognize the time and dedication it takes our foster-parents to be great foster parents, including paid time off to address the responsibilities of fostering, optional medical care for foster children in the family medical plan, and an overall encouraging attitude to foster parents.

For more information on policies, contact Kawerak Human Resources, 443-5231.



It takes a village.

**Become a Foster Parent.**  
907-443-4372



## Youth Embrace AFN

*By Bertha Koweluk, Wellness*

**F**ifteen youth from across the Bering Strait Region had the opportunity to go to the AFN Elders and Youth Conference this year on October 17-19. This trip was made possible by a partnership with Nome Eskimo Community to assist with chaperoning the youth, and Kawerak Wellness for supporting the youth airfare and registration. Koahnic Broadcast Corporation also assisted with travel for two students and partial coverage for one chaperone. We are very grateful!

Youth attending the sessions were able to strengthen their leadership skills, cultural knowledge and celebrate their Alaska Native heritage. They also took time with Koahnic Broadcast Corporation to interview elders and culture bearers, which was a valuable experience.

One youth was able to translate her experience to real life, quoting a memorable speaker to a family member, "When people make mistakes they are crying out for help, we just have to walk with them and love them. Because even I make mistakes."



**FUN AND FRY BREAD** Kawerak Inc partnered with Nome Eskimo Community to chaperone 15 youth to AFN, pictured here making fry bread (L to R) Richard Otten, Madeline Koweluk, Edward Kakaruk III, Kiara Okleasik, Alyssa Ahkinga, Daniel Oxereok-Milligrock & Sherri Andersen, photo by Bertha Koweluk

# Congratulations!

## Kawerak, Inc Employees of the Month!

To be nominated for employee of the month, one must show exemplary performance in the month that they are nominated, and be selected out of the nominees by the Employee of the Month Committee



**Krystal Hensley**  
April



**Joleen Oleson**  
May



**Alice Bioff**  
June



**Anna Whalin**  
July



**Kelsey Babcock**  
September



**Lisa Ellanna**  
October



**Erica Wieler**  
November



**Will Gemar**  
August  
-AND-  
**Employee of the Year!**

The Employee of the Year is selected out of the 12 candidates that received Employee of the Month from December of the previous year to November of the current year. The Employee of the Year is determined by an all-staff vote by Kawerak employees.



**Lisa Ellanna (pictured with Santa)**  
**Matthew Iya Award**

### Matthew Iya Award

Each year, Kawerak employees have the opportunity to nominate fellow employees who help make Kawerak a good place to work. The award is in memory of Matthew Iya, who was the Eskimo Walrus Commission and Housing Improvement Director at Kawerak in the 1980's and early 1990's. Matthew was a very hard worker, accomplished a lot, always had a good attitude and a smile on his face. He brought a sense of fun and camaraderie to the workplace. This year, Lisa Ellanna was selected to be the recipient of the Matthew Iya Award. The Matthew Iya Award nominees are selected through an all staff vote of Kawerak employees.

*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.*



Ron Huffman  
Veterans Advisory Council

**Congratulations Ron Huffman on your appointment to the Alaska Veterans Advisory Council!**

Ron has been a member of the Alaska Veterans Advisory Council since 2003, upholding the mission of the council. To the position Ron brings his 32 years of experience from his time on active duty in the United States Air Force. As a veteran himself he states he "understands the sacrifice and needs of Veterans across Alaska" He also has training with the Veterans Administration (VA) and as a Tribal Veterans Representative (TVR).

*The Alaska Veterans Advisory Council consists of 13 members appointed by the governor. The Council's mission is to address the needs and concerns of all of Alaska's veterans, their dependents and survivors and improve recognition of Alaska's veterans.*

**Congratulations Brandon Ahmasuk on your appointment to the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council!**

Brandon has been newly appointed to the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, and to it brings a wealth of knowledge and experience. Brandon grew up on a subsistence lifestyle,

hunting & fishing all throughout the year. Brandon is able to utilize the traditional knowledge he gained from experience to understand the valuable resources of our Region and ensure that the subsistence lifestyle is valued and made a priority. His focus is to provide understanding and communicate that harvesting one resource should have no negative impacts on a particular resource or other user groups. Additionally, he also sits on the Northern Norton Sound Advisory Council, that votes on fish & wildlife issues at the state level.

*The Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council votes on federal fish & wildlife issues which in turn goes to the Federal Subsistence Board.*



Brandon Ahmasuk  
Seward Peninsula Subsistence  
Regional Advisory Council



Melanie Bahnke  
Alaska Commission on  
Judicial Conduct

**Congratulations Melanie Bahnke on your selection to the Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct!**

Melanie was recently selected to the public commissioner seat on the Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct, and will be a positive contributor to the commission through her experience and passion for a just system. Melanie has 21 years of experience in reviewing and making decisions about professional conduct issues. She also serves on the Governor's Tribal Advisory Council in the Justice seat. Melanie states, "I'm passionate about equality and fairness, as well as representation of Alaska Natives on decision-making bodies that affect us."

*This Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct reviews complaints about members of the judiciary; mainly, judges. All Alaskans deserve to have judges who are impartial, fair, professional, and fit to serve in this capacity. This commission provides checks and balances in place to ensure this.*

**Congratulations Alice Bioff on your appointment as Council Member on the Alaska State Council on the Arts!**

Alice was newly appointed to the council in July 2016, and will be an excellent fit on the council with her background and dedication to the arts. Currently, as the Business Planning Specialist Alice has assisted and supported regional artists with Native Artist Professional Development training and has seen firsthand the impact art has within our communities and the direct tie to the preservation of our traditional ways. Alice states "Our art is directly woven into the fabric of who we are as indigenous people and the important role art plays in preserving our traditions and the economic well being of our communities. We have world class artists in our region that depend on the sale of their art to sustain and support their families and communities. I would like to play an active role in supporting our rural artists of all ages and forms of art."



Alice Bioff  
State Council on the Arts



John Halleran with his  
fiancé Henrietta Ivanoff.

Kawerak is very proud to celebrate our staff member, local VPSO John Halleran of Unalakleet for successfully completing the fifteen week Alaska Law Enforcement Training in Sitka on November 10th.

Kawerak is very proud of Nome Head Start cook Stephanie Eggart for her Alaska Head Start Association **Cook of the Year** award! She has done an amazing job shopping for all 11 Kawerak Head Start sites, shipping the food so they have it in time to serve the student's meals, cooking 2 meals and a snack for up to 75 people daily while following strict meal requirements to ensure healthy, nutritious meals.



