

First Alaskans Institute

First Alaskans Elders & Youth Conference

October 19 and 20, 2009

Dena' ina Civic & Convention Center

Anchorage, Alaska

First Alaskans Institute hosted the 2009 First Alaskans Elders & Youth Conference in Anchorage, Alaska at the Dena' ina Civic & Convention Center on October 19-20, 2009. This final conference report includes planning activities, the participation of the conference planning committee as well as the Elders and Youth Council, an overview of the conference agenda and highlights, the regional caucus reports, registration information, conference evaluation, and additional follow-up items.

Conference Logo and Theme



**Hosted by
First Alaskans Institute**

Generations of Wisdom, Generations of Strength

Conference Planning Team



First Alaskans Institute recognizes the 2009 Local Planning Committee planning Committee: **Flossie Spencer** (Inupiaq), **Gerald Trigg** (Inupiaq), **Krista Lamp** (Tlingit), **Larry Marvin** (Tlingit), **Misty Buckles** (Athabascan), **Richard Perry** (Athabascan/Yup' ik), **Shirley Tuzroyluke** (Tlingit/Nisga' a), **Stefanie Cromarty** (Siberian Yup' ik), **Stephanie Thompson** (Athabascan/Yup' ik), and **Verner Wilson** (Yup' ik).

A huge thank you to **Sheila Vent** (Koyukon Athabascan) for designing the program guide, **Dewey Hoffman** (Koyukon Athabascan) for helping to coordinate the conference, and a standing ovation to **Lena Hoffman** (Koyukon Athabascan) and **Ralph Wolfe** (Tlingit/Haida) for volunteering their time to emcee the event.

The planning committee was responsible for the conference structure, including identifying speakers, workshop presenters, and dance groups.

2009 Statewide Elders and Youth Council

The 2009 Statewide Elder and Youth Council members were elected during the 2008 Elders & Youth Conference. Council members identified meaningful ways in which Elders and youth would interact and how each participant would benefit from his or her activities.

The 2009 Statewide Elder and Youth Council Members were:

Elders: **Max Lestenkof** (Aleut), **Roy Tansy, Sr.** (Ahtna), **Rex Okakok** (ASRC), **Perry Mendenhall** (Bering Straits), **Anecia Lomack** (Bristol Bay), **Marie Tyson** (Calista), **Clinton Gregg** (CIRI), **Henry Makarka** (Chugach), **Anna Frank** (Doyon), **Florence Pestrikoff** (Koniag), **Willie Goodwin** (NANA), and **Larry Marvin** (Sealaska).

Youth: **Raylene Kochuten** (Aleut), **Douglas Rock** (Ahtna), **Selma Khan** (ASRC), **Cori Eide** (Bering Straits), **Victoria Anderson** (Bristol Bay), **Gabriel Tinker** (Bering Straits), **Misty Buckells** (CIRI), **Sean O' Brien** (Chugach), **Lorena Pitka** (Doyon), **Nina Gronn** (Koniag), **David Smith** (NANA), **Krista Lamp** (Sealaska).

The Statewide Elders & Youth Council is responsible for the development of the conference theme, relaying the needs of their communities and suggesting speakers and presenters for the agenda.

Call for Presentations and Agenda Development

In August a call for presentations was issued to the public, soliciting conference presenters, panels, and workshop topics. Preference was given to Alaska Native presenters. Proposals were reviewed by the planning committee for:

- Facilitated interaction between Elders and Youth
- Relevance to the conference theme
- Connections to the conference purpose and outcomes
- Potential to engage participants during the presentation
- Appeal to the Elders and youth audience
- Usefulness to participants
- Clarity of proposal

In addition to the call for presentations; the Conference planning committee included presentations suggested by the Elders and youth council as well as First Alaskans management. The committee sought to create a balanced agenda which included a number of issues that remain important to Alaska Native Elders and youth. This year' s focus was on Alaska Native history, FASD and other health related issues, education and career paths, subsistence rights, language and other topics relevant to youth. The Conference agenda is attached (see appendix A).

