Drums Beat Again

Ekim, Alaska. Tucked along coast and surrounded by trees and water. Familiar and calming sounds greet your ear, children laughing while sliding down the playground ice-slide in the wintertime, the gym filled with the echoes of bouncing basketballs, the ocean waves splashing against the shore in the summer. Yet, there was something missing among these sounds that had stayed silent for years...

More on page 16

Region-Ready

PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES IN THE BERING STRAIT REGION

Disaster preparedness has taken on a whole new meaning in the Bering Strait Region. Increased ship traffic and climate change impacts have resulted in the occurrence of more natural disasters like fall sea storms, erosion and a decrease in food security.

...More on page 21
A Message from the President

Grateful is the word that comes to mind when thinking back on 2018. We cherish time together as families and communities with subsistence activities, allowing our bodies and souls to be nourished by the bounty of the land, air and sea. As a region we display not only resiliency in our ways of life, but also togetherness to work through challenges we have faced in our changing world. I am grateful for the many strong voices we have for our region advocating for our rights and livelihoods; in the hectic political climates I am constantly reminded of the importance of being an advocate and educator to our nation’s leaders on the value of the Arctic. We must strike the right balance between enhancing economic opportunities and preserving our right to live our way of life. It is not only our rights that I fight for, but our survival as well. The spirituality, well-being and health of our families are directly tied to our ability to subsist. I am grateful for the Board of Directors and their leadership and insight to ensure our communities are healthy, as well as the staff at Kawerak who continue to push our State and Federal leaders to provide resources so that we may manage the challenges that our communities face in the midst of great change. We value passing on our culture, our ways, our livelihood to our next generation, and it is critical to maintain this vision at the forefront when confronting the changing realities of the Arctic. I am grateful our voices are united, because together we are stronger.

Kawerak Receives Coast Guard Commendation

Kawerak Inc was recently recognized with a Public Service Commendation from the Department of Homeland Security U.S. Coast Guard “for outstanding support to the United States Coast Guard to advance the Bering Strait Port Access Route Study.”

The Coast Guard initiated the Bering Strait Port Access Route Study in 2010 to examine the need for vessel routing and other preventative measures to enhance the safety of navigation and protect environmentally sensitive areas. After launch of the study, they realized they needed more input and information on the region. Kawerak assisted with filling that gap of knowledge, ensuring the region’s voice was heard. The Coast Guard reflected, “Kawerak’s strong advocacy for the Bering Strait villages served as a constant reminder that both preserving the environment and ensuring the opportunities for the people and tribes of the region to thrive in the future was of paramount importance.”

In response to receiving the award, Kawerak Inc would like to recognize the Kawerak Board of Directors, the many individuals from the region that contributed their current knowledge and traditional knowledge to the variety of workshops held on the topic of Arctic Shipping, as well as the dedicated efforts of the Kawerak Marine Advocate, Austin Ahmasuk. The Marine Advocate position came about by the determination of the Kawerak Board of Directors in 2014. It was this moment that regional leaders had the vision to protect and advocate for the region in the evolving environment. Without the contributions of knowledge from individuals across the region, the linkages between the historical knowledge and present knowledge would have been very difficult to make.

As the Bering Strait emerges as a new shipping corridor, Kawerak is proud and humbled to represent the region’s voices in order to protect, preserve and promote our way of life.

Community In Unity

Community members including Kawerak staff listen to honest talk about prison life and challenges faced in and outside prison walls. The dialogue provoked tears, concerns, possible solutions and connection between everyone. Respectful, honest dialogue strengthens our community and addresses injustices in our systems.

KAWERAK, INC.
Child Welfare Compact

In December 2017 the State of Alaska and Alaska Tribes and Tribal Organizations signed a child welfare compact that recognizes the authority of Alaska Tribes and Tribal Organizations to provide chosen child welfare programs on behalf of the Alaska Office of Children's Services. This compact, the first of its kind in the state and the nation, establishes the framework for Tribes to provide child welfare services on behalf of the state.

Our Tribes and Tribal Organizations can address child safety issues faster than the state. This compact allows us greater local control and oversight of family services, making it easier for families to and children to connect with the support they need. Our Tribes possess inherent sovereign authority to serve our people, and we can incorporate our values, culture, and traditions, leading to better outcomes for our children.

Currently, Tribes have a detailed agreement to perform initial diligent relative searches. As of negotiations in January 2019, the practices of ongoing placement searches and safety evaluations for relative homes will be referred to the tribal co-signers. On the horizon pending funding, licensing assist and family contact may also Story continued on page 16

The Language Journey

These days we are hearing a lot about saving our Alaska Native languages, with predictions weighing on us like “languages will start disappearing by 2020 if nothing is done.” The task seems insurmountable at times; how do we get enough speakers of our Alaska Native Languages to save them? How is one person supposed to change those outcomes? There is hope. Individuals and groups are taking on the challenge with a sense of responsibility, and realizing that learning the language of their ancestors is giving them more than they thought.

On Kawerak’s part, the Board of Directors declared Language Revitalization as a priority in their 2016-2020 Strategic Planning. As a part of this, many programs, departments and staff are looking into ways they can help assist with language revitalization efforts. Eskimo Heritage Program (EHP) staff spent time leading classes for language teachers, going over best practices, instruction techniques and vocabulary expansion. In addition, a 5 credit language class was also taught by EHP Director Yaayuk Alvanna-Stimpfle in partnership with Northwest Campus, that is based on the Inupiaq learning style and how infants and toddlers learn language. The materials are geared towards individuals learning on their own, or for teachers to use for teaching. Yaayuk has been developing language learning resources that can be shared with all the Bering Strait languages. Developing these materials takes time, since the projects are culturally relevant as opposed to translating the Western style of teaching to Inupiaq.

Katirvik Cultural Center in partnership with EHP hosted a Language Revitalization strategic planning session that brought together individuals and organization leaders to plan ways in which language could be incorporated more into everyday life.

Additionally, Kawerak Head Start and childcare look to incorporate language learning with the birth to five year olds, with the goal of opening immersion classrooms like the Language Nest in Shishmaref. Kawerak has also partnered with groups dedicated to language revitalization like Ilisaatigut that support individuals in their language learning journey.

One individual, Randall Jones Sr., grew up in Shishmaref and started learning Inupiaq in primary school. He acknowledges his teachers, John Sinnok and Stanley Tocktoo with a grateful heart; “Early in elementary we learned the sounds and sang in Inupiaq every morning.” Being greeted in his ancestral language each day was a blessing, one that wasn’t fully appreciated until now. Randall also mentioned that fortunately “A lot of Inupiaq I learned...Continued on page 11
The Past Grounds Students in the Present

Viewing a 2,000 year old harpoon head, listening to age old stories, discovering ancient medicinal plants, and standing against the backdrop of documented archaeology sites; only a week at Archaeology Camp in Nome can get you experiences like these. That’s just what twelve high school students did in July of 2018, after they applied and were accepted to the fourth annual Nome Archaeology Camp.

Over the course of 7 days at their base camp of Salmon Lake, the campers fostered their curiosity about cultural and natural resources through their tour of Katirvik Cultural Center by Colleen Reynolds, Tanya Wongittilin and Lisa Ellanna, their tour of Carrie M McLane Memorial Museum with Dr. Amy Phillips-Chan and Jack Omelak and their countless hours spent on the mountaintops and wild tundra. They also received engaging historical lessons with a tour of Pilgrim Hot Springs by Matt Ganley of Bering Straits Development Corporation, stories with Elders Joseph Kunnuk Sr., Mary Kunnuk, Vera Ozenna, and Margaret Ellanna, and through daily interactions with the camp mentors. Along the way the youth also learned research and documentation skills on four local archaeology sites (three previously-recorded and one unrecorded site), discovered the importance of protecting heritage resources, and explored new fields of study and career paths.

Traditional Inupiaq healer, Mary Jane Litchard also paid a visit to the campers, to show them the edible and medicinal garden around them on the tundra. From teas and dessert plants to plants that could heal or harm, Mary Jane taught the teens harvesting tips and important identification skills. To continue with lessons on our valuable natural resources, students also learned about caribou subsistence hunting techniques from the past, with a full performance demonstration.

As a final project, the students summarized their experiences through a variety of presentations on the topics of culture, sharing knowledge, and archaeology with the over-arching themes of community-based participatory research and decolonizing anthropology. Each presentation included direct action that can be taken by the camp partners, such as petitioning the USGS to change the name of Salmon Lake to the original Inupiaq name. As a
follow up to camp, students will submit a formal presentation to the Alaskan Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, February 29- March 2 in Nome AK.

This camp was made possibly by the following partners: Alaska Geographic, National Park Service, Kawerak Inc and the Kativik cultural Center, Bering Straits Native Corporation, University of Alaska Fairbanks Northwest Campus and in cooperation with the City of Nome Carrie M. McLane memorial museum, the Nome Boy Scouts Camp, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the presenters, mentors and of course the students.

Nome Archaeology Camp was originally conceived as an archaeology and social sciences field school by Julie Raymond- Yakoubian and Amy Russell Jamgochian, both of Kawerak, several years ago. The field school camp was a UAF college class in Archaeology, and each student received 3 college credits for participating.