Stephanie Eggart (center)  
with Deb Trowbridge (left)  
and Krystal Hensley (right)

# Proposals to Adjust Bear Hunt Adopted

By Brandon Ahmasuk, Subsistence Resources Program Director



**BEAR FAMILY** A sow and cubs travel across the tundra. Photo courtesy of Matthew Slingsby

**K**awerak and Nome Eskimo Community teamed up to submit two proposals to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game that recommend changes to the brown/grizzly bear hunt. One change would increase the hunt in 22B from one bear to two bears every regulatory year, from August 1-May 1.

The second proposal suggests an extension of the hunting season by one month for brown bear in Unit 22C, where the hunt would open on the first of April as opposed to the first of May.

The proposals site the following reasons why these changes would be beneficial to the area.

1. The recent brown/grizzly bear assessment survey by the Na-

- 2. With the increasing number of bears more cabins are being broken into as well as drying racks being raided.
- 3. The Unit 22B moose population crashed 20 years ago and has shown almost no recovery. Survival of moose calves is the poorest in the region. Bears are implicated due to the seasonality of the mortality. The managers have expressed concern that predation is holding the moose population below

threshold required for the moose population to grow.

- 4. Bear densities are the greatest in local memory.
- 5. Bear harvest rates are thought to be quite low. A significant increase in harvest is sustainable. The harvest is small in relation to the population and doubling the limit will not yield a doubling of harvest rate. This is a measure that will address multiple game populations and can be reversed in a board cycle or two if the impact is greater than expected.
- 6. The date when bears emerge from hibernation is variable and tied to snow condition. The end of the spring hunt is determined by timing of snow disappearance more than a calendar date. By increasing the spring hunt window, the two-or three-week period of adequate snow cover should be consistently contained in the season dates. Opportunity from year to year will be more uniform regardless on dates of break-up.
- 7. Local residents note increased human/bear encounters which

supports the technical conclusions.

- 8. Climate change has shifted the spring snow melt timing which has had the effect of limiting bear hunting opportunity especially on the south slope of the Seward Peninsula. .
- 9. Other game species may be reduced if bear harvest is allowed to increase. In recent years, muskoxen have been driven into the city limits and on to the airports, in large part by a need to escape bear predation on calves. The local reindeer herds are also feeling the effects of predation.
- 10. More bears are being taken as defense of life and property culls. A spring harvest is a better use of this abundant resource than the control measures used currently.

These proposals were adopted with a unanimous vote at the ADF&G meeting January 6-9 in Bethel. For the 2017/2018 season starting July 1 of this year GMU 22B will have a 2 bear a year limit. In the spring of 2018 Unit 22C the season will be April 1-May 31.



**BIG CHECK** Janis Ivanoff (left) and Tyler Rhodes (right) of NSEDC award Katie O'Connor with the Small Business Initiative check for \$25,000 for her salon, Fifty Shades Hair Salon. Photo courtesy of NSEDC.

## 2016 SBI Awardees

By Donna James, Senior Planner

**C**ongratulations to the 2016 Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation's Small Business Initiative winners (see below). There were 14 initial applications and six finalists made it to the final round.

Thank you to Alice Bioff, Kawerak CPD/Business Planning Specialist that helped several of the applicants and finalists with their applications. All of the applications were creative, very well-written and very thorough in their execution. It was tough selecting the final six applications.

- Here are the winners:
- \$35,000 **Midnite Sun Reindeer Ranch**, Bruce Davis
  - \$21,343 **KCE Snack Shop**, Addie Pungowiyi & Perry Pungowiyi
  - \$17,657 **Bering Tea & Coffee**, Kristine McRae
  - \$25,000 **Fifty Shades Hair Salon**, Katie O'Connor
  - \$35,000 **MK Supply**, Melissa K. Ford
  - \$26,000 **Crystal's Cache**, Crystal Dewey

**\$160,000 was awarded!** All six awardees also received a new laptop. A big thank you to NSEDC for investing in our regional small businesses.

## TUMET, LLC Shows Profitable Year

By Melanie Bahnke, President

**T**he for-profit roads construction subsidiary company that is co-owned by the majority of the tribes in the region and Kawerak Inc. had another successful year to report. The company was able to distribute over \$20,000 in profits to each owner Tribe, increasing the amount of funds available for tribal operations.

Profit from the year was driven mostly by equipment rental and support to local companies engaged in projects, such as the road reconditioning and maintenance project in St. Michael and Stebbins.

Kawerak, Inc.

# Nome Archeology Camp *By Danielle Slingsby, Outreach*



During a visit to the new Kativik Cultural Center, Nome Archaeology campers competed in an "Iron Chef" style cook-off. The challenge: salmon dip! They traded family recipes, created new recipes together, and endured the tough job of being official taste testers. (From L to R): Helga Takak (Elim), Caitlynn Hanna (Anchorage/Council), and Katherine Waghiyi (Savoonga)  
*Photo courtesy of Nome Archaeology Camp.*



Students at the 2016 Nome Archaeology Camp share stories during a session facilitated by Kawerak's Social Science Program. (From L to R): Caitlynn Hanna (Anchorage/Council), Sophie Chien (NPS Media Intern), Owen Hebel (Nome), Walter Bell (Nome), Tara Fernandez (Shishmaref), Jason Katcheak (Stebbins/Nome)  
*Photo: Cindy Wieler, Research Specialist*



During an oral history workshop with Kawerak at the Nome Archeology Camp, students and elders shared stories about supernatural experiences, traditional values, and growing up in Alaska. Caitlynn Hanna states, "Our elders are our encyclopedias. They teach us many things like subsistence, values, language, history, art, and food." Pictured, Orville Ahkinga.  
*Photo courtesy of Nome Archaeology Camp.*

**T**he Nome Archeology Camp in July hosted Nome and Bering Strait students to engage in a series of field trips and hands on activities, including mapping archaeological sites, conserving artifacts, assisting with a hatchery project and listening to their elders tell stories about the supernatural. The program, run by the National Park Service, partners with organizations such as Kawerak, Alaska Geographic and Bering Straits Native Corporation. Kawerak supports young people's engagement with land, culture, and stewardship and are pleased to have been a part of this project.

## It's Not Too Early...Don't Wait Until It's Too Late

**Why is having a will important?** Having a will ensures that your Native allotment will go to whomever you decide to give your land to. Also, established wills prevent fracturing of land ownership.

**How do I make a will?** Kawerak Land Management Services can assist with the drafting of wills for those who own a Native allotment or Native townsite. Contact Charles Ellanna, 1-800-443-4316 or 443-4323 or email [lmsspec1@kawerak.org](mailto:lmsspec1@kawerak.org) and he can assist with getting you started on the process.