Plenary Speakers



Keynote Address: Living with FASD

Morgan Fawcett (Tlingit), a youth from Juneau, spoke on his experiences growing up with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and his efforts to reach out to youth and promote healing through music. He shared some of his flute music with the attendees and donated a hand-made flute as a door prize.

Unangan Dance Instruction

Crystal Swetzof Dushkin (Unangan/Aleut) is from Atka, Alaska. She taught an interactive Unangan style dance with the conference participants, while her mother Sally Swetzof drummed.

Be Counted: 2010 Census

Barbara Fleek (Tlingit) from the US Census Bureau encouraged participants to be aware and to actively participate in the upcoming 2010 Census. She stressed the importance of getting an accurate census count and explained the process step by step.

Five Minutes for Resilience

Barbara Franks (Tlingit), Ramy Brooks (Athabascan/Yup'ik) and Alexis Sallee (Inupiaq) discussed their personal and professional experiences grappling with the severe effects and fundamental issues related to suicide in Alaska Native communities.



Keynote Address: Growing up on St. Paul

Mary Bourdukofsky (Aleut) shared her personal narrative of growing up on St. Paul Island, in the Pribilof Islands, and at the Aleut Internment camp in Funter Bay during World War II.

Keynote Address: Empower. Engage. Effect.

Tiffany Zulkosky (Yup'ik) addressed the participants about her efforts to become politically active in her community and directly influencing public policy decisions.

Financial Fitness

Judith Crotty and Wells Fargo staff discussed Financial Fitness. They highlighted the value of Education and its role in Economic self-sufficiency through a program called "Hands on Banking."

Keynote Address: Taking the Initiative

Chad Bullock (African American) discussed his involvement as a youth anti-tobacco activist and the new national anti-smoking activism campaign called helloCHANGE which he leads and uses to inspire young people to create positive change in their communities. He highlighted his involvements in making a public baseball stadium go smoke free and his recognition through the Do Something award and MTV Teen Choice Award.

Family Wellness Warriors Initiative

Matt and Esther Stevens discussed their involvement with the Family Wellness Warriors Initiative from a personal and professional perspective.

Workshops

The call for presentations identified relevant workshops in which conference participants could meet and share creative ideas, opinions, solutions, and stories. Workshops were built around the conference theme and were facilitated by a number of community organizations from throughout Alaska.

Alaska Native Jeopardy

Mary Alyce Inuuraq Edwardsen, North Slope Borough

The Land as Ourselves: Subsistence, Cultural Continuity and American Law

Agatha I. Erickson TCC, Council Newsletter Editor

Community Voices Project: Producing Our Own Multimedia for Health Education

Margaret O.H. David RuralCap, BIRCH AmeriCorps Program Coordinator & Charles Oxereok, Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association

Paying For College

Andrea Kavlaq Van Ravenswaay, Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Ed.

Establishing Financial Success in College through Rural Student Services

Debbie Mekiana Toopetlook, UAF Rural Student Services Director

The Sky is not the Limit: Aviation & Space Careers in the 21st Century

Angie Slingsluff, Federal Aviation Administration

It's Time to Walk the Talk; Alaska Native Youth Making a Real Difference in our Communities

Alannah Hurley, Leadership and Assets Youth Coalition

Southcentral Foundation's RAISE Internship Program

Robert Roehl and Previous RAISE Interns, Southcentral Foundation

Does your clan have Rites of Passage for their young men and women? Is it important today, as it was yesterday?

Della Cheney, Kake School District

Ancient Wisdom for Modern Times: Kickin' It with the Elders

Larry Mercurieff, Funded by the Alaska Humanities Forum

Giving Voice to Treasures of the Past

Jenya Anichenko, Nancy Furlow, Shannon Gramse, Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center

The Success of the Elder Mentor Program in Rural Alaska

Jennifer Bell, Alaska Community Services, Rural & Southeast Alaska Dir.

