Twenty five youth from the whole region attended Kawerak’s Wellness Program, Camp Igaliq, July 26th - 30th held at Norton Sound Health Corporation’s camp at Nuuk. Earl Polk and Evon Peter shared stories and lessons along with Elders and guest presenters.

Other presentations included:

- Basket Weaving by MaryJane Litchard
- Drum Making by Sylvester Ayek, Brian Muktoyuk, and Bernard Penetac
- Dancing and Drumming by the King Island dancers
- Values by Stephanie Johnson
- Suicide Prevention by Collette Topkok
- Motivation and Perseverance by Lester Keller
- Marjorie Tahbone, Ms. World Eskimo Indian Olympics
- Music and Inspiration by Tom Mute
- Health Awareness and Edible Plants by Moriah Sallafie and the CAMP department
- Maaqi (steam bath) by Earl Polk
- Elder stories, and
- Good food by Grace Pullock.

Five participants from last year’s camp returned as mentors.

For more information about Kawerak’s Wellness Program contact: Aprille Pitt or Bobby Evans, Wellness Coordinators at (907)443-5231.

Congratulations to MaryJane Litchard for receiving the coveted Alaska Federation of Natives 2010 Eileen Panigeo MacLean Education Award

Pictured above is MaryJane Litchard, Kawerak’s ABE/GED Program Specialist/Instructor with Alaska Federation of Natives 2010 delegates from the Bering Strait Region. See full nomination on page 2. Pictured front row, left to right: Pauline Koezuna, Bernadette Akvanna-Simpfle, DeAnn Moore, Mary Jane, Loretta Bullard, Marjorie Tahbone, Kelly Ningealook, & Carolyn Ningealook. Back row, left to right, Marilyn Koezuna-Irelan, Melanie Bahnke, Donna Barr, Karla Noyajpuk, Aisha Savage-Concha and Sandra Tahbone. Picture courtesy of Clara Langton.

2011 Kawerak, Inc. Bering Strait Regional Conference

“BUILDING ON OUR STRENGTHS”


Native Dance Celebration | Traditional Attire Fashion Show | Reindeer Stew Dinner

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY at www.kawerak.org

February 22-24, 2011 Contact: Barb Nickels Nome Recreation Center 443-7427/434-1833 rc.coord@kawerak.org
Eileen Paniego MacLean Education 2010 Award Nomination

The Alaska Federation of Natives President’s Eileen Paniego MacLean Education Award is named in honor of MacLean, a teacher and state representative who was an advocate for Alaska Native education. Recipients of the award are chosen based on their commitment and accomplishments that improve educational opportunities for Alaska Natives. Below is Kawerak’s nomination of Ms. Litchard.

MaryJane (Anuqsraaq, Little Wind) Litchard was born in Kotzebue and spent her early childhood in Lost River and Teller. She and her family moved around Alaska, living in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Barrow, and Nome. In her blended family, MaryJane shares 18 brothers and sisters and many relatives throughout Alaska and the US. In an effort to further her education and become a role model for her own six children, MaryJane pursued her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees.

Drawing from the inspiration of her Elders, including her grandfather, artist James Kivetonuk Moses, MaryJane developed her love for native arts through drawing, painting, and basket weaving. MaryJane has grown into an artist in her own right and is active in the Bering Straits Inuit Council and often shows her work at regional and state gatherings, including Kawerak’s Regional Conference, Alaska Federation of Natives Conference, and the Festival of Native Arts. Her work has been showcased around the state, and last spring she was invited to be the artist in residence at the Sitka Museum. She periodically teaches art through the Alaska Native Heritage Center in Anchorage.

MaryJane extends her love of culture from the visual arts to the healing arts. She has learned healing techniques from traditional Native healers and Japanese healing touch, and shares her techniques with her community.

For over 20 years MaryJane has been an advocate for adult education, and has worked as a teacher of Adult Education around the state. In 2004, she was awarded the Alaska Adult Education Association Educator of the Year award for her commitment to teaching in the GED programs in Barrow, Anchorage and Nome. MaryJane was a member of the statewide GED Math Team, which developed curriculum for adult learners around the state. In her community, MaryJane presents innovative teaching methods at venues such as the Annual Health Fair and Kawerak Regional Conference. Her holistic approach to learning includes repetition, nutrition, brain exercises, and a positive outlook. Over the years she has contributed materials that help students achieve success in their studies, such as handouts on testing tips and math readiness. Her success in reaching students can be seen all over the region.

In addition to her instruction at the Nome Learning Center, MaryJane assists students in the villages of the Bering Straits Region with assessment and preparation for the GED test. Her style and love for what she does reflects a genuine concern for and commitment to the people of her region. Integral to her instruction is the reverence for culture and self-worth. MaryJane shares her experiences with her students and often combines the lessons of art and life into her teaching.

MaryJane enjoys developing new and creative ways for students to learn, and is always willing to implement new techniques into her teaching. At the end of each school-year, MaryJane joins her program and their students in celebrating their successes at the annual graduation. As a special treat, the graduates receive an original fur flower, lovingly made by MaryJane, to wear on their robes.

About her teaching philosophy, MaryJane says, “Use your life energy positively, apply yourself to your studies, and keep an eye on your journey,” and it is echoed in the gratitude of many of her students, including one who wrote, “Your encouragement and guidance led me to get my GED; your inspiration will carry me even further.”

Other AFN Education Nominees: Nancy Douglas/Kathryn Eddy, Sitka Sven Haakanson, Jr., Old Harbor Lance “Qaluraq” Kramer, Kotzebue Emily Roseberry, Barrow.
Kawerak’s Social Science Program Expands
by Julie Raymond-Yakoubian, Natural Resources Division’s Social Scientist

Kawerak’s Social Science Program, which is part of the Natural Resources Division, has recently expanded its staff in conjunction with the initiation of a number of new projects being carried out in collaboration with region tribes and organizations. Lily Ray was hired this fall to work as a Social Scientist on a new project called Community-Based Documentation of Ice Seals and Walrus (see her article below). Our program also recently hired Helen Pootoogooluk as a Research Assistant for our Indigenous Knowledge and Use of Bering Strait Region Ocean Currents project, and Edwina Krier as our Social Science Research Assistant to work on all of our projects. Eva Menadelook, Eskimo Heritage Program Specialist, is also contributing her expertise to our Iŋalit Traditional Knowledge of Walrus in Bering Strait project.

New Projects:
Social Science is currently working on a 3 year project called Local Ecological Knowledge of Non-Salmon Fish in the Bering Strait Region, funded by the USFWS. This project involves both a non-salmon harvest survey and traditional knowledge interviews with Local Experts. The harvest surveys have been completed and I will be returning to Shishmaref, Wales, Brevig Mission, Teller and Stebbins early in 2011 to present the results back to each community and to plan for the traditional knowledge interviews. This project is documenting current harvest levels of non-salmon fish and traditional knowledge about the harvest, processing, use of, and importance of these fish to region residents.

Our Indigenous Knowledge and Use of Bering Strait Region Ocean Currents project is also a 3 year project and is funded by the NPS Beringian Heritage Program. This exciting project involves collaboration with Shishmaref, Diomede and Wales, as well as 3 Russian communities (Inchoun, Lavrentiya, Lorino) and Russian researchers. The goal of the project is to document community knowledge about, and uses of, ocean currents in the Bering Strait region in both traditional and contemporary times. The project will involve interviews with Local Experts as well as mapping sessions documenting knowledge of ocean currents.