Successful Strategic Planning in Koyuk

Community members in Koyuk participated in 3 days of community strategic planning meetings last week in order to update the Koyuk Local Economic Development Plan. The previous plan completed listed priorities and goals for 2012-2017. The group gathered for the public meeting in the Koyuk IRA multipurpose building from Tuesday, Oct. 2 through Thursday, Oct. 4 and filled the days with productive conversation to help steer future community projects and programs in Koyuk.

The Local Economic Development Plan is created by the tribal members of a community with the assistance of Community Planning and Development staff. Tribal members discuss the community’s priorities and strategize implementation of these priorities. Kawerak staff organize and facilitate these community and economic development discussions, which also includes and in-depth review of community infrastructure needs and gaps, as well as future goals for development as identified by local community members and tribal leaders. Staff also prepare the LEDP documents following the meetings, made available on the Kawerak website www.kawerak.org/community-services/community-planning-and-development/.

Koyuk participants included: Back Row (L to R) LaVerne Kimokoatok, Rebecca Charles, Gabriel Dewey, Natasha Nassuk, Laura Nassuk, Randall Dewey, Viola Kimokoatok, Darrell Kimokoatok, and Front Row (L to R) Georgiann Anasogak, Danny Adams, Mary Apok, & Kawerak staff Patti Lillie.

Resource Center Available!

Come check out Kawerak’s Educational Employment and Supportive Services Resource Center!

The Center is designed to supply the resources necessary to help individuals
• Complete applications
• Research job or educational opportunities
• Work toward employment or educational goals.

Internet, phone, printer and fax access are available.
May 10th 2018 marked a momentous day for 15 students of the General Education Diploma program with Kawerak’s Community Education Department. Although they have earned their certificates before this date, they were able to don a cap and gown to be recognized in front of their friends and family for their significant achievement at the graduation ceremony in partnership with Northwest Campus.

The 2018 year represented the largest number of graduates through the program since the release of the online test in 2014. We are excited for the students who have and who will continue onto new opportunities!

If you would like to learn more about the GED Program, call the Community Education Department at 1-800-478-7574.

Our instructors would love to help you reach your goals!

Kawerak Congratulates 2018 GED Grads

Congratulations to our 2018 General Education Diploma graduates!

Thelma Ahkvaluk, Nome
Dustin Evans, Nome
Renee Gandia, Nome
Cristopher Gould, Nome
Larrisha Johnson, Nome
Brandi Nayokpuk, Shishmaref
Alicia Niksik, Stebbins
David O’Connor, Nome
Bradley Okpealuk, Teller
Adeline Pete, Stebbins
Francis Rochon, Nome
Keven Rodgers, Nome
Timothy Slwooko, Gambell
Ashley Thomas, Nome
Evelyn West, Nome

We are so proud of you all!

Finding Native Identity Through Education

By Igluguq Okleasik, Eskimo Heritage Program, Collections Specialist

What was said 32 years ago at the 8th Annual Bering Straits Elder Conference still rings true today. In 1986, the Elder’s Conference theme was, “Finding Native Identity Through Education.” The following are excerpts from two educators talking about the modern education system, Native identity, and differing values. Please keep in mind, this was in 1986 and it was only one or two generations away from living a wholly subsistence way of life—when they gathered and caught all their food from our land.

Dennis Demmert, Tlingit from Klawock, a soft-spoken and well-respected professor at the University of Alaska Fairbanks spoke about the differing values that are being taught in modern schools. The values we learn at home are not taught at school. An example he talked about was sharing versus individuality. Sharing is a value taught at home that is not taught at school. He talked about social security, describing how he would bring part of his father’s catch to an Elder woman in his village. He said it was one of his more enjoyable chores growing up. In school, we learn to take care of only ourselves. Our economy is cash-based and we don’t share.

Jimmie Toolie

KAWERAK. INC.
Another example was using the land for our needs versus owning the land. He talked about gathering food from the beach and being chased off by a man with a gun saying that it was his beach; Professor Demmert thought that the beach was there for everybody. He talked about what it takes to be a teacher, you have to go to school for 16 years and learn to teach one way. He stated:

"The difference when Jimmie and Mabel Toolie of Savoonga came to UAF and were visiting Elders and taught what they knew to students. What they taught was very different; the way they taught it was different; it was more like the traditional ways of teaching that our people used for generations. We need new ways to share our knowledge. One of the ways he sees working is Elder’s Conferences like the one he is attending now. He stated that many young people need to attend these conferences and listen to what the Elders have to say. School teachers need to attend these conferences and figure out a way to get Elders into the schools. There is too much valuable knowledge that is being lost. Young people need the Elders help. They need to learn the old ways and learn to be teachers and make the two to work together. We need new ways to share our knowledge."

Margaret Seeganna, a well-respected educator originally from Big Diomede who lived and raised her children on King Island, gave a talk about Native Identity. This is a transcript of her speech:

"Every child born into this world has natural qualities of watching and listening. Native children are born with traits be inherited from his culture. Natives are the same as anyone else.

Ask a Native hunter how he learned his hunting skills, how he learned to make his hunting implements and how he learned survival skills. While young, a hunter to be watched and listened to Elders. He also asked questions.

A young girl watched her mother, or aunt or grandmother, while they sewed. When a Native child is confident with himself or herself they tried to imitate what they had seen and what their Elders are doing.

Taking four-year-olds into Head Start is taking them into a very different environment and presenting them into a very different culture. A culture he will never completely adjust to and which will never accept him completely. A culture he will later revolt against.

It is that culture that has robbed our younger generation of their Native identity through the schools. That loss of identity has led our younger generation into alcoholism, suicide, drugs, and even murder.

For generations Native children have struggled between these two cultures. The white culture trying to make these children images of itself and failing very badly.

Native Elders had techniques of teaching and guiding youngsters. As an Elder once stated, ‘Have Elders go to classrooms. Elders have ways of making instruction an entertaining structure.’

Both Professor Demmert and Mrs. Seeganna had powerful things to say about Native identity and the values we live by. What they said resonates today, 32 years later:

We are living in 2018 and we need to know who we are, our identity, to flourish. The way we as Native people teach our children is valid. We need to continue to teach the Native ways even though we’re not validated or appreciated by the dominant culture. Identity is vital to the well-being of our Native people. Continue to teach the Native ways.

Kawerak Proudly Supports NYO

“Native Youth Olympics, more commonly known as NYO, is a sport that tests an athlete’s mental and physical strength, agility, and stamina. For generations, NYO has developed to challenge today’s Alaskan Natives by encouraging athletes to strive for their personal bests while helping and supporting their teammates, along with other teams.”

- Amber Gray and Kastyn Lie
Fifteen youth from across the Bering Strait made the trek to Nome to begin their journey for Camp Igaliq 2018. The journey wasn’t only a physical one, with the flight to Nome, the 80 miles in a van to Council and the two miles downstream in a boat, but also a personal one. Alongside eight positive role models and mentors, youth at camp had a safe and supportive space to talk about tough issues, learn about the challenging past faced by their parents, grandparents and ancestors, and consider their role in the future of their community’s wellness and the part they play. Of course in the midst of this they forged new positive relationships, enjoyed healthy activities, and shared a lot of laughs.

The campers from Nome, St Michael, Stebbins, Koyuk, Shishmaref, Savoonga, Gambell and Brevig Mission were out of town together for 5 days developing their relationship skills. The teens practiced positive communication and emotional expression with each other. They also discussed what healthy relationships look like and should feel like. They recognized the negative impact of stress in their lives and thought of different ways they could positively cope with their life stressors. A presentation was given on Green Dot, an active bystander training to encourage people to speak out and intervene if they see something that isn’t right. Campers will take these skills back to their home communities to not only positively affect their decisions and interactions, but influence their peers and families as well.

July 21-26 of 2018 marked the ninth year of Camp Igaliq, however this was the first year the camp was held at Bear Creek Fish Camp in Council. Campers stayed active with daily exercise, hiking, swimming and paddle boarding. Cultural activities were also offered to campers to practice and find how they can be interwoven into their daily lives. Beading, harpooning, fishing, NYO warm-ups and talking circles were practiced, along with a special evening of drumming and dancing performed by the Nome St Lawrence Island Dancers.

We are grateful for the help and support of Kativik Cultural Center space and staff, Bear Creek Fish Camp space and staff, NSHC Behavioral Health Services for financial support, Nome St Lawrence Island Dance Group for performing and spending time with youth, Kawerak Dartmouth Interns, NSHC Tribal Healer Program for providing mentor Eva Menedelook, Nome Community Center for supplies, City of Nome for space, and local businesses for accommodating our large group: Huskys, Bering Sea Restaurant, Subway, and Milanos.
Summer Youth Success

Elizabeth Alowa worked for the Native Village of Solomon through Kawerak’s Summer Youth Program.