Charles Ellanna, LMS Specialist 1, 443-4323

### ...Store Opens in Brevig Mission *cont. from p.1*

breakeven analysis using a tool offered by the Alaska Small Business Development Center, understanding the market, and other business considerations. Frieda and Terrance carefully developed their Small Business Initiative proposal and had it ready to submit to

NSEDC by July 15, 2015.

After many hours of painstaking work, their dedication to this project took off! Following two rounds of detailed review by a group of independent judges resulting in their NSEDC award, building renovations, equipment purchases, supply orders and sup-

port from friends and family, on September 5, 2016 Terrance and Frieda opened their doors to F&T Store and have been busy ever since offering affordable groceries and supplies in their community.

Kawerak Inc. Community Planning Department would like to say a hearty congratulations to Frieda

and Terrance for their success. If you have an idea that you would like to turn into reality, contact us at 1.877.219.2599, 443.4248 or email [cpd@kawerak.org](mailto:cpd@kawerak.org).

Check out some business planning resources online at:

[www.kawerak.org/cpd.html](http://www.kawerak.org/cpd.html)

## 18 Tribes Receive \$250,000

*By Melanie Bahnke, President*

**T**hursday August 11, Ramah settlement funds were finally released by the Obama administration. This settlement comes from underpayments in self-determination contracts at the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The settlement was approved in court on February 23rd 2016.

Kawerak is one entity named to receive this back payment of funds. The Kawerak Board of Directors directed that over \$4 million be placed in a "permanent-fund" type of investment with the goal that the fund grows over the years. Through the yearly growth

of interest from the investment, Kawerak will be able to access a portion of the earnings to continue to expand services in the region.

The Board also appropriated \$250,000 to each of the 18 tribes that generated the Ramah settlement. The distribution allows tribes to make individual determinations on what should be done with the settlement.



**COLLABORATIVE EFFORT** Kawerak, BSNC and NSEDC all worked together at AFN to support our region! The three organizations coordinated and planned a joint booth at AFN. Pictured Sterling Gologergan, Miriam Aarons and Danielle & Zac Slingsby. Others who provided wonderful support include Jack Albert Johnson, Ana Swanson, Bebucks Paul Ivanoff, Rose Fosdick, and Mary David.

Kawerak, Inc.

# Dance Gatherings Empower Our Culture & Pride

**K**awerak Regional Conference, Teller Dance Festival, Wales Kingimuit and the Point Hope Dance Festival are all examples of individuals and groups pulling together to ensure the preservation of culture and tradition. Making the time for dancing is not only a time for fun, laughter, sharing and of course food. It does so much more for our souls. It offers validity to who we are and where we came from. It give us strength to know we are dancing for our ancestors and we are dancing for our children and our future.

Kawerak Inc would like to thank all the hard work the organizers of these festivals have to invest, the countless hours dedicated to practice time of the dance groups, and the communities who are willing to share and dance together to pass on and value the traditions of our Region.

Quyaaanna, Taiku, and Dance On.

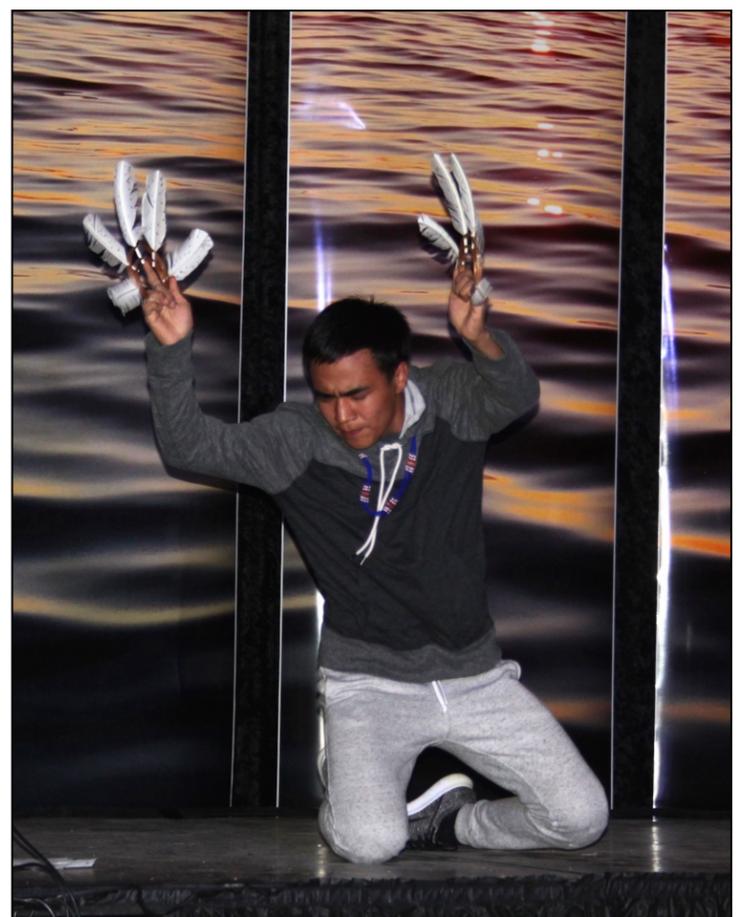


**DANCING FROM THE HEART** King Island Dancers at the Kawerak Regional Conference/Rural Providers Conference in Nome August 2016.



**YOUTH DANCING** Younger members of the King Island group perform at the Kawerak Regional Conference/Rural Providers Conference in Nome August 2016.

**IN ADDITION TO DANCING** Kawerak Regional Conference had many workshops focused on providing information for tribal leaders, service providers, and the general public on issues such as Adverse Childhood Effects, Traditional Plants as Medicine, and Youth Empowerment focused on increasing the capacity of our Region.



**SOLO PERFORMANCE** Byron Nicholai performing at the Kawerak Regional Conference/Rural Providers Conference in Nome August 2016.