Kawerak also has a 3 year project, funded by the North Pacific Walrus Commission and the Ice Seal Committee are also partners on the project and are helping develop interview and mapping questions. The project will last for three years, and will involve the communities of Diomede, King Island, Savoonga, Nome, Eliśmy, Kowuk, Shaktoolik, St. Michael, and Stebbins.

The project will produce maps of important places for ice seals and walrus, including feeding, haul out, breeding, molting, and migration areas. We will also map places important for subsistence users, including hunting areas and travel routes. These maps, after community approval, will be added to Oceana’s Atlas of Important Ecological areas, and can be used to advocate for special protection of these areas from trawling, shipping, or other development.

Information collected in interviews, such as traditional knowledge and challenges faced by hunters, will be used to create community-approved policy recommendations for protecting subsistence uses of these species. Another goal of the project is to document community knowledge for community use, for example to educate young people. As part of the project, each community is consulted to find out what kinds of traditional knowledge they would like documented. Currently, community suggestions have included traditional safety knowledge for young hunters, respect for ice seals and walrus, and documentation of local marine mammal ordinances. The information gathered during the Ice Seal and Walrus project will be given to each community and also be archived with the Eskimo Heritage Program, where it will be available to future generations.

In order to better involve young people, Kawerak’s Social Science department is partnering with UAF to offer high school students 16 and older an opportunity to earn college credit while assisting with this research. The course, titled “Documenting Traditional Knowledge” will be offered over a 10 day period in each participating community (see page 6). Participating students will learn to assist with traditional knowledge interviews and mapping, and to analyze and present data. They will also learn about ice seals and walrus from local elders and experts.

We are also having an essay contest for high school students in the region, asking them to interview family members or other community members about ice seals and walrus. The two themes for this year are hunting safety and traditional foods (see page 2). If you would like to know more about this project, the class, or the essay contest, please contact Julie Ray at jray@kawerak.org or 907-443-4262.

Community Based Documentation of Ice Seals & Walrus
by Lily Ray, Social Scientist

The Social Science program at Kawerak, Inc. has a new project titled “Community-Based Documentation of Ice Seals and Walrus.” The primary goal of this project is to map ice seal and walrus habitat and subsistence hunting areas. The project will also document other information about ice seals and walrus, including community observation of changes to animals or sea ice, challenges to continued subsistence use of these species, and traditional knowledge.

This project is funded by the Oak Foundation, the National Science Foundation, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Additionally, the marine conservation organization Oceana is partnering with Kawerak to help with the mapping parts of this project. The Eskimo Heritage Program at the Eskimo Heritage Program Archives.

Photo from the Curtis Nuyokpuk Collection at the Eskimo Heritage Program Archives.
On November 12th and 13th, the Nome Recreational Center was brought to life by the Annual Health Fair. This impressive event, which is made possible by the CAMP department along with numerous volunteers, drew in a crowd of more than 900 people, including 604 children. Saturday, November 13th, 149 community members took advantage of the low cost blood screenings that were offered through the Alaska Health Fair. These blood screenings included A1C (estimated average glucose), Vitamin D, Prostate, Thyroid as well as a 24 panel Hematology Profile. Flu shots were offered on both days by Public Health Nursing.

This year's theme, "Harvesting History," focused on family health history and emphasized the importance of cultural and traditional history throughout the region. With the music of the King Island Drummers and Dancers playing in the background, the community was able to tour each booth, complete the health fair questionnaire, then choose either a bag of fresh produce or a pumpkin from the patch to take home.

Numerous health education opportunities were available for both children and adults that focused on the prevention of chronic diseases such as diabetes, colon cancer, breast cancer, and lung cancer as well as mental and spiritual health. All of which are issues that greatly impact the Norton Sound region. Kawerak Inc. was on hand to provide participants with information on their services, which included the Wellness Program, Children and Family Services, and the Child Advocacy Center.

Among the agencies represented at the Health Fair were several from out of the region that brought a wide range of health education. The visitors included North Star Behavioral Health, Alaska Kidney Foundation, Southcentral Foundation as well as the Alaska Native Medical Center who provided one of the main attractions, "Nolan the Colon."

Berdia Wilson demonstrated the traditional ways of making Agutaq (Eskimo Ice Cream) and the health benefits of its original ingredients. She even encouraged the children watching to help her in the process in order to pass this tradition along (see picture above right). The traditional Agutaq ingredients include: caribou fat, salmon berries, blueberries, seal oil, as well as a little bit of sugar. Liz Murphy also brought a different culture with the Zumba Dance. She really got the crowd moving with the fun Latin dance music. Sandra Rowe, from the Animal House, not only showed the community how to trim their dog’s nails, but also taught the youngster’s how to clean up after their pets. This helped earn her the community vote for Booth of the Year. The children’s vote for Booth of the Year went to the Nome Community Center with their incredibly interactive booth that focused on tobacco prevention, and even included real pig lungs that revealed the effects tobacco has on the body.

The Chronic Care Active Management and Prevention department (CAMP) focuses on empowering people and communities to promote healthy lifestyles and improve the quality of life for people with chronic illnesses. If you or anyone one you know is interested in what CAMP has to offer including diabetes prevention, tobacco counseling, as well as numerous health and nutrition services please call 443-3365 or 1-888-559-3311, ext 3365.

Kawerak's Eskimo Heritage Program is proud to announce the publication of the 2011-2012 Traditional Plant Calendar. We hope this calendar will bring awareness about all the local plants and roots and their traditional uses as food and their local Inupiaq or Yupik names. The calendars are $15.00, you can send a payment to the Eskimo Heritage Program at PO Box 948, Nome, Ak 99762 or stop by their office at 504 Seppala Drive.
Small Business Development Expands within the Bering Strait Region
by Alice Bioff, Business Development Specialist

Thanks to Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation’s (NSEDC) Small Business Initiative program, economic development within the Bering Strait Region has again been ignited! Within the next year an additional five new businesses within the region will be established and one existing business will expand thanks to much needed start-up capital and enhancement funding provided by NSEDC. Those recently awarded NSEDC funding are:

Triple Creek Fabrication & Repair, Owner: Brian Marvin, Nome

“TCFR Shop will create products using metal, wood or plastic. I plan to repair machines such as: vehicles, snow machines, four wheelers, boats and outboard motors and other machinery in the region. I will also be able to teach students interested in learning fabrication and repair of equipment.”

Little Tikes Childcare, Owners: Kristal Wontigilin and Brian Hensley, Nome

“Little Tikes Childcare will offer affordable, educational, high quality and reliable childcare. Little Tikes Childcare objective will be to offer services to meet the demand for reliable childcare services within the community. The short term goal is to establish a high quality, educational, affordable and reliable daycare service. The long term goal is to be a sustainable, profitable, Native owned business that will create economic stimulation within the community.”

Little Store, Owner: Etta Ahkinga, Diomede

“The Little Store provides groceries and products. The Little Store has assumed the role of fuel store for the residents of Diomede, which will sell fuel oil and gasoline.”

Little Store, Owner: Marie Tozier, Nome

“Little Store’s objective is a monthly newspaper publishing serving fifteen communities of the Seward Peninsula. While its headquarters will be in Nome, the spirit of the publication is to serve as a cultural gathering place of the people of the region.”

The Coffey Shop, Owner: Morris Coffey, Stebbins

“The Coffey Shop will serve fast food such as hamburgers, French fries, egg rolls, pizza, slush puppy, candy, pop, and general merchandise. General merchandise would include a bakery section. The Coffey Shop will include a pool table for additional entertainment.”