“Before this summer I had never heard of Village of Solomon, nor did I know the history of Solomon. I spent the last 8 weeks alongside the tribal coordinator, Liz Johnson – creating a database, mailing out the annual newsletter, ballots and bills, and making the Village of Solomon website. I also helped out with Bed and Breakfast maintenance, filing, finances, and took calls and messages. Working as an intern at Village of Solomon was an eye opening experience; I learned something new almost every day. I became aware of the importance of a tribe, and how much time and effort goes into coordinating. Overall, this internship was a great experience. I’d like to thank Liz and the rest of the members of the Village of Solomon for giving me this opportunity.”

LOOK for the Summer Youth Application at your local IRA and online at www.kawerak.org/syp. Applications due March 29!

Stepping Stones for Future Teachers with Head Start

Imagine being able to start your career and be given the expense-paid opportunity to earn an educational certificate or degree while working. This is the dream that can be realized for Kawerak Head Start/Early Head Start Staff. With the commitment to professional development by Kawerak and generous financial support from Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC), in 2019 ten teachers will enroll in courses to work toward their AA degree in Early Childhood Education. These students will join the wave of Head Start employees advancing their education goals alongside their employment.

The path to reaching these educational milestones starts out with staff who hold a GED or High school diploma. These credentials make applicants eligible be hired, as long as they commit to earn their Child Development Associate (CDA) credential within a year (The CDA application fee is paid for by Kawerak). To obtain the certificate students must complete 120 hours of ECE training. Through NSEDC Growing Our Own Teachers grants, CACHE scholarships and Kawerak educational credits, certificates and degrees can be obtained at little to no cost to staff. Since credits are received through course work, the credits can be applied toward student’s ECE AA and/or BA degrees. Through these steps staff would then be eligible to obtain their teaching certificate!

Don’t wait to take that next step to make your dream teaching job come true. To find open jobs with Kawerak Head Start, please visit www.kawerak.org/jobs.
Regional Trainings
Hazwoper in Brevig Mission
When contamination from a work site is a consideration, it is important to know how to protect people, the land and our sources for water. This past September residents of Brevig Mission were presented with the opportunity to complete the Hazwoper course offered by Kawerak’s Village Based Training Program in cooperation with the Brevig Mission Traditional Council.

Thirteen individuals completed the full 40-hour course, and an additional thirteen individuals completed the 8-hour refresher course. Instructor Lance Whitewell of Venetie taught the students how to protect themselves from the hazardous materials while performing site cleanup or energy response activities.

Kawerak Education, Employment and Supportive Services Department would like to specially thank Lucy Olanna for her support and coordination of this training.

Inaugural Heavy Equipment Operation Class
Training on large equipment in rural Alaska is no easy task, but where there is a will, there is a way! Thanks to the cooperation between Kawerak and Northwest Alaska Career and Technical Education Center (NACTEC) as well as funding from an Alaska Community Foundation Grant, opportunities for heavy equipment training for adults in the Bering Strait have reached new possibilities.

NACTEC owns state of the art simulators, giving participants a realistic experience to earn training time without large pieces of equipment to store and maintain. For the inaugural training held from April 9-12 2018, 8 were trained on these machines. Students logged an average of 14 hours to increase their confidence and skill set on these large machines, adding valuable content to their resume they can utilize for future employment.

As a part of the training, participants also received practical employment advice and expectations from regional employers. Aaron Burmeister of Tumet Industries, a local construction firm, visited the group and talked about employer expectation and the hiring process for regional projects in the villages for wages of $45-$60 per hour.

Kawerak is excited to continue to offer this opportunity to the region through coordination with NACTEC and travel scholarships; it was obvious the class is in high demand when over 45 applications were received for the limited number of spots!

Regional Training Questions?
Contact Kendra Takak, 1-800-405-4341, follow “Kawerak Inc” on Facebook, and visit us online at kawerak.org/training.
was at home;” his dad, uncle and grandfather constantly spoke around him at home and when they were hunting together. Now as a bilingual/cultural teacher at BSSD he wants to make sure the children can learn too like he did, “to keep the beautiful sound of our people alive.” Randall took the 5 credit language class taught by Yaayuk along with 14 others and was given the opportunity to adapt the curriculum to the Shishmaref dialect of Inupiaq.

Language can be a tool to connect us to the past and our traditions, but it can also be a conduit into learning about ourselves. Learner Anauk Denise Pollock from Shishmaref was a part of Iḷisaqativut and says learning Inupiaq is like learning about herself. “It’s the heart of who I am. As long as I’m learning Inupiaq I’m learning more about who I am.” She and other learners reflect also about responsibility of learning, but they are given so much more than they could have imagined, and are a part of something much larger than themselves. “I really think the work that we do is sacred,” says Anauk, “It’s the most beautiful thing I’ve ever been a part of.”

KAWERAK PROGRAMS
Eskimo Heritage Program
907-443-4386
ehp@kawerak.org
- Recordings of speakers and songs
- Library including Inupiaq, Central Yup’ik and SLI Yupik dictionaries
- Inupiaq Readers

Katirvik Cultural Center
907-443-4340
kcc@kawerak.org
- Regional Connections
- Recordings of speakers
- Historical object naming
- Place to gather to speak

Students who participated in the 5-credit language class taught by Yaayuk Alvanna-Stimpfle

Language Resources
WEBSITE RESOURCES:
Books in Inupiaq and Yupik: www.uniteforliteracy.com
People of Kawerak book and other language resources: www.alaskool.org
Inupiaq Kobuk Junior Dictionary and other language resources: www.uaf.ankn.edu
Language resources: www.uaf.edu/analc
Alaska Native archives: https://www.uaf.edu/analca
Arctic Languages website: http://www.arcticlanguages.com/assess.php#self
Linguistic Society of America: https://www.linguisticsociety.org/content/native-american-language-revitalization-legislation
Yupik language website: www.yugtun.com
Inupiaq language website: https://inupiatlanguage.community.uaf.edu/

PHONE APPLICATIONS
Inupiaq Word Finder – online dictionary
Inupiaaraqta – phrases in Inupiaq, NANA region dialect
Archagat – Inupiaq fonts Keyboard

OTHER
Iḷisaġvik College at Utqiagvik, AK free tuition for AK Native students
Ayveghem Yupigestun Aatqusluga – St. Lawrence Island Yupik Walrus Dictionary to soon be released by the Eskimo Walrus Commission.
Employees of the Month

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

DECEMBER
Tanya Wongittilin
KCC Project Assistant

JANUARY
Nina Hanebuth
Executive Assistant

FEBRUARY
Krystal Hensley
Child Development Program Manager

MARCH
Kirstie Ione
Chinik Tribal Family Coordinator

APRIL
Diane Okleasik
EHP Collections Specialist

APRIL
Vanessa Johnson
Teacher Aide/Janitor, Head Start

MAY
Ian Foster
Foster Care Recruiter

JUNE
Mariah Morgan
College and Career Guide

JUNE
Aubrey Hasick-Cooper
Education & Disabilities Specialist

JULY
Mary David
Executive Vice President

AUGUST
Ashley Crowe
Program Specialist, Head Start

SEPTEMBER
Linda Hildreth
Head Start Teacher
Special Commendations

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

Congratulations to our graduating degree-seeking employees!

- **Brenda Henry** (Golovin Head Start) - A.A.S., Early Childhood Education
- **Ashley Crowe** (Nome Head Start) - A.A.S., Early Childhood Education, & UAF ECE Student of the Year
- **Karla Nayokpuk** (Shishmaref, Children & Family Services) - A.A.S. Human Services with Rural Human Services Certificate

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**Matthew Iya Award**

- **Charles Punguk**
  Exemplifies hard work and a positive attitude, and brings a sense of fun and camaraderie to the workplace.

- **Ashley Crowe**
  Consistently performed above expectations throughout the year and took positive initiative at work.

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**30 Years of Service**

- **Joyce Takak**
  Family Advocate/Teacher
  Elim

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**25 Years of Service**

- **Dan Harrelson**
  VPSO
  White Mountain

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**Deb Trowbridge** Named **Alaska Head Start Director of the Year**

Deb, Nome Head Start Director, earned Director of the Year by demonstrating outstanding leadership and program direction. “Deb is always very thorough in making sure we make the best possible decisions when it comes to children’s safety and education. She is always willing to listen to her coworkers and takes everybody’s opinions into account, and very much welcomes teamwork; a quality that makes a good Director.” - Rebecca Callahan, Head Start Child Development Service Manager.
Higher Education
Student Highlight

I am honored to be one of the recipients of the Kawerak Scholarship over the years that I have been in school. Thanks to your generous support I have obtained my Master’s Degree from the University of Alaska Southeast-Juneau.

Growing up in a less privileged community has not only offered financial and academic challenges, but has also helped me realize the value of a college education.

I am able to serve in a teaching position for the Bering Strait School District in Unalakleet as a 4th Grade teacher. I am honored to be giving back to my community. My educational pursuits would not be possible without generous support from scholarship sponsors like your organization. Thank you for your help in the successful pursuit of my dreams!

Karen Coffey

Subsistence is Life

Kawerak congratulates and supports our subsistence hunters carrying out the traditions of our ancestors and nourishing our communities’ bodies and spirits. Even in the face of adversity, our traditional ways will not be degraded. We stand proud with Chris Aпassingok of Gambell, who faced criticism for feeding his community, and continue to advocate not only for our right to subsist, but also the importance for our livelihood to be understood and respected by the world. We are thankful for our Elders’ teachings and youth continuing traditions.