**ROWING** King Island Dancers perform at Kawerak Regional Conference/Rural Providers Conference in Nome August 2016.

## Life Beyond High School

By Mariah Morgan, College and Career Guide

**A**re you feeling a little overwhelmed by the future? You are not alone. Really, you aren't alone because you have your own personal College and Career Guide! The Career Guide for Norton Sound is Mariah Morgan. **She can help you**

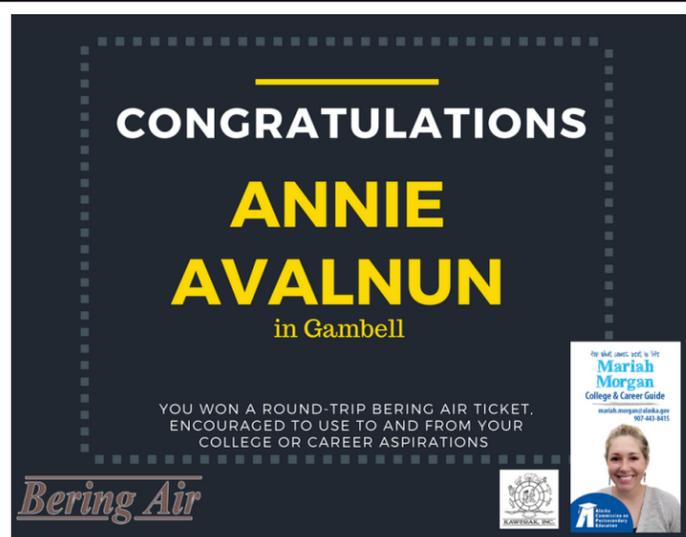
- Explore careers and develop a career plan,
- Research and apply to college and postsecondary institutions,
- Apply for financial aid including the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and schol-

arships and

- Register for appropriate tests including the PSAT, SAT, ACT, and ACCUPLACER.

Don't panic, but don't put planning for your future on the backburner. To get started contact Mariah Morgan at 443-8415 or email [mariah.morgan@alaska.gov](mailto:mariah.morgan@alaska.gov). Mariah travels around the Bering Strait Region to visit with students and families to offer one on one help; if you haven't met her yet on her travels through the region, you can still connect with her directly! Planning ahead can be in-

timidating but it is very rewarding and it is one challenge that pays off! Pave your way to your future by setting your course today.



**Contact Mariah Morgan, your College & Career Guide!**  
**Phone: 443-8415, 1-800-478-2202 extension 8415**  
**Email: [mariah.morgan@alaska.gov](mailto:mariah.morgan@alaska.gov)**

## Caleb Scholars Program Sees Continued Success

By Chandre Szafran, Caleb Pungowiyi Program Specialist

**H**appy holidays from the Caleb Pungowiyi Scholars Program! The Program is in its fifth year, and we are honored to say that since the Program began in 2012, we have tripled the number of students who earned the prestigious title of Caleb Scholar!

The Program would first like to congratulate our Scholars for Fall 2016:

**Stefanie Armstrong** of Kotzebue, pursuing a Masters in Engineering Science Management

**Kaylene Iñuuraq Evans** of Nome, pursuing double Bachelors in Political Science and Ethnic Studies

**Joanne Semaken** of Unalakleet, pursuing a Bachelors in Biological Sciences

**Marjorie Kunaq Tahbone** of Nome, pursuing a Masters in Cross-Cultural Studies

In addition, the Program would like to congratulate alumni **Amber Otton** and **Denali Whiting** for jobs well done in their Caleb Scholars roles this year. You may have seen Denali's work as a Caleb intern if you follow our [Facebook](#)

**page**—she set the bar high this summer as the Social Media Intern, sharing broad topics connecting our traditions to scientific endeavors across the state and the circumpolar north. Amber's work to archive important historical documents about Caleb in Kawarek's Eskimo Heritage Program inspired her, as is evident when she writes, "I am moved to do more for our people...the more I read about Caleb's life, the more I want to encourage others to not just be a Caleb Scholar one day—but to come together with all of his friends and keep doing what we can as traditional Inuks and protect our way of life." Kudos to all our Scholars for your achievements and ambition to move this work forward!

Internally, during the winter of 2015/16, the Program underwent a third-party program evaluation by the renowned Alaskan consulting firm, the McDowell Group. Experts from the McDowell Group interviewed broad, cross-sector program stakeholders, including Scholars, alumni, Committee members, partnering organizations, Universities and other post-secondary education institutions, Caleb's past colleagues, and Arctic science-based agencies and

institutions. The evaluation's key findings revealed that the Program supports students through a complex dynamic of inspiration and connection—showing that, basically, being a Caleb Scholar is a unique and rare opportunity that transcends traditional scholarship or fellowships. To join the Caleb Program is a commitment to carry forward his legacy; a commitment to academic achievement combined with ancestral fulfillment; and a commitment to upholding our connection to the land, ocean, and peoples of the Arctic, using higher education to advance our communities as a whole.

And finally, the Caleb Scholars Program was excited to make these connections in person this holiday season at the Caleb Scholars Annual Gathering! This year's Gathering was Saturday, Dec 10 at the Hotel Captain Cook in downtown Anchorage. The annual tradition to convene Scholars and Committee members offers the opportunity to share a meal with each other and get to know and celebrate the accomplishments of our Scholars. The Gathering felt festive, warm, and overall, demonstrated the growing impact of the Program. One Committee

member commented, "Today made me see that our circle is really growing." We look forward to continue growing, as we put efforts toward inviting aspiring applicants to join us in this tradition to remember Caleb's legacy, get to know one another, and share ideas about how to move marine traditions forward.

As 2016 comes to a close and 2017's opportunities await, the Caleb Scholars Program would like to extend special recognition to the Oak Foundation, whose financial commitment makes all this amazing work possible. We'd also like to honor Caleb's family, who keep Caleb's spirit alive and who continue to support our Scholars through their Program involvement.

If you're interested in supporting the pathways of our amazing Scholars and this unique Program, we are honored to welcome your donation. **To make a donation online, please use PayPal address [finance@kawerak.org](mailto:finance@kawerak.org), and note Caleb Scholars on your payment notes.** Any amount you are willing to donate is wonderful!  
 Quyaana and happy holidays from the Caleb Pungowiyi Scholars Program!

### ALUMNI PATHWAYS

#### Isaac Bailey

BS Biochemistry/Molecular Biology 2014; MS Biochemistry 2017; NASA Alaska Space Grant Program Fellow 2015, 2016

#### Nicole Kanayurak

BA Environmental Science 2013; Masters Marine Affairs 2016; ICC Advisory Committee.

#### Shaylyn Yosty Storms

BS Natural Science 2015; Biological Science Technician USGS.

#### Lisa Ellanna Strickling

MA Rural Development 2014; Director Katirvik Cultural Center, opened October 2016.

#### Malorie Malgui Johnson

BA Rural Development 2015; ICC Intern; Elders & Youth Council delegate; AFN President's Youth Leadership Award nominee.

#### Nicole Bruckner

BA Rural Development 2012

#### Denali Whiting

BA Alaska Native Studies 2016; ICC Intern; Arctic Council 2016 delegate.