AK Body, Owner: Crystal Tobuk, Nome

“AK Body will be an independent personal training business based in Nome, Alaska that will provide clients with the education and tools they need to reach their personal fitness goals in a manner that is fun and engaging, and push comfort levels to help achieve amazing results. AK Body’s objective is to provide the community of Nome with a personal training service that will include monthly fitness evaluations, progressive hands on “one-on-one” workouts, and customized exercise program for homework, motivation, accountability, and coaching tips to achieve and maintain individual fitness goals. AK Body would directly benefit the community of Nome by providing tools, inspiration and awareness to reduce many of the prevalent health concerns among Alaskan women though safe, structured and consistent exercise regime.”

Kawerak, Inc. understands the importance of supporting our small business entrepreneurs by offering technical assistance in small business development. Services include, but are not limited to: Business Plan Development, Financing, Marketing, and Tuition Assistance. We also have the E-Commerce Center which is located on the first floor of the Ubluagiq Kawerak building.

Small Business Technical Assistance is offered through Kawerak’s Community Planning & Development Department. Please call the Kawerak Business Planning Specialist at 907-443-4390 or 1-877-219-2599 for assistance with your small business needs and CONGRATULATIONS to all the 2010 NSEDC SBI awardees!

Rural Outreach Program for Entrepreneurs

The Alaska Small Business Development Center (AK SBDC) announced that its Rural Outreach Program for Entrepreneurs Program (ROPE) will be providing free and confidential, one-on-one business counseling and small business workshops in Nome this year! The AK SBDC has provided free business counseling, low cost workshops and computer labs to startups and existing small businesses throughout the state for over 22 years. It is funded, in part, through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration and hosted through the University of Alaska Anchorage. Its ROPE Program is funded, in part, by the Alaska Department of Labor and Work Force Development Program.

In 2009, the AK SBDC and its partner programs, including ROPE, assisted over 1,707 Alaskan businesses, which resulted in 50 new businesses and 8,503 jobs retained or created. Our Alaskan clients were awarded a total of $186,057,932 in contracting dollars and received $7,013,750 in loans and investments.

Jason Dinneen, the State Director for the AK SBDC stated, “We look forward to introducing these direct services to the Nome area, to offer a new level of entrepreneurial encouragement and support, designed to energize entrepreneurship and strengthen local businesses. We will use the successes and insights learned from ROPE’s prior work in Southeast’s sixteen villages to bring a successful program and critical business development services to the Bering Straits Region.”

To strengthen its outreach in rural Alaska, the AK SBDC recently hired Deborah Kvasnikoff to serve as its ROPE Director. Deborah has a degree from the University of Alaska, College of Rural Alaska, in Rural Development and Small Business Management. She has over ten years of experience working with rural Alaska tribes and communities in developing programs to serve the needs of their members. Deborah is recognized as a leader in many circles. She received national recognition for her professional endeavors in welfare reform, including the first Tribal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families in the State of Alaska, and self-developed Mentor programs.

Deborah has been collaborating with area leaders and partners to create a work group for the Bethel and surrounding communities. The Community Partners Work Group is comprised of members across diverse organizations with the express purpose to: help strengthen the program, create an entrepreneurial friendly culture, identify resources, further the mission to support existing business, and encourage new business creation.

Deborah stated, “I want to hear from Elders, leaders, policy makers, and local business owners to help identify the potential training needs and to assist in the development of workshop topics.” Although, Deborah will initially bring her own workshops to the area, including: Business Planning, Loan Proposal Development, Quickbooks and Government Contracting Opportunities, it’s through a community effort that more workshops will be offered. As Deborah said, “I believe we not only honor our ancestors by working together, but together - we can make a difference. I am excited to be working with Alice Bioff Kawerak’s Business Planning Specialist.” Through the help of ROPE’s Community Partners Work Group and other community leaders who step forward to work together, a significant portion of the entrepreneurial or small business training will be conducted in Nome with a long term vision to serve various local communities within the Bering Straits Region. Jason’s vision is to further develop the Community Partners Work Group and said, “The idea of a future common goal for economic growth through business creation, innovation, and development presents a tremendous opportunity to find solutions today, for Alaskans.”
The Kawerak Youth Employment Program received a Federal ARRA grant to employ youth between the ages of 14-24 in part-time positions throughout the Bering Strait Region from January through June 2010. A cumulative of 59 youth participated and gained valuable work experience.

Luisa Machuca, Youth Employment Director is pleased with the outcomes of the Winter Youth Program: “I think these opportunities have really made a difference in their lives, because these younger students received work experience for first time that introduced them to what a job is all about. Older youth got opportunities to actually go to work and some students also had incentives to work on their GED and also get employment experience.”

Pictured below are Dylanne Nassuk and Henry Kakaruk, who successfully completed the Winter Youth Program.

Kawerak Summer Intern Program

Thirteen college students were selected to participate in the Kawerak 2010 Summer Intern Program for 12 weeks. The interns were placed in various departments at Kawerak such as: Headstart, Human Resources, Fisheries, General Counsel, & Administration; other businesses include: the Native Village of Savoonga, City of Teller, Teller Wellness Program, Native Village of Unalakleet, Nome Boys & Girls Club, Nome Eskimo Community Lunch Program, Village of Solomon, Chinik Eskimo Community and the Native Village of Golovin. For more information about the recently expanded services through the Employment Program call:

Luisa Muchaca, Youth Employment director at toll free at 1(800) 450-4341 or in Nome call 443-4361 or
Panganga Pungowiyi, Employment Works Coordinator at 443-4275 or
Many Johnson, Program Assistant at 443-4275.
Win a Pocket Video Camcorder with your best Essay for all ILS. Students!

The Social Science Program at Kawerak, Inc., is excited to announce an essay contest for all high school students in this region. This contest is part of our new Ice Seal and Walrus project. High school students are invited to submit 500 word essays on either of the two topics listed below. Students are encouraged to interview family members or Elders to gather traditional knowledge on the topics for their essays. Photos or drawings to accompany essays are encouraged. The first place in each category will win an 8GB Vado HD Pocket Video Camcorder, and second place in each category will win a 4GB Vado HD Pocket Video Camcorder. The best entries will be published in a booklet. For more information about the essay contest contact Lily Ray, (907) 443-4262.

All entries must be received by April 1, 2011. To Enter: submit essays to Lily Ray, Kawerak Social Science by email or mail. Entries must include your name, community of residence, school name, grade level, address, and phone number.

Mailing address: Lily Ray, Kawerak, Inc. | PO Box 948 | Nome, AK 99762 | or electronically at lray@kawerak.org.

Potential Topics:

Topic 1: Ice Seal and Walrus Hunting Safety
- Weather Observation
- Sea Ice safety
- Currents
- Trip Preparation
- Ice Seal and Walrus behavior
- Teamwork
- What to do in different kinds of emergencies
- Anything else related to the safe hunting of ice seals and walrus

Topic 2: Ice Seal and Walrus Preservation, Preparation, and Use
- Traditional methods of preservation or preparation
- Traditions to show respect to the walrus or seal after harvest
- Traditions for sharing walrus or ice seals
- Recipes involving ice seals or walrus
- Special occasions when you eat traditional foods made from ice seal or walrus
- Why preparing and eating traditional foods made with ice seal or walrus is important to you, your family, or community
- Anything else related to preservation, preparation and use of ice seals & walrus

Public Safety: Did you know there are Four different types of Public Safety in the Bering Strait Region?