You Don't Have to Change Your Life to Change Theirs

Flossie Iqilan Spencer, Big Brothers Big Sisters

Make a Choice: Dead End Job OR Changing Lives?

Tina Woods and Ramy Brooks, AK Mental Health Trust

An Alaska Native Youth Living with FASD

Morgan Fawcett, Founder of One Heart Creations

Healthy Communities: Using Traditional Knowledge & Youth Empowerment to Prevent FASD

Dana Diehl, RuralCap

Native Education for Preservation

Amber Thomas & Josephine Edwards-Vollertson, Title VII Indian Education

Empowering our Native Identity

Native Emerging Leaders Forum

Resolutions Workshops

Facilitated by First Alaskans Institute Staff

Dance Groups



The dance presentations were a highlight of the two-day conference. Special thanks to the members of the Lepquinm Gumilgit Gagadim (LGG) Tsimshian Dancers from Anchorage, Unaag[^]im Ax[^]asniikangin Dancers from St. Paul Island, Atka Dancer Crystal Swetzof Dushkin, the Mt. St. Elias Dance Group from

Yakutat, Tikigak Traditional Dancers from Point Hope, The Fireweed Dancers from Anchorage, Suurimmaanitchuat Dancers from Barrow, Imamsuat Dance Group from Anchorage, and Pamyua from Anchorage.

Resolutions

Resolutions for the Elders & Youth Conference were passed and voted on by the Elder and youth council members prior to this year's conference. A total of four resolutions were submitted to the Alaska Federation of Natives on Behalf of the 2009 Elders & Youth Conference. The titles of the four resolutions are listed below and the full resolutions are attached (see appendix B).

Resolution 09-01: REAFFIRM THE INTEGRAL ROLE THAT ELDERS & YOUTH CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS AND THEIR RESOLUTIONS HAVE IN AFN

Resolution 09-02: MAKING THE ELDERS & YOUTH CONFERENCE A THREE DAY CONFERENCE, MONDAY-WEDNESDAY OF AFN WEEK TO REFLECT THE IMPORTANCE OF ELDER & YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN AFN AND TO BUILD UNITY AMONG PARTICIPANT GROUPS DURING THE AFN CONVENTION WEEK

Resolution 09-03: SUPPORT OF RURAL AND URBAN YOUTH TO ATTEND AFN CONVENTION

Resolution 09-04: CREATION OF A YOUTH BOARD MEMBER SEAT WITHIN EACH OF THE ALASKA NATIVE REGIONAL CORPORATIONS

Resolutions 09-01, 09-02, and 09-03 were approved by the Alaska Federation of Natives Delegation. Resolution 09-04 was tabled for further discussion.

Regional Breakout Sessions



As a result of submitting the resolutions to the Alaska Federation of Natives before the 2009 conference, regional breakout sessions took on a whole new meaning. The regional breakout sessions were used to open the conversation around the topic of language and learning the language. Bracelets with the phrase “Indigenize It” were passed out to participants who utilized their Native languages or demonstrated Native Values. There was only one rule; they must be given away! The bracelets were designed for giving. The reward was not to accumulate but to give as many away as possible.

A few examples of how individuals received bracelets were, saying thank you in your Native language, giving up your chair to an Elder or sharing with a friend in need. We asked the participants to remember that gifts are important acceptance of love and recognition. Gifting is an honor that lifts the spirits and makes you stronger by making a sacrifice. Our hope was that the bracelets would keep moving after the conference and people would continuously keep giving them to people who are INDIGENIZING IT! Attached is a language map of Alaska and in-depth rules for “Indigenize It” bracelets (see appendix c).