Sign Up for Our E-Newsletter!

Get information faster and get connected with email updates from Kawerak, Inc! Just text KAWERAK to 22828 and you can get enrolled... Don’t worry, our paper newsletters will continue. Let’s keep in touch!

Scholarship Opportunities!

www.my-Cache.org

Combined Application For College & Higher Education

Deadlines:
Fall Semester: June 30
Spring Semester: December 1
Summer Semester: April 15

MyCache

“...through work and school are to become the strongest, most effective advocate I can be for our people.”

AYYU QASSATAG, UDALAGLIQ

CALEB Scholars Program

www.my-Cache.org

Combined Application For College & Higher Education

Deadlines:
Fall Semester: June 30
Spring Semester: December 1
Summer Semester: April 15

MyCache

Just send your email address by text message:

Text KAWERAK to 22828 to get started.

KAWERAK, INC.
PFD Donations Support Cultural Center

Time to sign up for your 2019 PFD! Although the application period closes in March, your ability to make a contribution to causes you care about remains open until August 31! If you choose to donate to Kawerak Inc, all donations go toward operation and programming costs for the Kativik Cultural Center (KCC). KCC opened October 2016, and since has fulfilled the longstanding dream of a space to honor the culture of the Bering Strait. At the center one can hear the beat of the drums, listen to the stories of the past from our elders, speak in native dialects, learn about our local history, practice time honored traditions and engage in challenging conversations.

Taikuullapiaq to all our generous donors for Pick.Click.Give with your 2018 PFD! Twenty-three donations totaling $1825 have increased our overall funds raised the prior year by 247%! Alice Bioff, Loretta Bullard, Donna James, Natalie Kaningok, Diane Kaplan, Pamela Karalunas, Denise Koonooka, Denisha Koonooka, Ella Koonooka, Jesse Merculief, Odin Miller, Nathaniel Perry, Anthony Phillips, Curtis Rock, Jaclyn Sallee, Tohcyahdaymah Tahbone, Robert Tokeinna as well as six anonymous donations.


To support Kawerak you can also go directly to this link: http://www.pickclickgive.org/index.cfm/pfdorgs.info/Kawerak-Inc

Safe Homes in All Communities

The shortage of safe homes and spaces for victims of domestic violence stands as a shared concern across our Bering Strait communities according to survey data*. In response to this concern, Kawerak Child Advocacy Center (CAC), Kawerak Wellness and partner Bering Sea Women’s Group (BSWG) aim to expand the current Safe Home project to a larger scale and ensure every community in the Bering Strait has at least one Safe Home.

A Safe Home is a place for individuals to obtain housing and safety in order to leave a domestic violence situation. Safe Homes in the Bering Strait region village communities provide safe, temporary housing for victims (women AND men) of domestic violence and their children for 1-3 days. These days are used as a cushion to then transfer the family to the Bering Sea Women’s Group Shelter in Nome for a longer-term stay.

The current project is a funded effort through the Kawerak Wellness Department and Bering Sea Women’s Group. To date, safe Homes have been established in Brevig Mission, White Mountain, Savoonga, Elim, Nome and St. Michael. To expand the program, the Child Advocacy Center received a new three year grant from Indian Health Services.

Work accomplished by the funding includes recruitment and training of Safe Home providers by the BSWG. Additionally, BSWG and the CAC will travel to villages to educate youth and adults on the topics of sexual assault, domestic violence, and other overlapping areas. Lastly, work will be done with service providers to ensure the development of solid safety plans and a streamlined referral process for victims of abuse and assault.

No one has the right to hurt you. If you find yourself in a violent or abusive relationship please reach out for help. Real love doesn’t hurt. Call Bering Sea Women’s Group at 1-800-570-5444 or 443-5444 if you are in need of safe shelter.

*CAC Community Needs Assessment survey, data collection June, July 2017. The survey, conducted by Kawerak’s Child Advocacy Center was utilized to determine effectiveness of services, needed services, and awareness of resources. Survey responses also indicated that protection from a suspected abuser, improved law enforcement responses, access to counseling, and outreach/education were the main concerns of the community. To that end, the CAC is completing developing strategies to address these issues.
Drums Beat Again continued from front page

With the support of the Bering Strait School District (BSSD), developing more cultural programming was a priority for the Aniguiin school. To find a starting place, Kris Busk of BSSD called Katirvik Cultural Center (KCC). The question was posed, what can we do to support the Elim community with cultural activities? With limited resources for an extended course, KCC staff recruited the help of local dance groups including the Nome St Lawrence Island Dance Group and the King Island Drummers and Dancers to assist with reviving dance traditions in the community. Historically, many communities around the region lost their dancing traditions due to missionaries forbidding the behavior and children being sent off to boarding schools.

To help bring the tradition home, the Nome St Lawrence Island Dance group were invited to the school in February 2018. On their visit the group taught kindergarten through 12th graders how to dance, and motions to songs. Songs and dances they taught were chosen to gift to the community so they could practice and perform with the blessing of the group. Songs and dances are not public for everyone to use. Some songs are kept within families and only to be performed by that family unless permission is given. When performing a gifted song and dance, the group first gives credit to the song composer as well as the group that gifted the song. These recognitions are an important part of traditional etiquette.

Alongside the dance group, culture-bearer Maligiaq Padilla went to teach drum making to the 6-12 graders. From start to finish the youth learned how to make a drum using synthetic materials. Traditionally the drums are made of walrus stomach, but an alternative canvas was provided for the class. Students also learned the cultural significance of the drum and how to take care of it. The school now has 15 drums to use and continue practicing with the students and the community.

King Island drummers and dancers were invited to teach in November of 2018 to build upon what the students learned with the first group, and to learn new songs. The songs gifted were more recently composed by Isaiah McKenzie, giving the students a blend of modern songs and traditional songs. Songs can educate the students on hunting and gathering, cultural pride, healthy relationships, positive self-identity, and more.

Following the visits, Kawerak created instructional videos of both the Nome St Lawrence Island and King Island groups’ gifted dances so the Elim community could utilize the DVDs for reference to continue practicing the dances, the songs and the drumming. The group was also encouraged to look into historical video and recordings such as those at Kawerak’s Eskimo Heritage Program to see if their past community dances could be found.

RESOURCES: Katirvik Cultural Center 443-4340 • Eskimo Heritage Program 443-4386

Questions, call Kawerak Children and Family Services at 1-800-478-5153.
My time at Kawerak has been a great learning experience that I will not forget. It consisted of working with the Social Science Program for half of my internship and the other half was with the Eskimo Walrus Commission. I have learned a great deal of information from both. I learned a lot about Kawerak that I didn't know about before. I was able to learn about my own culture, which is very important for me.

I was working with the Social Science Program under the supervision of Julie Raymond-Yakoubian. The social science internship mainly consists of transcribing recordings from the supernatural project. The project collected stories from seventeen tribes in the region on supernatural phenomena. I was able to listen and transcribe a handful of these stories out of the thousands of stories that have been collected. There are a lot of stories from elders from these communities and now that they have been recorded they will be available to listen to or read again.

Along with transcribing, we took a work trip to Elim; it was great to be able to be there and see what an actual interview looked like.

We did about eight interviews in Elim with a lot of different and exciting stories. Everyone I met in Elim was very nice and welcoming. It was a fun trip that we had.

During my internship I was also able to attend the Nome Archeology Camp as a camp counselor. Nome Archeology Camp is a camp for high school students which was sponsored by Alaska Geographic, National Park Service and Kawerak. One of the greatest things I took away from this is seeing old caribou drive lines that were very old and a useful way of caribou hunting. We also were able to hike up to an old archeological site that hasn’t been documented yet. It is a rock cairn that was dated over 300 years old.

One day during the summer I had the opportunity to go on a boating trip up the Kuzitrin River with Roy Ashenfelter. He took Social Science Program staff and we drove about 70 miles out to get to the Kuzitrin River. He found an old archeological site where there were dwellings up on a bluff. They must have been old sod houses.

There were three dwelling places; two of which were about 12 feet long and 6 feet wide. The other one was bigger about 15 feet by 20 feet. Roy said they were probably at that particular spot because a water source was nearby and there was good visibility all around. It was so interesting to see where a family must have lived so many years ago.

For the Eskimo Walrus Commission, I worked under Vera Metcalf. EWC had us work with the Eskimo Heritage Program, which I had no idea existed. There is a lot of information from interviews with Elders in all of the communities. There is such rich history in all of it and I am so happy that it exists. We took a few days and read a lot of interviews on hunting and conservation. It was all very humbling to learn about how our ancestors lived off the land. I learned so much about Walrus hunting and there was a lot of great information that I am taking with me.

In conclusion, this internship has been a great deal of fun and I have taken away so much knowledge from it. I am so thankful to Kawerak and ANSEP for connecting me with this internship. This has been a great opportunity that anyone would be fortunate to have.
Leaders from every community in the Bering Strait flew to Nome to gather in solidarity for the first annual Kawerak Leadership Conference. The conference, held October 3-6, 2017, was the first of its kind for our region. The conference also hosted a Youth Track for youth in the region. Because community leadership from the city, tribe, and corporation don’t have many opportunities to collaborate in a structured, supportive environment, the Kawerak Board of Directors envisioned this gathering to foster teamwork and cooperation in and between our villages.