The Alaska State Troopers Nome Post are very appreciative of the support from Kawerak in administering the Village Public Safety Officer program in the Norton Sound Region. Program Director Appolloni works tirelessly to recruit and retain quality applicants as well as assisting communities with the VPSO program and many other Public Safety issues. The VPSO’s serve their communities with pride and concern for every member. Each VPSO works closely with their oversight Trooper and in partnership helps to increase safety in all of our communities. We also thank the communities for their support of the VPSO’s and Alaska State Troopers. Currently the Alaska State Troopers have one Sergeant and 7 Troopers; five based in Nome and two in Unalakleet. Currently there are 7 villages with one or more City employed Village Police Officers and 8 villages with a vacant VPO position.

The City of Nome has a Chief of Police, 2 Sergeants and 5 police officers. Kawerak administers the VPSO program with 20 VPSOs employed and seven vacancies. Below is a list by village for the VPSO/VPO contacts. For more information about Kawerak’s VPSO Program contact: Gina Appolloni at 443-4252 or via email at gappolloni@kawerak.org.

Public Safety: Did you know there are Four different types of Public Safety in the Bering Strait Region?

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<th>City</th>
<th>VPSO/Kawerak Village Police Officer/City</th>
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<td>Brevig Mission</td>
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<td>VPSO Jonathan Shivel VPO Dwayne Apititi, VPO Robert Apititi, VPO Bobby Ungwiluk, VPO Elnor Campbell</td>
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<td>VPSO Carlos Navarro</td>
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<td>St. Michael</td>
<td>VPSO Joe Katchatag III VPO Daniel Teeluk (on call)</td>
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<td>VPSO Michael Wongtillig</td>
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<td>Teller</td>
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<td>Unalakleet</td>
<td>VPSO Tim Pehle VPO Henry Ivanoff, Jr. VPO George Turner, VPO David Slwooko</td>
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<td>Wales</td>
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<td>White Mountain</td>
<td>Sgt. Dan Harrelson</td>
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Kawerak VPSO Regional training was held in Anchorage, Oct. 24-28. Kawerak sponsored the event along with the following agencies: Kodiak Area Native Association, Northwest Arctic Borough, and Copper River Native Association. There were 25 VPSOs that attended the training. Topics included: Native American Training, Juvenile Justice, Drug & Alcohol Intervention, Domestic Violence, Critical Incident Stress Management, and Suicide: Intervention and Prevention.

Potential Topics:

- Weather Observation
- Sea Ice safety
- Currents
- Trip Preparation
- Ice Seal and Walrus behavior
- Teamwork
- What to do in different kinds of emergencies
- Anything else related to the safe hunting of ice seals and walrus

Potential Topics:

- Traditional methods of preservation or preparation
- Traditions to show respect to the walrus or seal after harvest
- Traditions for sharing walrus or ice seals
- Recipes involving ice seals or walrus
- Special occasions when you eat traditional foods made from ice seal or walrus
- Why preparing and eating traditional foods made with ice seal or walrus is important to you, your family, or community
- Anything else related to preservation, preparation and use of ice seals & walrus

All entries must be received by April 1, 2011. To Enter: submit essays to Lily Ray, Kawerak Social Science by email or mail. Entries must include your name, community of residence, school name, grade level, address, and phone number.
Now you can become a nurse without moving out of the Bering Strait region!

After more than three years of hard work, the Bering Strait Health Consortium has succeeded in adding Nome to the list of University of Alaska Anchorage School of Nursing outreach sites.

The first day of class for Nome's first nursing cohort of four students was Monday, January 10.

The students are scheduled to complete the two-year associate degree program to become registered nurses in December 2012—just in time to join the expanded nursing staff at the new Norton Sound Regional Hospital building.

UAA’s School of Nursing eyed Nome as an outreach site at least as long ago as 2005. Developing the program was postponed, however, because no potential students were identified and training facilities appeared limited. UAA personnel determined that it might be best to wait until Nome's new hospital was completed.

In fall 2007, Northwest Campus and NSHC approached the nursing school to see if the Nome program could be kicked of sooner—so that new nurses could be prepared before the opening of the new hospital.

Since then, members of the Bering Strait Health Consortium worked together to:

- Find at least four students who could complete all the program prerequisites in time to start the program in spring 2011.
- The Consortium hosted several informational meetings for the region, ran newspaper ads, and went on the radio to spread the word. Interested students contacted NWC and started working with advisors to register into all needed courses.
- UAA set four students as both a minimum and maximum number for Nome.
- Provide funding to cover not only the students’ tuition, supplies, book and travel costs, but also some living expenses so that students could quit their jobs and focus on school.
- Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation awarded Kawerak a grant of $99,396 to pay first-year expenses for students.
- The Consortium is now seeking funds for the second year of nursing school, and has so far received donations from Sitnasuk ($5,000), Wells Fargo ($2,000), Pioneer Igloo #1 ($1,000), and the Pioneer Igloo women’s auxiliary ($1,000).
- Provide a local instructor for hands-on learning.
- The Nome students join other School of Nursing outreach site students for videoconference class sessions with instructors teaching from Anchorage, but will spend most of their time learning hands-on skills directly from Watkins.
- UAA requires outreach sites to provide their own local instructor.
- Set up a nursing lab classroom and purchase needed training equipment.

Nome’s first UAA nursing cohort, in the nursing lab at Northwest Campus. From left: Amber Bradley, Jackie Ivanoff, instructor Bridgett Watkins, Sarah Weaver, Jessica Mute.

The Nome nursing program finally a reality!

Campus has new foundations, new layout, new look

Northwest Campus has a new look! The corroding and deteriorating steel pilings foundations of both the Nagozruk (main) and Kawerak (north) buildings were condemned several years ago and required replacement.

The $3.5 million renovation project was funded by the state’s allocation for critical deferred maintenance of university facilities.

In the process of moving these large buildings onto their new pilings over the past summer and fall, a number of other campus buildings were also moved to create a more compact configuration—and to make space for a hoped-for new library.

- The Nagozruk Building now has a new front landing, a new ramp and a rear arctic entry;
- The main building (left) and library (right) were moved onto new pilings and are now just steps apart across a new deck area (photo taken during renovation);
- The Student Services office was enlarged, giving students more space in which to meet with advisors;
- The flooring and ceiling were redone in part of the ceramics building, which now stands closer to the main building;
- The parking area is now on the east side of campus.

Renovation work began in May 2010 and extended to mid-December, pushing staff and faculty into temporary office spaces in various corners of campus throughout fall semester. Students also adapted, sometimes sharing classroom space with working staff.

To help NWC continue with community courses during the construction period, Nome Community Center generously allowed use of the XYZ Center for the arti-parka sewing class and portraiture class. Nome-Beltz High School donated space for a screen-printing course.

Despite the chaos, the number of students enrolled at NWC for fall 2010 was up 28 percent over the prior fall semester.
Northwest Campus has teamed up with local Native language speakers, Kawerak’s Eskimo Heritage Program, and the Alaska Native Language Center at the University of Alaska Fairbanks to increase knowledge of local languages in this region.

As part of the effort, 1-credit conversational Inupiaq courses are being offered this semester in Unalakleet and in Wales.

A 1-credit course called Introduction to Inupiaq Eskimo is being offered by distance in coordination with the UAF Chuckchi Campus in Kotzebue.

And in January, 17 students gathered in Nome to take a 1-credit course called Introduction to Teaching Inupiaq/Yupik Language, taught by Sabine Siekmann of the Alaska Native Languages Department at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

“I really enjoyed it,” Lucy Kitchen, Wales school bilingual/bicultural teacher, said of the class. “I would like this to happen once a year. You know you’re not the only one struggling to keep the language alive.”

Northwest Campus asked Siekmann to teach the course to equip more Native language speakers with the skills needed to teach language in their communities.