#### Amber Otton

BS Biology 2013; pursuing RN; Caleb Pungowiyi Project Intern Eskimo Heritage Program.



Kawerak, Inc.

# Listen to Children's Books in Inupiaq!

By B. Yaayuk Alvanna-Stimpfle, Eskimo Heritage Program Director

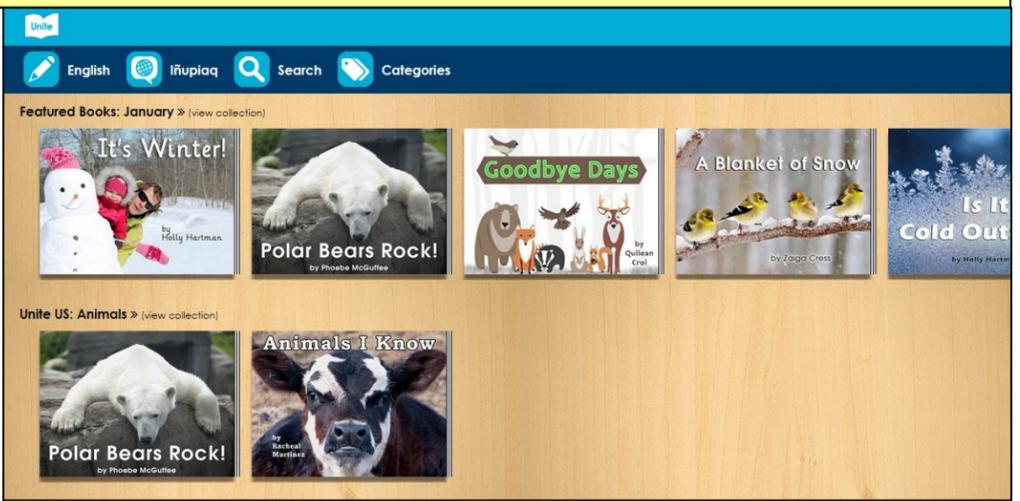
In December of 2014, Dr. Kathryn Ohle from School of Education at University of Alaska, Anchorage made a phone call to Bernadette Alvanna-Stimpfle, Kawerak's Eskimo Heritage Program (EHP) Director to request assistance with the translation of children's books to Inupiaq. The project was to have Inupiaq audio for books on UniteforLiteracy.com.

Bernadette along with Marjorie Tahbone, former Cultural Materials Development Specialist at EHP translated and recorded twenty five books for the project, a huge undertaking. Dr. Ohle received the audio and added the Inupiaq language as a selection to the 35 other Narration languages on the site,

[www.uniteforliteracy.com](http://www.uniteforliteracy.com).

The EHP Department then printed hard copies of all twenty-five books to have them available to the teachers and children in the Kawerak Head Start Program as well as all the public schools and libraries in the Bering Strait region.

This project links directly to a new project started by EHP through a partnership with University of Alaska Fairbanks, School of Education and Bering Strait School District (BSSD). The two-year project is called, "Place & Culturally-Based Arts Instruction and Integration in the Bering Strait Region." The project is funded by a grant from the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation. As a part of this project,



LISTEN IN INUPIAQ Screenshot of a few of the 25 books that are available

Kawerak's EHP program will provide Cultural Orientation Camps for BSSD's new teachers and support language teaching curriculum for Bilingual-Bicultural instructors in Inupiaq. These instructors will be local residents interested and dedicated to language revitalization who become a working cohort of instructors that will work toward earning a teach-

ing certificate throughout the program.

To learn more about these projects contact **Bernadette Alvanna-Stimpfle at 443-4386 or email [ehp.dir@kawerak.org](mailto:ehp.dir@kawerak.org)**. To listen to the stories in Inupiaq, log on to [uniteforliteracy.com](http://uniteforliteracy.com) website and select Inupiaq as the Narration Language. Happy reading!

# Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) Education Summit Yields Outcomes for Inuit Education Strategy



GROUP PHOTO ICC Education Summit participants gather for a group photo in Anchorage during the Summit November 8-9.



ADDRESSING THE GROUP Marjorie Tahbone, former Cultural Materials Development Specialist addresses Summit participants.

By Danielle Slingsby, Outreach

November 8-9 regional delegates gathered from around the state, traveling from the Bering Strait, the Northwest Arctic, the North Slope and the Southwest. During the summit the delegates spoke passionately about their vision for the future of education for indigenous children and their hopes and plans for realizing the Inuit Education strategy. The goal of the summit was to bring working groups together from around the state to consolidate ideas and look in-depth at the six framework strategies that were developed over the last few years.

The following list outlines the common themes as published by the ICC:

1. **Language Immersion school from birth to adult** – Revitaliz-

ing and prioritizing the language is the entry point for creating whole healthy, successful, productive members of both the Inuit and global society our children are a part of.

2. **Growing and developing our own local teachers, administrators and leaders** and creating immersive cultural training and development programs to support them.
3. **Developing culturally and locally relevant curriculum** recognizing that our local communities are not homogeneous and that there are differences between rural communities and cities. Standardization will not and does not work, it must be about the community. It must also include curriculum that teaches our history from our perspective.
4. **Creating our own teacher cre-**

**denialing and standards**, so elders and Inuk with traditional knowledge and language skills can begin teaching and being respected and compensated as teachers.

5. **Implementing a local schooling calendar and rhythm that aligns with traditional and subsistence activities**, design the school calendar and day to match traditional and subsistence activities of the local area. Link subsistence and traditional activities to the education system and curriculum so children can receive credit through education in the field with their families and teachers.
6. **Making appropriate systemic and policy changes** at all levels that support the vision for Inuit education, there needs to be a holistic view of the entire edu-

cation system to create new frameworks and philosophies for indigenous education. This requires removing the fear and being willing to try new ideas and breakdown our old frameworks.

7. **Community building to create unity, clarity of focus and ownership**, community involvement, dialogue and support will be required to bring everyone together to eliminate "us" vs. "them" mindsets, for healing, for building an education system/school that works for each community and fosters a sense of pride about the education system and its future.

For more information on the Alaska Inuit Education Improvement Strategy, go to [www.iccalaska.org](http://www.iccalaska.org).

Kawerak, Inc.

# I AM INUIT Project to Exhibit in Anchorage

By Danielle Slingsby, Outreach

**W**e are very excited to share the announcement of the I AM INUIT exhibit at the Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center opening February 24, 2017.

Kawerak is honored to be among those organizations that have sponsored the project, alongside the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, The Oak

Foundation, Maniilaq Association, the Alaska Humanities Forum and NANA Regional Corporation, Inc.