In the regional breakout sessions, the participants also elected the 2010 Elder and youth statewide council representatives to participate on this year’s council to plan the 2010 conference. The 2010 representatives are:

Elders: **Mary Bourdukofsky** (Aleut), **Lucille Lincoln** (Ahtna), **Etok Edwardson** (ASRC), **Daniel Karman** (Bering Straits), **Ina Bouker** (Bristol Bay), **Peter Jacobs** (Calista), **Gloria Wik** (CIRI), **Feona Sawden** (Chugach),

Anna Frank (Doyon), **Teressa Muller** (Koniag), **Grant Ballot** (NANA), and **Della Cheney** (Sealaska).

Youth: **Raylene Kochuten** (Aleut), **Zach Martin** (Ahtna), **Josiah Patkotak** (ASRC), **Maddy Alvanna-Stimfle** (Bering Straits), **Damien Lickuk** (Bristol Bay), **Catherine Jackson** (Calista), **Josie Jones** (CIRI), **Shyla Krokoff** (Chugach), **Laura Fox** (Doyon), **Kayla Christiansen** (Koniag), **Audrey Ashby** (NANA), **Nick Dixon** (Sealaska).

Conference Staffing



The entire First Alaskans Institute staff contributed to the success and work of the conference.

Amber Jenkins (Alutiiq) was responsible for the day-to-day coordination and planning of conference activities and logistics.

Dewey Hoffman (Koyukon Athabascan) was hired on in September to assist in conference activities and community planning around the entire week of activities.

Kristel Komakhuk (Inupiq/Alutiiq) oversaw conference development efforts as well as on-site conference registration with Tammy Keith (Tlingit), Rick Mueller (Tlingit) directed the A/V and broadcasting, Shelia Vent (Koyukon Athabascan) developed the conference guide and provided on-site coordination. Janie Leask (Haida/Tshimshian), Liz Medicine Crow (Haida/Tlingit), and Gary Hansen (Inupiaq) assisted with other tasks as needed.

Registration



Once again the Elders & Youth Conference saw a record number of registrants, with much success in the online pre-registration process.

There were 750 youth registrants (including chaperones), 424 Elder registrants, and 128 Non-Participants/Observers registered. The non-participants category includes college students, organizational representatives, media, and other members of the general

public. There were 1,302 registered participants, a significant increase from 1,116 registrants in the 2008 conference.

There were 9 registrants from the 13th Region, 38 from the Ahtna Region, 66 from the Aleut Region, 147 from the Arctic Slope Region, 167 were from Bristol Bay, 106 from Bering Straits, 186 from Calista, 62 from Chugach, 84 from Cook Inlet, 83 from Doyon, 58 from Koniag, 128 from NANA, 106 from Sealaska and there were 62 registrants who were not affiliated with a region.

Communications

Our registration for participants and exhibitors was available online in July. Participants registered online until October 14th and weekly updates were emailed to contacts, organizations, and interested people. Schools, Tribes and non-profits received registration announcements and reminder e-mails. First Alaskans updated its website with conference developments: Online registration, agenda, travel and hotel information and community events.

Tiffany Tutiakoff with Norwest Strategies was contracted to facilitate the media coverage for the conference. The Elders & Youth Conference received local media coverage from Anchorage stations on both Monday, October 19th and Tuesday, October 20th through the Anchorage Daily News, Arctic Sounder, Alaska Dispatch, APRN, KTUU, Alaska Business Monthly, Bristol Bay Times, Indianz.com, Tundra Drums, The Arctic Sounder, KIMO, KTBY, KTVA, KMTX Radio, The Short Horn, The Cordova Times, Koahnic Broadcasting' s radio station KNBA 90.3, and other local and statewide news stations.

Blueberry Productions was contracted to provide conference web casting and live-broadcasting. Viewers were able to watch the live-broadcasting on channel 1, thanks to a very generous in-kind donation from GCI. Web casting viewers were able to log onto the internet, watch conference proceedings, and leave comments by clicking on the link from the First Alaskans Institute website. Over the course of the two day conference, there were over 2,385 visits to the streaming website with people accessing the site from the US and throughout the world.