The Bering Strait School District funded travel and tuition for a number of bicultural/bilingual teachers from the region. The White Mountain and Golovin IRAs and NSEDC also funded some students’ attendance.

Among those in the class were Winton Weyapuk Jr. and Willa Eckenweiler, who each taught a 1-credit conversational Inupiaq course in Wales and Unalakleet in 2009 and are teaching the class again this semester. NSEDC is funding tuition for their classes.

Siekmann used her own native languages, German, to remind students how it feels to learn a language.

“It was very good,” Kitchen said. “Sabine spoke German and used gestures, and we all understood her—and soon we were speaking German!”

During class, the students broke into groups to develop lessons to use in their own classrooms, often incorporating unison clapping, singing, and role playing.

Some of Siekmann’s teaching tips included:

- Language teachers need to use a variety of teaching strategies, methods, and techniques.
- The focus must be on proficiencies, not deficiencies, of students.
- Teachers should start with fluency, rate of speech, flow of language, and a focus on meaning, then later move on to accuracy, correct grammar, word choice, and pronunciation.
- Opportunities must be provided for students to practice language in context.
- Students must practice carrying out tasks interacting with other speakers.
- Instruction in Alaska Native language must be connected to context such as kinship.

Several students said that they enjoyed Siekmann’s use of games to teach language.

“Illasaatuni allianarqu,” Kitchen said during a break in class. “Learning is fun!”

An infusion of $4 million over the next five years will fund a Northwest Campus campaign to expand regionally-relevant educational opportunities in the Bering Strait region, thanks to a Title III grant awarded in October.

Funds will be used to staff several new positions and expand services in area communities.

This is the third Title III grant NWC has received since 2001. Prior grants brought in roughly $5 million to support instruction and student services in the areas of village-based entrepreneurship and workforce development.

The current grant project, Expanding Regionally Relevant Educational Opportunities for Alaska Native Scholars, will allow Northwest Campus to increase services to help students enter, persist, and successfully complete in higher education.

Northwest Campus hopes to achieve this by:

- Improving students’ ability to access the growing online presence of the University of Alaska;
- Developing regionally-relevant academic thresholds—entry-level courses that are of interest to people in our region and will also give them an experience of college that could lead them to pursue more education;
- Expanding student support services in regional communities;
- Expanding and extending the university’s presence in the region’s communities.

All grant activities will be developed in cooperation with employers and organizations in the region—a partnership model that underlies all Northwest Campus activities.

Parents and high school seniors: Get your FAFSA PIN now

**What is FAFSA?** It is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. To receive student financial aid, you must fill out a FAFSA yearly.

**Why do you need a FAFSA PIN?** So you can electronically sign your FAFSA application. Using a PIN to sign your forms electronically is by far the fastest and most reliable way.

FAFSA on the Web allows you to complete and submit your financial aid application electronically.

Apply for your PIN online at www.pin.ed.gov.

Apply for your 2010-2011 FAFSA at www.fafsa.gov.

If you need help or have questions about FAFSA or student financial aid, contact Kacey Miller at Northwest Campus: kacey.miller@alaska.edu or (907) 443-8416, toll free 1-800-478-2202.

New positions to enhance NWC services

- **I.T. specialist in Nome**
  The information technology specialist will help students troubleshoot computer problems so they can more readily participate in distance learning courses. The I.T. specialist will also develop a training curriculum to help students learn to use distance learning tools such as Elminate Live and Blackboard.

- **Regional hub managers in Shishmaref and Unalakleet**
  Northwest Campus will create regional hub centers in Unalakleet and Shishmaref to serve those communities and the villages surrounding them. These regional hubs will provide a full range of student services and support, including online computer access at the centers, outreach to sub-regional communities, community events, individual advising, high school student outreach and services, library services outreach, and collaboration and support with community liaisons.

Regional hub managers will be hired for Unalakleet and for Shishmaref. These hub managers will provide student services, develop student learning plans, and advise and encourage students to take courses that are part of occupational endorsements, certificates, associate degrees, and other course sequences.
Vera Metcalf elected to the Executive Council of Inuit Circumpolar Conference

During the 2010 Inuit Circumpolar Conference held in Nuuk, Greenland in July representatives from Alaska, Canada, Russia and Greenland came together to discuss many political, environmental and social matters facing Northern communities. Part of the ICC General Assembly included electing Vera Metcalf to the ICC Executive Council. Below is a brief biography of Ms. Metcalf.

Vera Metcalf was born and raised in Savoonga (Sivunnguaq) on St. Lawrence Island, Alaska. She is currently the Director of the Eskimo Walrus Commission (EWC) at Kawerak, Inc. in Nome which represents 19 coastal Alaska communities promoting community involvement in research projects, documenting local traditional ecological knowledge and resource management practices regarding the Pacific walrus.

As EWC Director, Vera is currently chair of the Pacific Walrus Conservation Fund and serves as the Special Advisor on Native Affairs on the Marine Mammal Commission. She also represents EWC on the Indigenous People’s Council for Marine Mammals, which was formed to “identify and address marine mammal issues of common concern.” Vera is currently on the steering committee of UAF’s Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy and recently served as a Commissioner on US Arctic Research Commission. Vera is also a member of the Advisory Panel on the North Pacific Research Board, and a Steering Committee member on the Alaska Center for Climate Assessment & Policy.


The Bering Strait Region says Bye Bye to 21,415 pounds of trash!

Through the efforts of village EPA/IGAP environmental coordinators and Kawerak’s Backhaul Program, the Bering Strait region has shipped out 7,000 lbs of electronic waste, 13,558 lbs of lead-acid batteries, 290 lbs of fluorescent lights, 76 lbs of household (alkaline) batteries and 491 lbs of white goods (such as refrigerators & washers) to recyclers in Anchorage. 12 of our 20 tribes have these environmental programs and several regional corporations are assisting with various environmental projects, including Norton Sound Health Corporation, Kawerak and Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation.

Kawerak’s new Regional Backhaul and Recycling Program (RBRP) is focused on helping tribes remove and recycle their hazardous materials. The program is kicking off the new year with plans for training, education, creating a regional staging area, and managing the removal of solid waste items. The plan is to increase the number of pounds of recyclable waste shipped out in 2011. Recently, the RBRP sent out certificates of achievement for 2010 and wished to recognize the following communities: a) Elim – recycled the most lead-acid batteries b) St. Michael – recycled the most fluorescent lights and c) Diomede – recycled the most electronic waste.

The backhaul efforts were approved by the Bering Strait Development Council which directed Kawerak’s Community Planning and Development department to dedicate staff and funding for backhauling. Kawerak applied for EPA funding to expand backhaul efforts in the region and obtained a RurAL CAP AmeriCorps RAVEN volunteer helps load boxes of electronic waste (e-waste) and bags of aluminum cans onto Bering Air in Diomede.

Pictured above left; women from Wales prepare household batteries to be shipped out. Opik Ahkinga, RurALCAP AmeriCorps RAVEN volunteer helps load boxes of electronic waste (e-waste) and bags of aluminum cans onto Bering Air in Diomede.

Vera Metcalf was elected to the Executive Council of Inuit Circumpolar Conference.
A NEW U.S. OCEAN AND COASTAL POLICY

This introduction to the new federal policy for managing U.S. oceans and coasts gives a brief overview of how it applies in Alaska and the Arctic. It is intended to help you determine how you can participate. As new information becomes available, every effort will be made to update this summary.

Overview of the New National Ocean Policy
On July 19, 2010, President Obama established a national policy for the stewardship of our oceans by declaring that “it is the policy of the United States to ... protect, maintain, and restore the health and biological diversity of ocean, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources.” To implement the policy, the President established a National Ocean Council that includes the heads of all ocean and coastal federal agencies. The National Ocean Council also is tasked with developing strategic action plans for priority issues, and leading the development of Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP).