I AM INUIT is an Inuit Circumpolar Council Alaska project that seeks to connect the world with Alaskan Inuit (Inupiat, Yup'ik, Cup'ik and St Lawrence Island Yupik) and the Arctic, through common humanity.

Brian Adams, Professional Inupiaq Photographer has traveled to Inuit communities throughout the Alaskan Arctic to capture life, culture and society through photos and short stories for I AM INUIT.

Go to [www.iaminuit.org](http://www.iaminuit.org) for further information and to find the links to the

project social media sites: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Tumblr.

**I AM INUIT** Tara Richards and her daughter Shailene. *Photo courtesy of Brian Adams.*



**I AM INUIT** Youth performing a traditional Inupiaq dance at a community picnic in Shishmaref, Alaska, 2016. The picnic was organized by a small group of locals in an effort to support and bring the community together. *Photo courtesy of Brian Adams.*



## PICK.CLICK.GIVE OPENS FOR 2017

Starting January 1<sup>st</sup> you can apply for your 2017 Permanent Fund Dividend. Remember to **Pick.Click.Give** to your favorite Alaskan charities including **Kawerak, Inc!**

# Eskimo Walrus Commission Completes Elections

By Katya Wassillie, Eskimo Walrus Commission Specialist

**T**he Eskimo Walrus Commission (EWC) held its annual meeting November 16-17 at the Egan Center in Anchorage. Of the business that was completed, one main goal of the meeting was to hold elections.

The EWC is pleased to an-

nounce the results of the election as follows:

- **Charlie Brower** (Barrow) was re-elected as Chair (1 yr term)
- **Benjamin Payenna** (King Island) Vice Chair (2 yr term)
- **Enoch Oktolik** (Wainwright) Executive Committee Seat A (1 yr term)

- **Stephen Schaeffer** (Kotzebue) Executive Committee Seat B (1 yr term)
- **Kenneth Kingeekuk** (Savoonga) Executive Committee Seat C (2 yr term)

The mission of the EWC is "To protect the Pacific walrus population." **The Eskimo Walrus**

**Commission** represents Alaska's coastal walrus hunting communities in the co-management of the Pacific walrus population. Walrus continues to be an essential cultural, natural, and subsistence resource to St. Lawrence Island Yupik, Central Yup'ik and Iñupiaq communities.



**GROUP SHOT** Some Eskimo Walrus Commission commissioners stop to snap a picture during their annual meeting November 16-17. Pictured (L to R) Iver Campbell, Bryan Rookok Jr, Ahna Ozenna, Deahl Katchatag, Elmer Seetot Jr., Christine Komonaseak, Jacob Martin, Enoch Oktolik, Benjamin Payenna, William Igkurak, Stephen Schaeffer, Jack Schaefer.

# Summer Internship (continued from 2016 Issue)

By Brandon Bachman, Intern  
**T**his summer I had the privilege of working a summer internship with Kawerak's Social Science Program and Eskimo Walrus Commission in Nome, AK. I grew up in Haines, AK and I am Yup'ik with family from the village of Kwigillingok, AK. Last summer I participated in the First Alaskan's Institute Internship Program and at the end of the internship, I had a desire to grow closer to my Yup'ik heritage and learn more about the indigenous people of Alaska. As a member of the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP) at UAA, I learned of the internship with Kawerak through an email sent to all ANSEP students. As soon as I read the email, I knew I wanted to apply and I'm glad I did. My internship with Kawerak gave me experiences that I will never forget.

Upon landing in Nome, I was lucky enough to be welcomed with relatively warm sunny weather. It was refreshing to be in a small community again, away from the hustle and bustle of Anchorage. Once I got settled in my office at Kawerak, I learned more about the Social Science program through reports on topics such as traditional knowledge of subsistence practices, changes in the environment, and human relationships with animals and the environment. I also learned more about hunting walrus, which was new to me since there are no walrus in my hometown of Haines. Since it was my first time visiting this region, it was valuable to learn about some of the issues facing the Bering Strait communities and how climate change is affecting the subsistence way of life.

Through participating in

the Coastal Resilience and Adaptation Workshop, I learned even more about how climate change is affecting native communities and what can be done to adapt to this change. Environmental change drivers such as warmer ocean water, melting ice, changes in ocean salinity affecting the strength of

gok, told me stories about little people when I was young. I got to visit Shishmaref and had the opportunity to hear countless stories about people's encounters with the supernatural, many of which were similar to stories I've heard from people in other regions. It's important for these stories to be shared

One of my favorite parts about working with the Eskimo Walrus Commission was reading the interviews with hunters and elders and seeing the wealth of indigenous knowledge about the environment and how animals interact with ocean currents, weather, and sea ice. With changes in the environment, increased vessel traffic in the Arctic, and potential impacts to the marine subsistence way of life, I realized the importance of gathering the knowledge and perspectives of local hunters and elders. After attending the Polar Bear Summit with the Eskimo Walrus Commission I also realized how important it is for Alaska Natives to have a strong voice when it comes to working with the government on the management of walrus and other subsistence resources that our communities rely on. It's truly apparent that Alaska Native hunters know how to avoid loss and waste and how marine mammals should be treated. Although the environment is changing, I know that the knowledge and adaptability of our indigenous people is strong enough to meet the challenges head on.

Towards the end of my internship, I went on an amazing boat trip surrounded by beautiful scenery and calm weather along the Kuzitrin River. The purpose of this trip was to visit old sites and look for archeological evidence such as mounds in the ground where settlements may have been located. We were able to locate a few mounds with a grassy stretch of grown in land where houses may have been. The area was also filled with fox holes, showing that the dirt was different and was an easy spot for foxes to dig compared to the surrounding tundra. My task

ice, ocean acidification, and changes in ocean currents were discussed. These changes dramatically affect hunters who depend on the walrus, which are affected by the changes in the ice. Weather patterns have also become less predictable along with warmer winters, affecting the ability for hunters to safely go out for walrus.

The main project I worked on with the Social Science Program was the research project on Bering Strait residents' knowledge and experiences with the "supernatural environment." The supernatural environment includes experiences with little people, strange lights, sea monsters, shape shifters, and much more. My mother, who grew up in the Yup'ik village of Kwigillingok,

with others. Many of these stories also include precautions to take while going out in the country. I appreciated how open people in Shishmaref were to sharing their stories; it gave me a desire to hear more stories with knowledge passed down by our elders.