Keynote Inspired

Keynote Ayyu Qassataq of Unalakleet working for First Alaskan’s Institute set the tone on Day 1 with powerful discourse, acknowledging the profound trauma in Alaska Native history and its impact on relationships and families. “It brought back memories that were instilled way back in my head,” reflected St Michael Elder Charlie Fitka Jr. “When the diseases killed off our people, a lot of the people were orphans. They didn’t know how, they had no parents, they had no one teaching them. They raised us up without knowing how to be parents or their own history. Then boarding schools came around and we went out of our villages and into a different world. When we came back we didn’t know how to act because we were now ‘civilized’ I guess, and it really put us apart from our way of life. We were lost again with no real upbringing because we were away from our folks at the time that we should have been with our parents to learn how to live.” Staff from Katirkiv Cultural Center also offered insights on historical trauma and Alaska Native History during a breakout session to follow the personal research and story of Ayyu.

Ayyu’s moving speech also emphasized the tremendous power the past gives us as Alaska Native people to realize our power and affect change in our environment. “It opened my eyes to know that I have strength,” said Puniskshuk, Lucy Oquillik representing Mary’s Igloo Traditional Council. “I’m hoping to use these tools in my community that I learned. Everyone has strengths and we need to let people know they can use those strengths to help their community.”

Tools Offered to Participants

Additional breakout sessions included advocacy and tribal government, tribal courts, and cultural community-based prevention strategies. Youth Susan Hoogendorn of Koyuk felt that cultural gatherings would help students connect with one another and support one another. “I would take back cultural values like dancing and language,” said Hoogendorn. “I would like to bring more youth and kids in my town together for dancing. It’s best to continue (gathering youth) because there has been suicides from youth.” Her comments echo Fitka’s sentiment regarding the trauma from cultural displacement, “Our young kids are kind of lost because they don’t understand where they came from and what we went through. They want to find their own identity.”

Youth Track

The youth attended the summit and participated in their own sessions through coordination and support from Kawerak Wellness. Youth learned how to be a resource for their peers, met with Lieutenant Governor Byron Mallot and shared important qualities about having healthy relationships with the Native Youth Sexual Health Network.
Conference Celebration Gathering

The gathering of course didn’t just stick to sessions during the day; to celebrate the guests in town and highlight our culture, evening social activities planned included a kuspuk runway fashion show, a showing of the film “We Breathe Again” and of course a community potluck gathering complete with dancing by dance groups from around the region. Dance groups included the Nome St. Lawrence Island Dancers, Teller Dancers, Stebbins Dancers, King Island Dancers and Savoonga Dancers.

The event was so successful and valued by the communities it is the hope that Kawerak is able to make it an annual event and continue connecting, sharing ideas, communicating challenges and brainstorming solutions.

Kawerak Land Management Services provides management assistance to Restricted Native Allotment and Restricted Townsite Lot owners and their heirs as the Service Provider for the BIA. Alaska Natives acquired restricted lands through the 1906 Allotment Act, and the 1926 Townsite Act. Villages that DO contain Restricted Townsite Lots are Brevig Mission, Teller, Golovin, Koyuk, St. Michael, Shaktoolik, and Stebbins.

Land Realty transactions include:

- Gift Deeds, leases and permits, mortgages, removal of restrictions, resolving trespass settlements, granting Rights of Way, negotiated & advertised Sales and Last Wills & Testaments.

The first step for ANY transaction is to contact our office directly. Any Transactions notarized or recorded in court will NOT be valid unless they go through our office.

- Tony A. Weyiouanna Sr., Director, 443-4327, TWeyiouanna@kawerak.org
- Francine Johnson, LMSS II, 443-4324, fjohnson@kawerak.org
- Charles Ellanna, LMSS I, Ph. 443-4323, cellanna@kawerak.org
- Nora Brock, Probate Specialist II, 443-4326, nbrock@kawerak.org
- Brian James, Probate Specialist I, 443-4320, BJames@kawerak.org
- LMSS Toll free number: 1-800-443-4316
Artisan Market Success

By Barb Nickels

Results from Kawerak’s nine month 2018 Visitor’s Survey loudly resonated that Nome tourists wanted to personally engage with artists, hear their stories, and have more opportunity to purchase Native arts. In recent times Nome has lost a couple of brick and mortar gift stores making local craft purchases more difficult. Thus the Kawerak Friday Artisan Market was conceived as a beneficial pilot project for artists in the region.

Fridays were chosen through a poll of regional artists and Kawerak’s Community Planning and Development (CPD) Economic Development Specialist Barb Nickels organized the Market. Anvil City Square lawn was secured for each Friday in June, July and part of August. Friday set-up was accomplished through the hard work of the Seaside volunteers, assembling chairs, tables and multi-colored tents.

Typical Nome summer weather blessed the artists with wind and chilly days, but artisans prevailed. Each Friday one could find beautifully crafted local art and food goodies. 23 vendors registered and came in to Nome through the support of Kawerak’s Economic Development Administration Grant (EDA) awarded with the intent to increase Native tourism. Travel scholarships were provided to residents of Savoonga, Brevig Mission, Shishmaref, Teller, and Gambell (only artists that registered were provided scholarships). Nome vendors were welcome to sell rent-free as well.

To evaluate the success of the Artisan Market each vendor filled out an anonymous evaluation. With few exceptions, each artist averaged around $150 in daily sales. One vendor grossed over $1300 during the Market that maintained a consistent presence and inventory. Evaluations also revealed artists selling ivory reported buyers questioned if they could legally transport ivory items. While Kawerak and others continue working to defeat the passage of ‘broad’ ivory bans, it is evident more work is needed to educate the general public.

One other surprising result concluded that locals, other artists, or those in Nome for work, conferences, or vacation spent more money than cruise ship passengers. Overall, vendors felt successful and would participate again if the opportunity is offered with the suggestion of adding music to the atmosphere.

This project was hugely successful; it had a direct, positive impact on increasing business opportunities for a number of artists, alongside regional networking. The Artisan Market is only one project of the EDA funding. The award will also support a Comprehensive Tourism Assessment, Strategic Cultural Tourism Plans for regional communities, as well as train residents to run and market their own businesses. Kawerak looks forward to more opportunities to support and promote Native Tourism in our region.

REPORTING EMERGENCIES IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Local Community Disaster* Reports:
State Emergency Operations Center, Division of Homeland Security
1.800.478.2337
*Includes long-term power outages, flooding, extended fire response, or any event that would impact your whole community.

Oil Spill Reporting:
During Business Hours:
DEC Northern Office
907.451.1212
After Hours Reports:
National Response Center
1.800.478.9300

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Artisan Market Memory
I will never forget when on our second Friday Market I looked down the line of tents and saw Elder Betsy Pikonganna hanging on to one of the tent poles so that the large tent couldn’t fly away! Betsy’s face was so calm when I saw what she was up against and she wasn’t even hollering….just concentrating on holding that pole down! The tent was rescued when customers and other vendors each came to hold on to a pole while I ran down the street to Builder’s for stronger tent stakes and more tie downs. If only we had video, we could have probably won America’s Funniest Videos!

- Barb Nickels

Artist Betsy Pikonganna and vendor Dawn Apangalook.
Region - Ready (cont. from Front)
Kawerak, along with other organizations, are focusing serious energy on planning, preparation, and allocation of resources for our region to be able to respond to large-scale emergencies. Located far from state or federal assistance, our communities, without proper training and resources, could be at risk.

Recently, the Kawerak Environmental Program, with its new Emergency Preparedness Program, started assisting communities prepare by providing hands-on ‘boots on the ground’ type training opportunities for community residents. The efforts kicked off in 2018 with hosting the Bering Strait Rural Resiliency Workshop, June 12-14, a collaborative effort with the State of Alaska Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM). Two representatives from each community traveled to Nome to learn the importance of emergency preparedness, community mobilization strategies, and about the available state, federal and local resources. Facilitated discussions involved learning from one another by sharing lessons from past emergencies as well as identifying resource gaps and challenges. Local planning and Small Community Emergency Response Plans (SCERPs) were encouraged as starting blocks for each community.

After receiving positive participant feedback, two more preparedness courses were offered in 2018 including an Oil Spill Response training held August 14-16 and the FEMA Incident Command System (ICS)/National Incident Management System (NIMS) training, held September 11-13. Participants were able to come in on travel scholarships from almost all communities across the Bering Strait Region.

During the Oil Spill Response Course regulations, environmental impacts, safety protocols and health impacts were discussed at length to give participants a chance to consider the big picture in a response situation. Participants were able to handle and become familiar with different emergency and oil spill response equipment. Also included was the Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) refresher. The communities of Brevig Mission, Diomede, Golovin, Nome, Shishmaref, Stetbins, Unalakleet and White Mountain were represented in the class of 18 students.