CMSP is a public process to analyze and plan human activities and uses in ocean and coastal areas through time. The new national CMSP process calls for high level planning oversight by the National Ocean Council combined with regional planning and implementation.

What the National Ocean Policy Means for Alaska and the Arctic Strategic Action Plan for the Arctic. The entire Arctic is an “area of special emphasis” for the federal government. As such, and recognizing the disproportionate impacts of climate change on the region, the National Ocean Council has been specifically tasked with developing a strategic action plan for the entire Arctic that addresses “better ways to conserve, protect, and sustainably manage the Arctic.”

CMSP in “Alaska/Arctic” Region. In addition to the broad Arctic strategic plan, “Alaska/Arctic” is one of nine regions that will have a Regional Planning Body made up of federal, state, and tribal representatives. The Alaska/Arctic Regional Planning Body can choose to divide the region into subregions, with corollary subregional planning bodies. It is still unclear how the Arctic strategic planning and Alaska/Arctic regional planning processes will intersect.

National Information Management System. As part of the planning process, the federal government is developing a new national information management system dedicated to coastal and marine scientific data and information. This management system will integrate data from federal and non-federal sources, and will include traditional knowledge.

Opportunities for Participation
As the National Ocean Council and the Alaska Regional Planning Body are organized and begin developing management instruments, several opportunities will arise for tribes, indigenous organizations, local communities, and stakeholders to participate. At the highest level, a Governance Coordinating Committee composed of state, local, and three tribal representatives from all over the U.S. will advise the National Ocean Council. At the regional level, Regional Planning Bodies will include tribal representatives. There also will be formal mechanisms for tribes and indigenous organizations, communities, and stakeholders to participate in the development of the associated plans and systems to support these processes – such as the strategic action plan for the Arctic, the national information management system, and the Alaska/Arctic CMSP plan. The precise timelines, structure, and form for public participation in these processes has not yet been determined.

Initial Timeline. Coastal and marine spatial plans are to be completed by mid-2015. The National Ocean Council is organizing now, including establishing a Governance Coordinating Committee. Once the national structure is in place, Phase 1 will begin. Phase 1 will include the development of the Arctic Strategic Plan (first 9 months), initial National Ocean Council coordination with states and tribes (first 3 months), and the establishment of the Alaska/Arctic Regional Planning Body (first 6 months). Source: Final Recommendations of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force (July 2010).

For more information contact: Kathryn Mengerink at (858) 822-5821 or by email at rmengerink@eli.org
Or contact: Vera Metcalf at (907) 443-4380 or via email at vmetcalf@kawerak.org
Native Village of Elim, by Robert Keith

Elim in Nome has created a snow vortex, the road develops a large slush ice arrived from the south, which is unusual for us to see. It's old and designed for the lower 48. The Headstart Building in Elim has created a snow vortex, the road develops a large slush ice arrived from the south, which is unusual for us to see.

Housing Plan (IHP) conference November 9-10, 2010. Currently we have plans to measure water flow sometime in late spring due to the very low base economy, we do not have match funding even if it is that will work for Diomede, allow congressional funding or state funds to fill the North Slope qualifications, so the people from our region/communities can qualify for these jobs. We are working with the Alaska Native Village of Diomede

New Year. We will start taking passengers as soon as six forms between Walis and Diomede. Hard to be excited about it considering most/would rather be home in the hold of the community member you know to come home by last fall; they must be excited to return for two weeks to help their families celebrate New Year's and expected home by our family. The holidays. Our winter has been a lot colder outside pretty slow for the November and December. Sunday evening we had snow arrive from the south, which is unusual for us to see.

Thanks to our school they handed out turkeys to families in need. The NVS will be applying for BSRHA grant priority three to fill the North Slope qualifications, so the people from our region/communities can qualify for these jobs. We are working with the Alaska Native Village of Diomede

In the Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority (BSRHA) are being allocated to the project. The Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority (BSRHA) is a very low base economy, we do not have match funding even if it is that will work for Diomede, allow congressional funding or state funds to fill the North Slope qualifications, so the people from our region/communities can qualify for these jobs. We are working with the Alaska Native Village of Diomede

Priority #2: Our current and ongoing solid waste. We are still dumping directly into the Bering Sea, honey bucket, trash, etc. We are asking for funding to purchase waste and sewer and a regulated septic system for our community. Diomede is located directly in the heart of the Bering Sea, as sea mammals migrate through the Bering Islands. Help us stop illegal fishing in the Bering Sea. We are hurting much for our families and we are also consuming it.

Native Village of Koyuk

Our economy has been hit hard this year being faced with a very low base economy, we do not have match funding even if it is that will work for Diomede, allow congressional funding or state funds to fill the North Slope qualifications, so the people from our region/communities can qualify for these jobs. We are working with the Alaska Native Village of Diomede

The School began a recycle collection of plastics, "changing habits for a healthier tomorrow." Pick us up each Friday. Eyewitness skin cancer awareness classes are being held on Tues. and Thurs. 7:00pm-9:00pm. This funding was provided by the Alaska Native Village of Diomede as well. Hopefully, after the holidays. Thanks to Christopher and Otto Sookotlak, they covered our BSSD lunch dance with walla, snowstorm, this project was funded by Kawerak Wellness as well. Our healthy snacks program was awarded another $7,500 for summer and after school snacks (wellness) and cultural camp. MITC received a First Nations grant for culture camp and supplies and equipment, and to hold events with kids. MITC gave a presentation at a meeting in October this fall about what we are doing during Culture Camp and they really liked it.

Lucy and Cora Ablowaluk (TC) traveled to the meeting. We also received a grant from the Rasmuson Foundation and a State Trails grants program is very meaningful since it involves our young people. It is being held at the BSSD School. Since the last report we have 50 members to attend the Interdepartmental Tribal Justice, Safety and Health Committee meeting at Pt. Clarence was shut down this fall, and the tower was sold to the store and AVEC since we did not have a large enough fuel storage to store the fuel. There will be Thanksgiving Community Picnic that will be held at the gym. We continue to hold our regular Tribal Council meetings monthly, so with the joint meeting with the City, Corporation, and Elders Advisory Committee. This year. We did not do this fall. The decision at Pt. Clarence was shut down this fall, and the tower was demolished. Campers & hunters miss the tower since we used it as a landmark. This year the Headstart Building in Elim has created a snow vortex, the road develops a large slush ice arrived from the south, which is unusual for us to see.

Native Village of Nome, by Patricia Patiok

than any other year but we have gone over budget. The roads are getting modernization work on boilers that need to be replaced or upgraded. But the roads are getting modernization work on boilers that need to be replaced or upgraded. We also cannot afford to purchase fuel, we are still pumping out fuel after our last report.

We are facing the reality of true hardship. Our lives depend on transportation. With limited and no passenger services since July 2010, we are in low funding. The IRA Council has been working to provide transportation out there with our truck equipped with Iditarod winter opening. Last year was a trial run to see if it would follow, been too long and way too frustrating.

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Kawerak Full Board of Directors Meeting held December 7 ~ 9, 2010 in Nome.