My work with the Eskimo Walrus Commission included transcribing interviews by local hunters for a report on traditional ecological knowledge about Pacific walrus. I also worked on editing their new website. As a Computer Systems Engineering student, I enjoy working with computers and making sure the digital layout and design is visually pleasing and functional, so I had a good time working with WordPress to edit the site.



INTERN BRANDON BACHMAN

## VPSO could be the Career for You!

Kawerak is currently recruiting VPSOs in the following communities:

- Diomedes
- Elim
- St. Michael
- Teller
- Savoonga
- Wales
- Shaktolik
- Stebbins

**What you need:** Dedication to the safety of your community.

Training is provided. Call VPSO Director Gina Appolloni for more information **1-877-219-2599** or **443-4252**.

## Current VPSO Roster

<p><b>Harrelson, Dan/First Sergeant</b></p> <p>White Mountain 99784 638-3626/2100 wk <a href="mailto:dharrelson@kawerak.org">dharrelson@kawerak.org</a> Monday -Friday 800am to 400pm</p>	<p><b>Olanna, Winfred Jr./Sergeant</b></p> <p>Brevig Mission/99785 642-2264 work, 434-1969 cell <a href="mailto:vpso.olanna@kawerak.org">vpso.olanna@kawerak.org</a> Monday to Friday 1000am to 600pm</p>	<p><b>Eningowuk, Barret/Sergeant</b></p> <p>Shishmaref/99772 649-3411 work <a href="mailto:vpso.shh2@kawerak.org">vpso.shh2@kawerak.org</a> Monday -Friday 1000am to 600pm</p>
<p><b>Navarro, Carlos "Julian"/Sergeant</b></p> <p>Golovin, 99762 779-3911 work, 739-1033 cell <a href="mailto:vpso.glv@kawerak.org">vpso.glv@kawerak.org</a> Monday-Friday 1000am to 600pm</p>	<p><b>Apatiki, Deborah/Corporal</b></p> <p>Gambell/99742 985-2030 work cell phone <a href="mailto:vpso.gam@kawerak.org">vpso.gam@kawerak.org</a> 900am to 500pm Mon, Tues. and Fri 1000am-600pm Sat. and Sun.</p>	<p><b>Halleran, John/VPSO</b></p> <p>Unalakleet, 99684 624-3008 UPD office, 434-1966 cell <a href="mailto:vpso.unk@kawerak.org">vpso.unk@kawerak.org</a> Monday -Friday 800am to 400pm</p>

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was to take pictures to document our findings, and I was also able to photograph lots of wildlife such as birds, a moose with calves, and even a bear. It was interesting to see where settlements once existed long ago and to think about how much history there is in the area.

I had a great experience working at Kawerak for the summer

and have gained a vast array of knowledge through the Eskimo Walrus Commission and the Social Science Program. The steps that are being taken to preserve our culture and way of life through traditional knowledge makes me proud to be an Alaska Native. My work with the research projects on the Supernatural Environment and the Traditional Ecological Knowl-

edge about Pacific Walrus has inspired me to dig deeper, listen, and learn more from our elders about traditional knowledge. At the Coastal Resilience and Adaptation workshop, I also realized that technology can play a vital role in helping communities adapt to changes in the environment. As an ANSEP student studying Computer Systems Engineering, perhaps some-

day I will be able to help develop solutions to help the native communities of Alaska. I would like to thank everybody at ANSEP and Kawerak that made this internship possible, and I hope that internships will continue to be offered for students like me who are eager to learn more about topics relevant to our native communities today.



**YOUNG MEDIA MAKERS**  
Five youth from the Norton Sound Region peaked their curiosity to learn about media production at Elders & Youth Conference 2016. The Alaska Teen Media Institute and Koahnic Broadcast Corporation helped youth learn how to use media as a modern means of storytelling. Pictured Yvette from White Mountain and Nichlos from Nome hard at work producing audio. *Photo by Chandre Szafran.*

**Thank You!** *From Kawerak Wellness*  
to Nome Community Center, Norton Sound Health Corporation and their staff for participating in Safety Patrol during Dividend Days. Without the willingness of volunteers we could not offer this valuable service to our community. We greatly appreciate your time and dedication!

... **Village Reports cont from pg (NEC cont.)** Rural Credit Services partners with NEC to provide Elder Tax Assistance  
Staff completed multiple cultural projects in the classroom such as making cottonwood oil, kuspuks and berry combs. Maligiaq Padilla was brought in to teach qayaq building and Inupiaq drum making. Four students are receiving academic, attendance and transportation support.  
Robotics club in April & May.  
Guys Read program was a great success.  
Afterschool activities at the recreation center are regularly attended by 14 youth.  
Scholarships were provided for Pre-school and Summercise.  
Transportation was provided for Nome Pre-school students.  
NEC Culture Club was a great success, with 17 participating youth making beach glass picture frames, agutaq, salmon spread, playing Eskimo baseball and practicing NYO skills. The Outdoors Club picked tukgaiyuks and sirrah and had lunch with the XYZ elders, participated at a day camp at Nuuk, hiked, and completed a STEM project at the library.  
Youth participated in successful field trips to the Midnite Sun Reindeer Ranch.  
Family services hosted Child Sexual Abuse training in Nome and 37 regional partners participated. In Anchorage they hosted Developing Community & Culturally Based Child Focused Protection Teams. Continuing Renovation Assistance Program and conducting research for planning and development of a low income apartment complex. Also planning to implement a

rental assistance service.  
Participated in an oil spill exercise, reviewed 46 wastewater discharge and mining permits.  
Assisted and partnered with many local groups and projects.  
Updating Long Range Transportation Plan and Tribal Transportation Improvement Plan. Also working to completed the Safety project around the Nome Elementary School.  
Transit service was expanded.  
**SAINT MICHAEL** \_\_\_\_\_  
Finished building the relocated reindeer corral. A helicopter service was hired to push reindeer back up toward the corral.  
Healthy Activity program held a Basketball Tournament.  
Grand opening for NSHC Triplex celebrated with ribbon cutting Ceremony.  
EPA/IGAP Program held First Community Wide Fall Clean Up.  
**SAVOONGA** \_\_\_\_\_  
Great New Years Celebration  
Working to improve Elder Nutrition Program.  
Serving summer lunch to kids, well participated program.  
Working with NARF for justice from harm caused by military occupation and contamination of the lands.  
**SHAKTOOLIK** \_\_\_\_\_  
Community built berm together. National Geographic interviewed residents on climate change.  
Denali Commission should be giving money for new tanks.  
Elder and Youth Camp held learning traditional activities, personal hygiene and safety.  
City will upgrade the washeteria.  
IGAP program continues to see success.  
Subsistence activity was good.