Development Efforts



First Alaskans recognizes the sponsors that support Alaska Native Elders, youth and healthy communities. This year a new sponsorship level was created for those organizations who contribute \$20,000 - the Scholar Level. Alaska Native Medical Center was the only sponsor at this level.

The following Leader sponsors contributed \$10,000 dollars: Fred Meyer, Providence Health & Services Alaska, Wells Fargo, and GCI (\$2,500 sponsorship and in-kind contribution for live-broadcasting).



The following Mentor sponsors contributed \$5,000 dollars: Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, BP, ConocoPhillips, NANA Regional Corporation, Rasmuson Foundation, Shell Exploration and Production, Pamyua (in-kind cultural performance), U.S. Census Bureau (in-kind conference bag contribution), and Fraternal Order of Alaska State Troopers (who's in-kind contribution sponsored the youth dance).

Teacher sponsors contributed \$2,500 dollars and include: The Boeing Company, Doyon, Northrim Bank, and Pioneer Natural Resources Alaska, Inc.

Student sponsors contributed \$1,000 and include: Afognak Native Corporation, Alaska Communication Systems, Alaska Energy Authority, The Aleut Corporation, Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association, The Andrews Group, Arby's, Bering Straits Native Corporation, Chenega Corporation, CIRI, Donlin Creek, Key Bank, Koniag, Inc., KPMG, Maniilaq Association, Municipal Light & Power, Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation, Sealaska, The Tatitlek Corporation, The Usibelli Foundation, and Wallace Insurance Inc.

Exhibitors



This was the fourth year that First Alaskans coordinated conference exhibitors and the second year we partnered with the Alaska Native Professional Association (ANPA) and held a combined Services/Business Expo. Conference vendors included:

- AARP Alaska
- AIDEA/AEA
- Air National Guard
- AK Commission on Postsecondary Ed.
- Alaska Christian College
- Alaska Division of Fire and Life Safety
- Alaska Federal Health Care Partnership
- Alaska Growth Capital
- Alaska Job Corps
- Alaska Mental Health Trust
- Alaska National Guard
- Alaska Native Heritage Center
- Alaska Native Professional Association
- Alaska Vocational Technical Center
- Alyeska Pipeline Service Company
- ANTHC
- Arctic Slope Regional Corporation
- Beyond Borders
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Southcentral Alaska
- Calista Corporation
- Carter Financial Group, LLC
- Center for Distance Education, UAF

- Coastal Villages Region Fund
- Cook Inlet Tribal Council
- CRCRD / USDA Drumbeats Consortium
- D.A.R.E. Alaska
- Delta Development Group, LLC
- Donlin Creek LLC
- Doyon, Limited
- Federal Aviation Administration
- Federal Subsistence Management
- First Alaskans Institute
- Future Educators of Alaska
- Ilisagvik College
- Kenai Peninsula College
- Mt. Edgecumbe High School
- NANA/NANA Management Services
- National Park Service Regional Office
- National Wildlife Refuges-U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- NOAA National Weather Service
- Prince William Sound Community College
- Regulatory Commission of Alaska
- Sealaska Corporation
- Shell
- Social Security Administration
- Southcentral Foundation
- Southcentral Foundation FWWI
- Southwest Alaska Vocational & Ed Center
- Special Education Service Agency
- Spirit of Youth
- State of AK/Child Support Services Div.
- State of AK/Division of Public Assistance
- Title VII Indian Education/ASD
- Tyonek Native Corporation
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- UAA Native Student Services
- UAF College of Rural & Community Dev.
- UAF Rural Alaska Honors Institute
- UAF, PhD In Psychology Program
- University of Alaska Southeast
- US Census Bureau
- USDA NRCS

Volunteers

Over 45 volunteers came forward to provide logistical and planning support and were recruited from the First Alaskans Institute Summer Internship Alumni, Members of the Native Emerging Leaders Group, Municipality of Anchorage, Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau, as well as other organizations.