Native Village of Shishmaref, by Donna Barn Journey's end, by Karen Keglowitz

Journey's end, by Karen Keglowitz

Thanks to our school they handed out turkeys to families in need. The NVS will be applying for BSRHA grant priority three to fill the North Slope qualifications, so the people from our region/communities can qualify for these jobs. We are working with the Alaska Native Village of Diomede

Thanksgiving went well. Good to have turkeys and ham coming this winter. We also had a few families in our school. Our girls is in need of Kawerak Wellness funding. There has been some hunting for halibut since snow started a few days after. We had a large fish caught. Thanks to that hunter, he fed a lot of families. There have been a few sales of frozen halibut. We lost our last oldest person in June. We did receive at least 100,000 + gallons, in which a portion of the fuel was used for two weeks to heat our community, the other portion was being held over for the winter since we did not have a large enough storage tank to store the fuel. There will be Thanksgiving Community Picnic that will be held at the gym. We continue to hold our regular Tribal Council meetings monthly, so with the joint meeting with the City, Corporation, and Elders Advisory Committee. This year. We did not do this fall. The decision at Pt. Clarence was shut down this fall, and the tower was demolished. Campers & hunters miss the tower since we used it as a landmark. This year the Headstart Building in Elim has created a snow vortex, the road develops a large slush ice arrived from the south, which is unusual for us to see.

Native Village of Nome, by Patricia Patiok

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Kawerak Full Board of Directors Meeting held December 7 ~ 9, 2010 in Nome.

Below are the Village Reports from each representative.
Uqaaqtuaq News

White Mountain earlier this month to draft/adopt by-laws with p.m. Eric Morris, Wetlands Coordinator is coming along with the November 8, 2010. Albert Oquilluk is the current President. The new water/sewer service to the new store was submitted. This the construction of a new store. Last year we missed by two points. The Teller Search and Rescue held a meeting and re-organized on the Health Aides are requesting takeover of the Toby Anungazuk lessons in Teller. Mentoring activities has started with ulu making. Clerk position is vacant as of now. Hopefully it will be filled soon.-The IRA Elders also attended the Festival. TTC sponsored the potluck on Saturday we had many guests from out of town participating. We had 5 groups perform from: Teller, Brevig Mission, King Island, Golovin, and White Mountain. During the workshops and presentations led by Kotlik. This year we go to Kotlik first, then around March, the top will be in Teller. Thanks to all at PT/B players. NVU is proud of the companies for employing Tribal Members. Quyanna!

Teller Native Village of Wales, by Ellen Richard

Wales Kingshill School staff, Anna Oveaker, TTC, the Suicide Prevention Committee and I held a "Halloween Carnival," 2 students were injured and a school bus was damaged. 6 NVW tribal council attended the ATCME Conference in Anchorage August 21-23. We still have a VP search on NWG to get more support for our CHIPs. Our tribal membership increased by 4. Six tribal council members attended the BIA Providers Conference and met with BIA staff to help us make our program more efficient. (i.e. winter shed, lights and boiler starting fixture).

Native Village of White Mountain, by Willa Ashenfelter

The Tribal Council of the White Mountain hosted an Evening which consists of three 7 year olds and one eight year old with three adults and just "Super" Lincoln as the Eskimo Dance Instructor. We are trying to get this program going again in the spring. The dance group was able to travel to Teller for the dance festival in September. They learned several different dances. The evening included: Rachel Pospel, Vincent Poglova, and Carl Topko for teaching the drumming lessons in Teller. Mentoring activities has started with ups and downs and parishes. Snow will be here later. Thanks to all Kawa-erlaihik for these activities geared for Suicide Prevention to increase awareness. We held a blood drive in Nome that has been held in Nome. We have received a grant from the White Mountain earlier this month to this month/aft/d by-laws with Charles Parker. Irving Ashenfelter was promoted as the IAQ Coordinator and Jack Joy Edwards is the newly hired IAQ Coordi- nator. The White Mountain has a new addition to their 14-plex Apartment complex and renovating at the same time. Price will be opened to the public in late winter. UNK is looking at special needs. UNK was down to 2 3-CHA with loss of 3. There is an increase in the numbers of unaccompanied Youth; priority to a 3rd Health Area, though the waiting list was long, we hope to prevent further burden and potential loss of other Health Areas. TFC has become more involved with the youth in their departure. UNK is waiting for completion of the Study by JD to the NSDC board to fully staff and staff the sub-regional clinic and provide quality health care to UNK village & subregion. AIA Elders Facility has been an objective of UNK for over 10 years and has expressed need to have a facility any time soon. AIA Elders extremely high priority, especially with QGC’s long list and with NAC bringing them out for free. Environmental Scientist and AIA Program Manager is working on the staffing, management & sustainable operations of this facility. The Governor vetoed the President’s fiscal year 2011, but it will still affect the Native village as a private agency or as a sub regional agency has been helpful to all. AIA Elders have been working on a housing system under our current manager and brings financial support to UNK and staff capacity to meet them. NVU is working with Dr. Jordan Lewis and the Tri-Council is working on the Tri-County’s long range plan for the Village. The Governor vetoed the White Mountain extremely high priority, especially with QGC’s long list and with NAC bringing them out for free. Environmental Scientist and

Kawerak Village Reports (continued from page 12)

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Winter 2011

Alaska News
H.R. announces Employee of the Month: February ~ Nov. 2010

**February 2010**

**Karla Aukon, Head Start Cook**

Several times in the past year, without hesitation (or being asked), she has stepped in to assist with children in the classroom and large gym. It is normal for Head Start teachers and staff to support each other, but it is special when she volunteers to assist with UPLC children and staff. For the past few years you have gone from a teacher aide, janitor and up to Head Cook. The head start staff located in the villages rely on Karla’s commitment to supply them with the necessary supplies. She has been a major role player in the collaboration between UPLC/Head Start. She is an outstanding advocate for working together, and sharing daily chores and duties. She has a strong work ethic and is a great role model, for not only all children, but other Kawerak staff.

**April 2010**

**Ken Waterman, Transportation Planner**

Ken went above and beyond his normal duties as the Transportation Committee lead for the Kawerak Regional Conference. He was at work at 6:30am to get the vans running before the shift started at 7:00am and when we finished between 10:30 pm and 12:30am to refuel for the morning. He was also the dispatcher, handling all the incoming calls from people needing rides to and from the conference. While taking the constant phone calls at peak times, and coordinating with the other drivers on the walkie-talkie; and also driving at the same time. While doing all of this Ken kept up a great attitude and made being on the transportation committee a pleasure!

**June 2010**

**Malinda Besett, Head Start Director**

Malinda is a role model for all our Head Start employees and parents. She is a caring mother to her daughter, Gra-ciana. Professionally, she has set goals for herself and her staff. To improve our children’s education Malinda applied for and received funding to start an Early Head Start program in Brevig Mission, Elim and Nome. She sent staff to summer intensive courses in Fairbanks, to work toward their CDA, AA or BA degrees. She is working towards a full day program for Head Start children and providing jobs to Teachers and Family Advocates in our region.

**August 2010**

**Danielle Holt, Foster Care Recruiter/Caseworker I**

Danielle takes initiative to get things done that are outside her job duties and responsibilities. Rather than letting the TFC training 2nd day sink, she helped the VP find presenters to fill in the empty hours of training. Danielle did this not because it was required, but because she has a great work ethic and because she believes in CFS as a team. Great effort was put forth by her and her co workers to ensure that the training would flow the best it could with all the speed bumps while being sick.

**October 2010**

**Cynthia Cabrera, Transportation Secretary**

Cynthia jumped right in, taking the role of Administrative Assistant, while doing her own job of Transportation Secretary. Summer and Fall are busy in Transportation and she is willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done. She does not mind putting in overtime when requested on short notice. Cynthia worked on travel during her lunch hour while assisting the General Counsel in making copies of important materials for KTP. You saved Transportation a lot of time and energy by taking on the role of Administrative Assistant by not having to hire a temp for 3 months during Blanche's absence. She is a dedicated worker and an asset to Kawerak.