The ICS/NIMS training which took place at the Northwest Campus, provided students with a common language and framework to utilize for small community response efforts. Practicing the common and appropriate response language is an essential part of coordinating initial local community response. This makes for accurate communication between local responders and state and federal support personnel and agencies.

Trainings and outreach were also held in some of the villages. Charlene Saclamana, Emergency Preparedness Specialist, traveled to the communities of Brevig Mission, Golovin, Koyuk, St. Michael, Savoonga, Shishmaref, Shaktoolik, and Unalakleet to meet with leaders. All communities were informed about the available assistance with Hazard Mitigation Planning process and the importance of developing their SCERPs.

In addition, the Division of Homeland Security Staff, Tom Koloski, joined Charlene in visiting St Michael, Shishmaref, Shaktoolik and Unalakleet. A representative from the American Red Cross also assisted these communities in registering their schools in the National Shelter Program to function as a shelter during a disaster. Tabletop exercises were performed in Shishmaref, Shaktoolik and St Michael to practice what response would look like with a sample disaster scenario.

With increased vessel traffic in the Arctic, it has become a priority for Kawerak to advocate for preparedness and assist with planning so that our communities can be confident in the challenges that lay ahead. Trainings were provided free to participants, and travel scholarships were awarded thanks to the generous support of the Department of Transportation, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the US Coast Guard, and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Chadux, and the State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES
Small Community Emergency Response Planning assistance:
Charlene Saclamana, Emergency Preparedness Specialist, Kawerak, Inc. 907.443.4337
Brett Schimmack, Emergency Management Specialist, DHS&EM 907.428.7000

Hazard Mitigation Planning assistance:
Rick Dembroski, Hazard Mitigation Plan Officer 907-428-7000.

American Red Cross to register with National Sheltering Program, Fairbanks Chapter 907.456.5937

Any other questions about reporting non-life threatening emergencies please feel free to contact Kawerak’s Emergency Preparedness Program at 907.443.4337.
Advocacy for Sexual Assault Survivors

Does your community have illegal dump sites, old landfills, dilapidated public buildings, abandoned canneries, burned structures, former fuel storage sites, or fuel spills? These are examples of brownfields. Some brownfields have unseen contamination like asbestos tiles or lead-contaminated soil...these things just look like...things! These sites in our communities may pose threat and hazards to the environment and human health, may make valuable property unusable or interfere with subsistence activities. These can be sites that have undergone clean up, but may not be usable due to residual known or suspected contamination.

To document the region’s sites and assist in the process of returning these sites to beneficial and non-hazardous condition Kawerak welcomed in a new program called the “Brownfields Tribal Response Program.” The basic goal of this program is to inventory, assess, and address the releases of hazardous substances. This then will allow tribes to repurpose and improve these sites in the future. Within the first year of the program, Gambell, Stebbins and Golovin were visited to present the program and document possible brownfield sites.

Help us inventory, prioritize and pursue clean-up of these contaminated sites. This program is a great way to address historical contaminated sites, reduce the exposure of the community to hazardous substances and reuse land that may be occupied by an old building, former fuel tank farm or other nuisance.

**Step One:** Inventory suspected contaminated sites in the Bering Strait Region. Communities should identify suspected contaminated sites to add to the Kawerak brownfield inventory. Residents can report sites directly to Kawerak Environmental Program, 443-5259 or online at https://trpcoord.wixsite.com/kawerak-brownfields. Confirmed brownfield sites in the region documented by the State of Alaska are also listed on the website.

**Step Two:** Prioritize sites based on threats to the community’s health and the environment and potential for reuse or redevelopment. This stage involves gathering information such as: property history and ownership, knowledge of potential contaminates and what/who is responsible for the contamination, and deciding on a reuse plan that the community agrees upon for the site. The reuse is only as limited as your imagination and could possibly include a storage facility, a staging area for hazardous waste or recyclables, a new basketball court, a community building and more!

**Step Three:** Sites are eligible to apply for funding for a formal Environmental Site Assessment. There are two main sources of funding for initial investigation, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Brownfield Assessment and Cleanup funding or EPA Targeted Brownfield Assessment.

If you are interested in hearing more about the program or would like to invite the Tribal Response Program to your village to start the inventory process contact Kawerak Environmental Program, 443-4259.

A Brownfield? It’s Not What You Think!

A midst the turmoil and concern rising with public safety, justice, and protection of victims of crimes, Kawerak would like to recognize the courage of victims of sexual assault and violence for coming forward and telling their story. Speaking out against abusers is not only difficult, but historically has been unrecognized, devalued or brushed aside. This reaction to violence is unacceptable. The path forward starts with support to those who have suffered from this violence, ensure justice is served, and work together to ensure an equitable and functional justice system is in place for the future.

Starting back in 2017 work for change had already begun when Bering Sea Women’s Group (BSWG), Kawerak Wellness, Katirvik Cultural Center and Norton Sound Health Corporation (NSHC) offered Cultural Humility presentations to State of Alaska judges and the local Sexual Assault Response Team. Following this Kawerak Wellness and BSWG organized a Regional Wellness Conference in May 2018 focused on sexual assault (SA) and domestic violence (DV). The organizations wanted to give the opportunity for community residents to voice the reality of the justice system in cases of DV/SA and capture KAWERAK, INC. 22
the public attention with strong voices. Experts also joined in with representatives from the Office on Violence Against Women OVW and Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault CDVSA to hear the concerns, current outcomes and help shape how solutions brought forward could be attained. The conversation brought regional residents together to instigate systematic change.

In June Kawerak Wellness and CAC hosted a multi-generational healing camp in partnership with ANTHC and with financial support from BHS. Influential speakers, tribal healers and even Samuel Johns helped support participants with healing circles and other activities.

In November 1 & 2 the CDVSA held their quarterly meeting in Nome at the Katirkvik Cultural Center. During their meeting they listened to public testimony regarding the local/regional sexual assault response. The group also blocked out time for the Sexual Assault Survivors advocacy group to present their progress with promoting and enacting local policy and procedure change.

Also in November 2018 Kawerak and the City of Nome formalized a willingness to work side-by-side with a joint request to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to examine the Nome Police Department (NPD). The letter, written and signed by Melanie Bahne, Kawerak Inc President and John Handeland, City of Nome Interim City Manager, on November 6th, called upon the FBI to fulfill their responsibility to investigate civil rights violations. The entities presented the request to Governor Bill Walker, who subsequently committed to supporting the request.

In conjunction with the call to remedy the past, positive action locally had already begun. New leadership stepped forward at the city level and within the police department, Kawerak provided $16,000 for training of local officers, the city purchased body cameras for officers, a City of Nome public safety advisory standing committee was planned to be formed and utilized, and an additional investigator was hired by the NPD, with two more on the way. Local organizations are banding together to improve outcomes and increase public safety.

Strengthening the community also includes having the appropriate resources to prevent violence, protect people and ensure justice is served. The letter sent to the FBI and the State of Alaska requested more personnel for the Nome District Attorney’s Office and the expediting of hiring for local Alaska State Troopers (AST) and Office of Children’s Services (OCS) personnel. The Second Judicial District’s two DA’s serving the Bering Strait Region and the Kotzebue Region rank at the top of the list for highest caseload per attorney in the State. Three of the four AST positions are vacant, and four out of six OCS caseworker positions are currently vacant, with the remaining two caseworkers managing 315 open cases. Kawerak also called upon the State Legislature and Administration to enact stronger laws to protect victims of sexual assault and violent crimes, and to deter abuse by establishing stiffer minimum sentencing ranges and other consequences.

The statistics regarding sexual assault and physical abuse are unacceptable; 51% of women in the Bering Strait Region have reported being physically or sexually abused (actual rates are likely much higher since disclosure rates of abuse are low). These statistics will only see change through collaboration and commitment to an improved justice system, and of course the bold voices speaking out against their abusers sending the message, “This behavior is not tolerated, not part of our value system and will be punished.”

RESOURCES

Domestic Violence Crisis Line
1-800-478-1090

AK Office of Victim’s Rights
1-844-754-3460

Norton Sound Sexual Assault and DV (Forensic Nursing) 443-4518 or after hours ER 442-3203

Kawerak Child Advocacy Center
443-4379 or 304-1014

Bering Sea Women’s Group 443-5491

AK State Troopers 907-443-2835

Office of Children Services (OCS) 1-800-478-4444 or reportchildabuse@alaska.gov

Nome Police Department 443-5262

Adult Protective Services (APS) 269-3666 or 1-800 478-9996

Reporting Abuse against children contact: OCS & Law enforcement. Abuse against adults contact: law enforcement. Abuse against vulnerable adults contact: APS and law enforcement.
Profit Ranks High on Bering Strait’s Lemonade Day

Profit Ranks High on Bering Strait’s Lemonade Day
Lemonade Day, June 9 2018
Sponsored by Kawerak Business Development

Lemonade Day 2018 hit the Bering Strait Region with full force! With over 300 participants region wide, budding entrepreneurs all across the region opened for business just for a day selling lemonade, baked goods and much more! They sure brought in the dough, but the profits didn’t just result in adding money to their pockets.