Safe housing is an issue with multiple family home suffering mold issues.  
Looking to install new playground equipment soon as money has been allocated for this project.  
**SHISHMAREF** \_\_\_\_\_  
Successful subsistence year.  
Fun successful events held including Lutheran Spring Conference, Spring Carnival, Basketball Tournament, Inupiaq Days and the Annual Wellness picnic.  
Trail stakes installed from Shishmaref to Cape Espenberg and Shishmaref to Wales.  
Road was paved and airport resurfaced.  
Tannery is currently being made more energy efficient.  
**SOLOMON** \_\_\_\_\_  
Hosted the Environmental Educational Youth Summit in Nome.  
Educating the public on recycling, energy and waste through IGAP including clean ups and pick ups.  
Utilizing BSRHAs grant to promote Family, cultural, recreational and social wellness choices with passes to NRC and Swimming Pool, tuition sponsorship for culturally relevant classes, and hunter support for tribal membership.  
Intends to enter a Alaska Court System agreement for the option of involving the tribe in state Court cases and utilize culturally appropriate restorative justice approaches in cases involving tribal members. The tribe also will work with DJJ to help develop and implement a diversion program for underage tribal members with restorative justice opportunities.  
**STEBBINS** \_\_\_\_\_  
goolbs of halibut was donated by North Pacific and divided by 123 households.

The school, laundry and Headstart are working on connecting to the new water plant.  
Internet has been out for a month for Kawerak staff.  
Boiler out for a year and now being replaced with monitor heaters.  
Stebbins BIA roads are eroding from hard rain fall.  
**TELLER** \_\_\_\_\_  
No report given.  
**UNALAKEET** \_\_\_\_\_  
Plans move forward to build assisted living facility for seniors. Building pad was made and engineering and design plans are complete. \$6 million more is needed for construction.  
First steps made toward tribal self-governance by direct contracting with BIA for ICWA, GA, JOM, Roads, and aid to tribal government monies.  
Backhaul project is looking good; results are seen in the clear testing of the water.  
**WALES** \_\_\_\_\_  
Great turn out for Lemonade Day. Still waiting on BSNC for spill cleanup from fuel loss in May.  
Good subsistence year  
Concerned about rapidly changing weather and NSHC providers not getting in due to bad weather.  
**WHITE MOUNTAIN** \_\_\_\_\_  
City in need of a gravel source, new housing, new store and new Head Start Building.  
IGAP is successful and busy. Applying to the SOA for Tribal Water Rights of the Ichupak River. Grant programs include elder meals, community dry rack, beading, ice fishing, dancing, drumming, Campfire USA program, egg takes, TFC Family Night.  
Getting a new water storage tank.  
\_\_\_\_\_ **END** \_\_\_\_\_

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**REINDEER HERDERS ASSOCIATION** Group shot of attendees at the Reindeer Herders Association Meeting. (Left to Right) Harry Karmun Jr., Roger Menedelook III, John Lockwood, James Pushruk, Theodore Katcheak, Clifford Weyiouanna, Tom Gray, Nathan Hadley Sr, Bruce Davis, Richmond Toolie, Merlin Henry. Not pictured Sarah Okbaok.

## Reindeer Herders Association Meeting Highlights

By Rose Fosdick, Natural Resources

The annual Reindeer Herders Association meeting was productive and informative. Of

the business conducted, one item included electing Bruce Davis as President of the association. Presentations were delivered

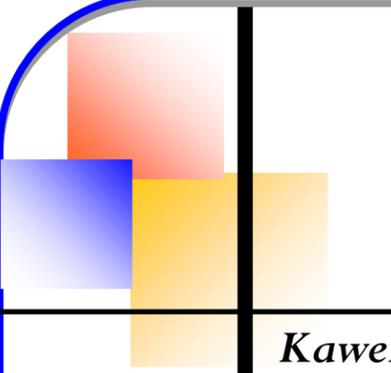
by the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

commercial field slaughter protocol. Additionally, the UAF Foundation is fundraising to support reindeer research

The ADF&G informed herders the Western Alaska Caribou Herd and 2016 photo census resulted in an estimate of 201,000 caribou in the herd.

The BIA stated they funded travel for a Global Reindeer Youth Summit in 2016 and will again fund a summit for 2017. BIA also expressed a possible Reindeer Summit in Fairbanks in 2017.

UAF reported the research herd on the UAF campus numbers 70 reindeer, and the program is developing a draft uniform

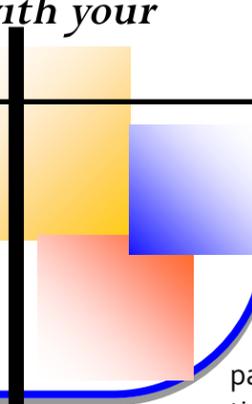


### Tribal ID Cards

## ARE YOU A TRIBAL MEMBER AND JUST NEED A TRIBAL ID?

*Kawerak Tribal Affairs, in addition to your local tribal office, can create Tribal ID Cards for Tribal members in the Bering Strait Region with your Tribe's approval.*

**Contact Tribal Affairs for an appointment  
Nome Office, 907-443-4257**



## Caleb Scholars Gather

By Chandre Szafran

Caleb Program Scholars, alumni, staff, committee, and partners met at the Program's Annual Gathering on Dec 10 at the Hotel Captain Cook in Anchorage. The Gathering was warm, festive, and offered the opportunity for Program stakeholders to remember Caleb. They shared their goals and visions for Scholars to carry forward his legacy through positive change and impacts that will continue to protect our marine traditions into the future.



**RAMPS TO COME** Head Start was awarded one time funds from the Office of Head Start to purchase and install a handicap ramp at our Kawerak owned Gambell Head Start and the City of Saint Michael owned Saint Michael Head Start. Installation is expected to occur Spring/Summer 2017. Pictured, current Headstart building in Gambell. *Photo by Anthony Shield*



**ALL TOGETHER** Pictured are Caleb Scholars Tonia Osborne, Marjorie Tahbone, Joanne Semaken, and Kaylene Evans; Alumni Denali Whiting, Stefanie Armstrong, Malorie Malgui Johnson, Shalyn Yosty Storms, and Amber Otton; Committee members Siikauraq Whiting, Austin Ahmasuk, Robert Suydam, Anne Henshaw, Julie Raymond-Yakoubian, Cherissa Wieland, and Gladys Pungowiyi; Program staff Chandre Szafran, Luisa Machuca; and Program partner Dewey Hoffman. *Photo courtesy of the Caleb Scholars Program.*

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