Volunteers included registrars, greeters, runners, and facilitators and recorders for regional breakout sessions. Volunteers also assisted with other vital tasks as moving boxes, stuffing conference bags, and collecting evaluations.

First Alaskans is grateful to all our volunteers, especially those who have consistently contributed to the conference over the years. We would like to specially thank our super volunteers, Della Cheney (Haida/Tlingit) and Tanya Komakhuk (Inupiaq/Alutiiq), who put in countless hours ensure the conference was a success.

Conference Evaluation

Through participant evaluations and staff debriefing sessions, First Alaskans identified those things that worked well, and those things that need improvement. Out of the 1,302 participants, 521 responded to our evaluation. Here is a brief overview:

Popular presentations included Morgan Fawcett's presentation on FASD, The Family Wellness Warriors Initiative on Breaking the Silence, Mary Bourdukofsky's life story of growing up on St. Paul, and Chad Bullocks interactive presentation on tobacco Prevention.

All the dance groups were a huge hit across the generations, especially the Surimmanichuat Dancers from Barrow and Pamyua.

A few suggested areas for improvement are more awards and recognition for youth and Elders, more cultural regalia presentations, incorporate a blanket toss, teach more songs and dances, have hunting and food presentations, and more games that can help promote culture.

Overall, respondents were supportive of the cultural programming in place



at this year at the conference. Participants expressed an overwhelming amount of enthusiasm toward the Native language talking circles. We realized a need to create a more structured session but the overall response was positive. We plan to put forth a continual effort to incorporate a real

hands-on learning experience at the conference.

Support of Community Events

Special thanks go to the Fraternal Order of the Alaska State Troopers for hosting the annual youth dance.

Our Emcee for the event was the talented Allison Warden (Inupiaq) aka Akumaatu who volunteered her time to host the event.

We also appreciate efforts of the University of Alaska, the Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Municipality of Anchorage/Mayor Sullivan' s staff and the community of Anchorage for their diligent efforts to support for the Elders & Youth Conference.

Conference Follow-up

A report was presented to the AFN General Convention by First Alaskans staff members Janie Leask, Elizabeth Cheney Medicine Crow, and Amber Jenkins. During this presentation the three talked about the highlights of the conference, those that were elected to the statewide council and the resolutions that were passed by the conference participants to be included in the AFN 2009 priorities.

In addition to the reports delivered to the AFN Convention and this written report, conference follow-up activities include thank you letters to presenters, sponsors, and other participants, and website updates. The input of the 521 participants who submitted evaluation forms will also be used for improvements to next year' s conference.

Respectfully submitted,

Amber Jenkins (Alutiiq)
Programs Manager
First Alaskans Institute

Appendix A:

Conference Agenda

AGENDA

Monday, October 19

Dena'ina Center

| | | |
|---------------------|---|---------------------|
| 7:00 a.m. | Registration - Open until 4:00 p.m. | Idlughet -1st Floor |
| 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. | Business & Services Expo <i>Partnership with Alaska Native Professional Association</i> | Idlughet -1st Floor |
| 8:00 a.m. | Opening Cultural Presentation <i>Lepquinm Gumilgit Gagadim (LGG) Tsimshian Dancers</i> <i>Unaag^im Ax^asniikangin Dancers from St. Paul Island</i> | Tikahtnu -3rd Floor |
| 8:40 a.m. | Posting the Colors- Native Veterans Association of Alaska | Tikahtnu -3rd Floor |
| 8:45 a.m. | Opening Prayer <i>Alberta Stephan, Dena'ina, Eklutna Tribal Member & Trustee</i> | Tikahtnu -3rd Floor |
| 8:55 a.m. | Welcome from First Alaskans Institute <i>William "Iggiagruk" Hensley, Inupiaq, Chair, First Alaskans Institute</i> | Tikahtnu -3rd Floor |
| 9:05 a.m. | Welcome from Gxovernor and Alaska Congressional Delegation <i>Governor Sean Parnell</i> <i>Senator Lisa Murkowski</i> <i>Senator Mark Begich</i> <i>Congressman Don Young</i> | Tikahtnu -3rd Floor |
| 9:20 a.m. | Welcome from Anchorage Community Leaders <i>Mayor Dan Sullivan</i> <i>Gloria O'Neill, Yup'ik, President/CEO, Cook Inlet Tribal Council</i> | Tikahtnu -3rd Floor |
| 9:25 a.m. | Conference Overview and Door Prize Drawing <i>Janie Leask, Haida/Tsimshian, President/CEO, First Alaskans Institute</i> <i>Lena Hoffman, Koyukon Athabascan, Conference Co-Emcee</i> <i>Ralph Wolfe, Tlingit/Haida, Conference Co-Emcee</i> | Tikahtnu -3rd Floor |
| 9:40 a.m. | Red Ribbon Week Kick-Off <i>Alaska Red Ribbon Coalition</i> | Tikahtnu -3rd Floor |
| 10:05 a.m. | Alaska Native Youth Film Festival | Tikahtnu -3rd Floor |
| 10:30 a.m. | Keynote Address: Living with FASD <i>Morgan Fawcett, Tlingit</i> | Tikahtnu -3rd Floor |
| 11:00 a.m. | Pursuing the Career that is Right for You! | Tikahtnu -3rd Floor |
| 11:25 a.m. | Unangan Dance Instruction <i>Atka Dancer Crystal Swetzof Dushkin</i> | Tikahtnu -3rd Floor |
| 11:45 a.m. | Lunch | On Your Own |
| 11:45 a.m. | Lunch Option- Talking Circle: Bridging the Healthcare Gap Between IHS Funding and Other Sources <i>Lunch will be provided</i> | Tikahtnu D |
| 1:15 p.m. | Cultural Presentation- Mt. Saint Elias Dancers | Tikahtnu -3rd Floor |
| 1:45-3:15 p.m. | Afternoon Workshop Track I- See chart on page 5 for correct locations | |
| 3:30-5:00 p.m. | Afternoon Workshop Track II- See chart on page 6 for correct locations | |