Lemonade Day teaches youth how to start, own and operate their own business – a lemonade stand. With their free Lemonade Day backpack in hand and a caring adult by their side, the young entrepreneurs utilized their new workbook to plan for the grand opening of their business. They enhanced their skills around goal-setting, customer service and making change. The youth are able to build their skills year after year with the annual event, taking with them lessons learned they will carry for a lifetime. 2018 marked the 8th year.

Success on the stands surely is dependent upon community involvement and local support of the youth. We are happy to report our youth were very well supported! The young business owners have to plan what they want to do with their profits before sales; they can choose to spend some, save some and also share some. Based on the business results forms submitted in Nome during the “Splash It Up Party” held on Lemonade Day, we can report that the Nome young business owners made $12,809.47 in revenue and shared $2,333.80 of the revenue to causes they choose! Final results from the stands in the region will be tabulated as the business result forms are returned. Results are collected from all participants in Alaska and will be tabulated at the State Lemonade Day Headquarters.

Lemonade Day is successful because of the drive of the youth to operate their stands, but equally successful because of the sup-

Shishmaref Takes a Load On

Shishmaref received a special delivery summer 2017 in the form of a Bobcat skid steer loader. The loader will allow Shishmaref city employees the equipment needed to maintain their new roads that were paved from their 2016 Community Streets project.

The loader loan is a part of a new experimental program. The intent of the program is to provide the owner of the new roadway (in this case the City of Shishmaref) with the equipment necessary to maintain the roadway.

In addition to having the equipment, three city employees received valuable training from the Kawerak Transportation Program. Training included operation and maintenance of the new skid steer loader and

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portive adults and businesses in the communities. From the customers to the mentors, the volunteers to the financial backers, and the sponsors to the partners, Lemonade Day within the Bering Strait Region is truly a community event. Just one example of this is the generosity of the Shaktoolik clinic donating a stack of cups to each stand to get them started. There is a tremendous amount of coordination that happens to support the youth. Thank you to all those who have supported our youth and families!

Lemonade Day is a National program brought to Alaska by: Alaska Small Business Development Center.

Local Sponsor Support:
Kawerak, Inc., Alaska Commercial Company (AC), Safeway Hanson’s, Bering Air, City of Nome, Wells Fargo, Nome Visitors Center, Nome Public Schools, Subway, Sitnasuak, Bering Tea, Bering Wellness, Northwest Campus, Bering Straits Native Corporation, Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, Bonanza Express, Aurora Inn, Munaqsri, and Ravn Air.

Local Volunteer Support:
Regional Coordinators: Darla Olanna (Brevig Mission), Frances Ozenna and Marcia Soolook (Little Diomede), Joseph Murray (Elim), Tami Shwooko (Gambell), Kirstie Ione (Golovin), Jenna Homekingko (Koyuk), Alexa Agibinik (St. Michael), Rosemary Akeya (Savoonga), Katelynn Evan (Shaktoolik), Thomas Kirk (Stebbins), Dolly Kugzruk and Cora (Teller), Heather Branch (Unalakleet), JoAnn Keyes (Wales), Carol Smith (White Mountain). Please Note: Teller and St. Michael have postponed their events to a later date.

Nome Volunteers: Andrew McCann (Wells Fargo), John Smith (Wells Fargo), Obie Simonis (Kawerak), Barb Nickels (Kawerak), Alice Bioff (Kawerak), Patti Lillie (Kawerak), Benny Piscoya (Kawerak), Bryant Hammond (City of Nome), Christine Piscoya (City of Nome), Sara Bioff (Community Member), Wafer Rose (Community Member), Ann Whalin (Community Member), Colleen Deighton (Community Member), Leon Broadway (Nome Visitors Center), Mike McNally (Alaska Commercial Company), Tim Motis (Safeway Hanson’s) Bonnie Piscoya (Bering Air), David Miller (Community Member), Richard Beneville (Mayor of Nome), and the young entrepreneurs, investors & mentors making it possible!

Peyton’s Lemonade Stand in Shishmaref
J2 and C2 stand in Nome: Jada, Carter, Cole, Curtis, Jessica
Destiny and Jeremy’s stand in Little Diomede

use of the additional attachments for snow removal and sweeping. This training will improve outcomes for proper equipment use.

Proper road maintenance is essential for the Bering Strait communities we serve, and to accomplish this the equipment and training to operate the equipment is essential. To that end, we are excited to offer several ongoing experimental initiatives with maintenance equipment to the villages.

Transporation Project Schedule
2019: Complete Elim Community Streets Project
2020: Begin Golovin Community Streets Project
2021: Complete Golovin Project

Other Small-Scale Projects (2019)
Trail Staking: Teller, Shishmaref, Brevig Mission, Wales
Shelter Cabin Maintenance
Dust Control (as requested)
Tribal Voices Strengthened at North Pacific Fishery Management Council

By Brenden Raymond-Yakoubian, Sandhill. Culture. Craft & Julie Raymond-Yakoubian, Social Science Program

With the support of Kawerak and partners, Tribes have made great strides in the past several years in the realm of federal fishery management.

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC), or “the Council,” oversees management of the federal fishery off the coast of Alaska, from 3 to 200 miles offshore. Created by the Magnuson-Stevens Act, it is one of 8 Councils around the United States developing management plans and regulations.

Rose Fosdick, Kawerak’s Vice President of Natural Resources, sits on the Ecosystem Committee, which considers Council issues in light of ecosystem concerns. During her years of service on the Committee, Fosdick has been an important voice for Traditional Knowledge, subsistence, and other issues of importance to Tribes.

In recent years, the Ecosystem Committee has been vital to several initiatives at the Council which have benefited Tribes, including the Council’s Ecosystem Research Workshop and the Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan (BS FEP). The Workshop, held in Seattle in February 2018, engaged fishery managers, scientists, and the public on issues related to managing the marine ecosystem — including the incorporation of Traditional Knowledge. The BS FEP, adopted in December 2018, is a ‘living document’ which helps inform the Council’s policy and management actions in the Bering Sea from an ecosystem-based perspective. It was written and developed by a team of scientists and Council staff, with extensive input from Alaska Native organizations.

These initiatives are large steps forward for increasing attention to Tribal concerns about the marine environment.

Over the years, Tribes and Tribal organizations raised concerns including a lack of incorporation of Traditional Knowledge into decision-making, federal fishery impacts to subsistence, and insufficient consideration of the social sciences and the role of human beings in the ecosystem. The BS FEP makes great strides in this regard, including extensive discussion of these issues, which will hopefully inform the direction the Council takes in the future.

Kawerak’s Social Science Program, and Kawerak consultant Sandhill.

College & Career Support with Kawerak

Kawerak’s College and Career guide Mariah Morgan was an asset to the region’s graduating seniors. She assisted BSSD counselors (spread thin, with 5 counselors to cover 15 schools) in ensuring students were prepared for higher education. She worked with students across BSSD in exploring career and post secondary options (including the College Jumpstart program), she prepared them with financial aid applications and scholarships (FAFSA and MyCACHE), and even took them on opportunities to understand what a college or vocational school experience would be like firsthand (through the College and Career Readiness trips and AVTEC Transitions program).

When students were ready to take the leap to college life in August, Mariah Morgan and Caroline Proulx, the Nome College and Career Guide, transitioned 5 students into UAF and 1 student into UAA. These students were from St Michael, Savoonga, Brevig Mission, and Shishmaref. In order to qualify for this support, students needed to have worked with Mariah throughout the summer. With guidance from Mariah, students worked hard during the summer to make sure their CACHE scholarships were complete, their FAFSAs were submitted, their housing and meal plans were submitted, and they were registered for orientation. Mariah guided them on what to pack, purchasing their airfare, navigating UAonline and finding what books they needed, etc. On campus the girls helped students move into their dorms, find their classes, purchase needed school items,
Culture.Craft, with funding assistance from The Pew Charitable Trusts and the Ocean Conservancy, facilitated a partnership of indigenous communities and organizations across the Bering Sea region to garner substantial input on the BS FEP. This input helped improve the document while it was being developed. This coalition hopes to continue its work together into the future, strengthening the impact of Tribal voices on the federal fishery management process. One priority project includes the development of a process for incorporating Local Knowledge and Traditional Knowledge in federal fishery management, and a process for understanding the impacts of the federal fishery on subsistence.

In addition to the partnership, Kawerak and Sandhill.Culture.Craft teamed up with the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association to publish a scientific article in the journal Marine Policy on the incorporation of Traditional Knowledge in federal fisheries management. Through funding assistance by The Pew Charitable Trusts and extensive input from the communities of Golovin and Russian Mission, the article helped identify arguments for the use of Traditional Knowledge, identified gaps where it hasn’t been incorporated, and recommended ways forward for scientists and managers. The article can be found on Kawerak’s Social Science website at www.kawerak.org/socialsci.

Additional efforts to strengthen Tribal input by Kawerak and Sandhill.Culture.Craft includes Council process training for Tribal community members (sponsored by the Ocean Conservancy), developing strong working relationships with Council staff, following social science issues related to the Council, advocating for increased Tribal participation and power at the Council, and conducting research focused on the value of Traditional Knowledge for fishery science and management.