**November 2010**

**Eva Menadelook, EHP Specialist**

Eva has assisted the Social Science Program with the Diomede Knowledge of Walrus Project by volunteering some of her time to help make the project successful. She is a great asset to the Eskimo Heritage Program and the Natural Resources Division. She is extremely knowledgeable about her job and always ready to help people find the information they need in the EHP archives. Eva is always willing and happy to share her knowledge about our region and people. Eva is dedicated to helping document the cultures and languages of our region.

**February 2010 (no March)**

**Frances Ozenna, Diomede Tribal Coordinator**

Frances organized the Annual IRA membership meeting at Diomede. She was up at 5:00am to bake pies and polar bear stew. She assisted Kawerak, N5HC, U.S Army Corps of Engineers and the AK. Dept of Transportation with travel logistics to attend the meeting. Frances managed to arrange an impromptu show of Eskimo dancing for the visitors. She called Diomede Tribal Membership to establish a quorum. She encouraged community members input. Frances has advocated strongly for transportation, medical and community planning needs.

**May 2010**

**Luisa Machuca, Youth Employment Director**

Luisa has accomplished a huge amount of work with little training in a very short period of time, which has a tremendous impact for all Bering Strait Region youth. Under her direction and with the help of the ARRA grant, a cumulative total of 39 youth between the ages of 14-24 participated in the first ever Winter Youth Program and gained valuable work experience. She has doubled the number of workshop participants over the projected goal to the state agencies and exceeded the number of youth who completed at least one employment objective by 25% over our goal. Even though Luisa has never flown in a small commuter airplane before she made a concerted effort to travel to every community in the Bering Strait Region except for one.

**July 2010**

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

Through private conversations, interviews, listening to people speak at public forums talking with the Natural Resources Committee Julie determined several research gaps needed attention. She applied to many sources and was successful in obtaining over $1.5 million in research grants. These monies will be used in studies that will be helpful to our communities as they advocate for their rights and usage of natural resources, environment and development changes.

**September 2010**

**Denise Michels, Transportation Director**

KTP had two major projects this summer (Gambell and Unalakleet Community Streets Paving) that Denise managed—the two construction contractors and quality assurance contractors. Additionally, she obtained supplemental funding for both projects. Denise has ensured advocacy for IRR funding base. She has good working relationships with the Denali Commission, state and federal agencies which assists in obtaining additional roads funding. She ensures that our villages Long Range Transportation Plans are updated and that we coordinate with other agencies such as AK Native Tribal Health Consortium to ensure that we get the most bang for the buck with our roads program.

**Winter Youth Program and gained valuable work experience. She**
to the following employees and board members who were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the mission of Kawerak. Please join me in applauding and recognizing their performance for 2010!

Loretta Bullard
Kawerak President

2010 Matthew Iya Award
Gina Appolloni, VPSO Director

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

Gina is always in a good mood. If you’re having a busy, hectic day, she’ll tell you a joke or say something that will make you laugh and all of a sudden your day doesn’t seem so crazy. She’ll stop by the office or will call on the phone about a policy or something and have you cracking up. She is more than willing to help pitch in when there are projects going on, always has a smile and is a lot of fun to be around. If there were more people like Gina at Kawerak, I think many people would walk around with smiles all day long.

Congratulations Gina!

Employee of the Year
Malinda Besett, Head Start Director

During the month of December she was awarded 2 grants in the Head Start Program. The Early Head Start Program which will employ 9 new staff members in Nome and villages. She was also awarded an expansion grant to move 4 sites to full day services. This will allow the children to go to school from 9:00am to 4:00pm and hire additional 10 staff members in the villages. She also applied for and was awarded a one-time supplemental finding from the feds for the purchase of a new bus for Nome. We were also able to do some upgrades to the fire systems in two of our sites. The Kawerak Head Start Program was the only program in the entire State of Alaska to get all of the funding we had asked for. This shows that Malinda goes above and beyond her job description to help out the children of this region. She cares for the children of this region and it shows in how hard she works, to get the children as good an education as she can.

Congratulations Malinda!

Board Member of the Year
Robert Keith, Native Village of Elim

During the December Full Board meeting, the Kawerak Board selects the Board Member of the Year by secret ballot. We are pleased to announce that Robert Keith was selected as Board Member of the Year for 2010 (Robert was also selected as Board Member of the Year for 2009).

Board members commented that: “Robert exemplifies what it takes to be a leader in his community and tribe, and also regionally and nation-wide.” One board member voted for Robert for “his good leadership all these years” and another noted “his willingness to lead, attend and act on behalf of all the villages as Chairman.” In the board meeting evaluation forms, a board member commented that Robert “was a good Chairperson, he guided the meeting seemingly without any stress and is willing to listen to everyone.” Thank you Robert for your leadership and congratulations on your recognition! Robert will receive a new Kawerak jacket and two Alaska Airlines round trip tickets.

We would also like to recognize the three board members who tied for second place in the selection of Board Member of the Year: Ellen Richard of Wales, Shirley Martin of St. Michael and Jacob Ahwinona, Elder Representative from Nome. It takes a lot of time and attention to be an effective Board member, and all of these individuals do an outstanding job on the Kawerak Board representing their constituency.

Congratulations to Robert & our 2nd place honorable mentions!
Kawerak is part of the 2011 PFD Program

Kawerak, Inc. is pleased to announce that we are part of the Pick.Click.Give. for 2011. The program was once again a success last year with approximately 9,500 Alaskans giving approximately $925,000 to their favorite organizations. We are excited about the opportunity to participate this year.

We would like to thank the following individuals that donated to Kawerak with their 2010 PFD contribution. Kawerak received a total of $725 from the following individuals, plus an anonymous donor and a matching contribution form the Rasmuson Foundation:

Melanie Bahnke  Sara Mae James
Loretta Bullard  Diane Kaplan
Cynthia Cabrera  Deborah Knight
Matthew Dixon  Pearl Mikulski
Brian James  Kara Mills

By giving through Pick.Click.Give, you can join others to become an important force in bettering our communities and our state. For those of you who already support Kawerak, Inc., we appreciate your gifts and hope you will use this option to make an additional donation. Your donation will go towards Kawerak’s vision of:

**Building on the inherent strength of our cultural values we shall assist our tribes and residents to create a positive future.**

**Our Strategic Goals:**

1. Strengthen culture, wellness and pride.
2. Diversify and enhance regional economies.
3. Enhance tribal and organization effectiveness.
4. Develop community infrastructure.
5. Protect, enhance and control our resources.

When you go on-line to sign up for your dividend, you will see an option to “Pick.Click.Give.” Follow the instructions to make a new donation, or an additional gift. At the same time, please take the extra step you will see after you make your donation to provide your contact information to us. We want to acknowledge and recognize your generous support, and this is the only way we will know it’s you making the gift. You can find more information about the program, including frequently asked questions at [www.PickClickGive.org](http://www.PickClickGive.org). Or you may call us at (907)443-5231.

Thank you for your generous contribution to the Bering Strait area.

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Uqaaqtuaq News
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PO Box 948
Nome, AK 99762
(907)443-5231 phone
www.kawerak.org

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Kawerak Services Directory

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Uqaaqtuaq News is a quarterly newsletter produced by Kawerak with contributions from UAF Northwest Campus, Norton Sound Health Corporation & other partner agencies. Articles and photos can be sent to djames@kawerak.org or call (907)443-4345.

"Uvlaakun suli" translated in Inupiaq language means: More tomorrow! Quyanna!

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