If you are interested in learning more about Kawerak’s ongoing work at the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, please contact the Social Science Program (907-443-4273 or juliery@kawerak.org).

Keep up to date on Post-Secondary Opportunities!

FACEBOOK:
Kawerak Inc page
Bering Strait Higher Education Connection

ONLINE:  www.my-cache.org (scholarship)
www.kawerak.org/vta (vocational training)
www.kawerak.org/he (higher education)

Kawerak is now on Instagram! Follow us @kawerak.
Award Bolsters Essential Protections of the Bering Sea

Kawerak Inc. is pleased to announce receipt of a multi-year grant award from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. The charitable purpose of this grant is to protect the Bering Strait Region’s coastal and marine ecosystems and communities from the increasing impacts of climate change and industrial activities. Through the generous support of the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Bering Strait region’s tribes will be able to continue and enhance advocacy efforts in the wake of our changing climate mainly through Kawerak’s Marine and Social Science Programs.

Kawerak’s Marine Program works to ensure the Bering Strait Region has a voice at the policy-making table; the felt threats of climate change, increased vessel traffic and risks to subsistence lifestyle loom overhead. Oiled wildlife, foreign debris, large whale entanglements, harmful algal blooms and pollutant discharges are just a few of the already present effects. In response to these frightening changes, Kawerak hosted a workshop in 2016 with Bering Strait region community leaders. They developed a vision to guide policy and community action going forward; “Guided by Yupik and Inupiaq values and traditions, we will continue to build sustainable capacity to uphold our spiritual and cultural traditions and relationships, by inspiring healthy choices, and protecting our natural resources to ensure food security for our future generations. We proactively adapt to climate and other changes experienced by our people.” With Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation funding, Kawerak’s Marine Program will continue to raise the voices of regional leaders to inform its advocacy efforts and affect management of the Northern Bering Sea.

Kawerak’s Social Science Program collaborates with our member Tribes to document Traditional Knowledge and Tribal perspectives, and to apply that information to policy, management and governance contexts. Through the Moore Foundation award, the Program will continue to make available and apply Bering Strait region Traditional Knowledge in the various contexts surrounding issues of vessel traffic, fisheries, research, governance of the northern Bering Sea, and advocate and promote the recognition of and continued thriving of Tribal values, knowledge and practices.

Additionally, the Foundation’s award will allow Kawerak Inc. to establish a Bering Sea Tribal Commission to continue setting regional priorities, advancing ecosystem protections, and establishing frameworks for Tribal engagement and leadership for the Northern Bering Sea at state, national and international levels. It will also work toward establishing internationally recognized Areas to Be Avoided (ATBA) in prime areas around Diomede Islands, banning the use of heavy fuel oil (HFO) and regulating discharge, maintaining exclusion of the Hope, Norton, St. Matthew-Hall and Navarin Basins for consideration in oil and gas leasing, and informing a Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) that recognizes and incorporates Tribal values and Traditional Knowledge at the same level as western science.

We are grateful for the support to continue this important work to protect our land, sea and future generations as we have done since time immemorial.

About the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation: The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation fosters path-breaking scientific discovery, environmental conservation, patient care improvements and preservation of the special character of the Bay Area. Visit Moore.org and follow @MooreFound.
The Kawerak Nome Head Start program renovation project began with the transition to a temporary, new location. Following a large-scale relocation effort with the help of Kawerak staff and volunteers, services resumed in May 2018 at 306 West 5th Avenue, which many know as the old Norton Sound Hospital. Extensive improvements including safety and security modifications were made to ensure Head Start could maintain licensing standards in the new space.

Following a temporary transition closure, both staff and students were thrilled to be back together in a new space. Teacher Aide Lisa Sookiayak said “I felt very lost without the kids and now that they are back I feel like I have a purpose at work. I love my job!”

Staff spent hours and weeks making their new space classroom-ready, and their hard work paid off as you could not recognize the space after it was beautifully transformed.

The renovation project is the result of a 4 year effort to see changes for the Nome Early Head Start/Child Care and Head Start facility. In 2015 initial funds were received from the Office of Head Start to make facility changes. Kawerak Inc. purchased the building they previously rented yearly from the City of Nome in 2017 in order to proceed with improvements. Renovations to the building include adding two infant/toddler classrooms and completing extensive renovations to existing classrooms and kitchen. These additions come at a high cost, and we are thankful for the assistance of Rasmuson Foundation, who granted Kawerak Head Start the remaining $261,055 needed to complete the project. We have been patiently waiting for the pieces to fall into line for these updates to happen, and we are excited to finally see it come to life!

The plan is to move into the newly renovated building in time for the start of the next 2019-2020 school year. Open House announcements will be released in the summer of 2019. Applications are open year round for enrollment, but to enroll for the beginning of the school year applications should be completed by July 1.

Inquiries regarding our renovation project or relocation are welcomed by the Kawerak Head Start Director: Deborah Trowbridge dtrowbridge@kawerak.org 443-9050.

We need your help to Learn, grow, play, explore! Earn Educational Credits while working! Make a difference in your community!

Enroll Your Child! Services for Birth to Age 4!

Applications are accepted year-round, but July 1 is the deadline for applications to be considered for 2019 school year!

If you would like information on enrollment, please visit: kawerak.org/headstart

Contact:
Brenda Adams at badams@kawerak.org, 443-9057 or 1-800-443-5924.
The meaning of life is to find your gift.
The purpose of life is to give it away.

PABLO PICASSO

What an event!

Thank you to all the sponsors, presenters, dance groups and participants that attended and contributed to the 2018 Regional Conference. Special thanks to Amanda Toerdal, our conference coordinator, with the support of the conference committees who all worked extremely hard to make this event a success.

Each morning we were welcomed by an inspiring keynote, with the voices of Nick Hanson, Dr. Asiqluq Sean Topkok and Dr. Dalee Sambo Dorough, that inspired and informed.

Under the theme, “United Voices for Our Future” workshops weaved together resources, conversation, teamwork, culture and information to build upon the strength of our people and our region.

Of course the conference camaraderie didn’t stop there, evenings included the entertainment of regional dance groups: Gambell Dance Group, Diomede Dancers, King Island Dance Group, Nome St Lawrence Island Dance Group and Teller Dance Group as well as Nick Hanson, Samuel Johns and Pamyua. The energy, pride, spirit, and gratitude for the opportunity to dance and sing together filled the Nome Recreation Center to the brim. We are looking forward to continuing to be able to provide this opportunity to gather together, and have extreme gratitude for our sponsors that make it possible to host such an inspiring, educational and enjoyable event.

Kawerak Honors Vincent Tocktoo Sr. at Conference

Born March 3, 1925 to the late Eddie and Grace Tocktoo, Vincent grew up living a traditional lifestyle in and around Shishmaref. He shared this way of life with his wife Molly and passed it down to their children and grandchildren. He served in the AK Territorial Guard and the National Guard for 35 years. In Shishmaref he served on the IRA Council, City Council, Lutheran Church Council and Elder Advisory Committee.

Kawerak is extremely grateful for Vincent’s 7 years of service on the Kawerak Elder Advisory Council (KEAC). While on KEAC he advocated for artists and people living in the villages. His knowledge of weather patterns and the Inupiaq lifestyle were invaluable. Vincent is well regarded with his artwork, including his ivory carvings. Quyaana Vincent!

“The meaning of life is to find your gift.
The purpose of life is to give it away.”

KAWERAK STAFF GIVE BACK

Below are some causes Kawerak Staff supported by volunteering for & donating to in 2018

Nome Arts Council
Nome Winter Sports Association
Lemonade Day
Nome Public School
Bering Sea Womens Governor’s Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse
Nome Reentry Coalition
City of Nome - City Council & Planning Commission
PAWS of Nome
Nome Volunteer Ambulance Department
Seaside Community Advisory Board
Nome Community Center & Nome Senior Center
Kativik Cultural Center
Community Members in Need - Teller School
Teller Head Start
Alaska Tribal Administrators Association
Unalakleet School Association
School Activity Groups (ski club, basketball teams, drama club)
Our Saviors Lutheran Church
Advisory Education Council
Local Community
Alaska State Council on the Arts
Arctic Native Brotherhood
Nome Native Youth Olympics
Nome Children’s Trust
Alabama’s Children’s Alliance
AKC, Alaska’s Tribal
St. Joseph’s Catholic Church
Regional Foster Care System
White Mountain Eskimo Dance and Drumming Instruction
White Mountain Senior Center
White Mountain Sewing Nights for Youth and Adults
Community Alcohol Safety Team
Alaska Children’s Alliance
CRI Foundation
Make a Wish Foundation
NSEDC Small Business Initiative
White Mountain Safety Patrol
Nome Volunteer Fire Department
Knowing Who You Are
Community Alcohol Safety Team
CIRI Foundation
Nome Volunteer Blue Department
Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
Nome Volunteer Fire Department
American’s Civil Liberties Union
State of Alaska Elections
Alaska Legal Services
Nome Methodist Thrift Shop
Alaska Veterans Advisory Council
Tribal Veterans Representative
Our Mission
“Advancing the capacity of our People and Tribes for the benefit of the region.”