AGENDA

Tuesday, October 20

Dena'ina Center

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| 7:00 a.m. | Registration - Open until 1:00 p.m. | Idlughet -1st Floor |
| 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. | Business & Services Expo <i>Partnership with Alaska Native Professional Association</i> | Idlughet -1st Floor |
| 8:00 a.m. | Welcome and Early Bird Door Prizes | Tikahtnu -3rd Floor |
| 8:10 a.m. | Cultural Presentation- Tikigaq Traditional Dancers | Tikahtnu -3rd Floor |
| 8:45 a.m. | Be Counted: 2010 Census- Barbara Fleek, Tlingit | Tikahtnu -3rd Floor |
| 8:50 a.m. | Five Minutes for Resilience <i>Barbara Franks, Tlingit</i> <i>Ramy Brooks, Athabaskan/Yup'ik</i> <i>Alexis Sallee, Inupiaq</i> | Tikahtnu -3rd Floor |
| 9:20 a.m. | Nakuqsriun, Ijuabitchiioiq Avatmun: Love and Respect for Each Other- Alaska Native Justice Center | Tikahtnu -3rd Floor |
| 9:45 a.m. | Keynote Address: Growing up on St. Paul <i>Mary Bourdukofsky, Unangan</i> | Tikahtnu -3rd Floor |
| 10:00 a.m. | Cultural Presentation- Suurimmaanitchuat Dancers | Tikahtnu -3rd Floor |
| 10:20 a.m. | Keynote Address: Empower. Engage. Effect.- Tiffany Zulkosky, Yup'ik | Tikahtnu -3rd Floor |
| 10:50 a.m. | Financial Fitness- Wells Fargo | Tikahtnu -3rd Floor |
| 11:10 a.m. | Keynote Address: Taking the Initiative <i>Chad Bullock, Tobacco Awareness Advocate</i> | Tikahtnu -3rd Floor |
| 11:45 a.m. | Lunch | On Your Own |
| 11:45 a.m. | Lunch Option- Talking Circle: Bridging the Healthcare Gap Between IHS Funding and Other Sources <i>Lunch will be provided</i> | Tikahtnu D |
| 1:00 p.m. | Breaking the Silence- Family Wellness Warriors Initiative | Tikahtnu -3rd Floor |
| 1:30 p.m. | Cultural Presentation- Imamsuat Dancers | Tikahtnu -3rd Floor |
| 2:00 p.m. | Native Language Talking Circles <i>Each region will have a discussion on their Native language and participate in language learning</i> | Arena |
| <i>Ahtna, Inc.</i> | <i>Tubughnenq' 3 - 2nd Floor</i> | <i>Cook Inlet Regional Corporation</i> |
| <i>Aleut Corporation</i> | <i>3rd Floor Hallway</i> | <i>Doyon, Limited</i> |
| <i>Arctic Slope Regional Corporation</i> | <i>Tikahtnu D - 3rd Floor</i> | <i>Koniag, Inc.</i> |
| <i>Bering Straits Native Corporation</i> | <i>Tikahtnu - 3rd Floor</i> | <i>NANA</i> |
| <i>Bristol Bay Native Corporation</i> | <i>Kahtnu A - 2nd Floor</i> | <i>Sealaska</i> |
| <i>Calista Corporation</i> | <i>Idlughet 3 - 1st Floor</i> | <i>13th Region</i> |
| <i>Chugach Alaska Corporation</i> | <i>Tubughnenq' E - 2nd Floor</i> | <i>Tikahtnu E - 3rd Floor</i> |
| | | <i>Kahtnu B - 2nd Floor</i> |
| | | <i>Tubughnenq' 4 - 2nd Floor</i> |
| | | <i>Tikahtnu - 3rd Floor</i> |
| | | <i>Idlughet - 1st Floor</i> |
| | | <i>Regional participants may join any breakout session.</i> |
| 4:15 p.m. | Reports From Regions- First Alaskans Institute | Tikahtnu -3rd Floor |
| 4:25 p.m. | Closing Prayer- Willie & Ruth Goodwin, Inupiaq | Tikahtnu -3rd Floor |
| 4:30 p.m. | Closing Cultural Performance- Pamyua | Tikahtnu -3rd Floor |
| 7:00 p.m. | Youth Dance- Emcee Allison Warden, Inupiaq <i>Sponsored by Fraternal Order of the Alaska State Troopers</i> | Idlughet -1st Floor |

WORKSHOPS TRACK I

Monday, October 19, 2009 1:45-3:15 pm

| Title of Presentation | Presenter/Organization | Location | Description |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p>Alaska Native Jeopardy (60 min)</p> <p>The Land as Ourselves: Subsistence, Cultural Continuity and American Laws (30 min)</p> | <p>Mary Alyce Inuuraq Edwardsen, North Slope Borough</p> <p>Agatha I. Erickson, TCC, Council Newsletter Editor</p> | <p>Kahtnu (Kenai) Room 1 (2nd Floor)</p> | <p>In a game show like atmosphere similar to Jeopardy, participants will actively learn more about Alaska Native history in a fun, meaningful and interactive way.</p> <p>This presentation is an intergenerational study of how American laws have interfered and affected Koyukon Subsistence practices with my family along the central Yukon and Alaska, and how these practices have adapted to move forward with time.</p> |
| <p>Community Voices Project: Producing Our Own Multimedia for Health Education</p> | <p>Margaret O.H. David, RuralCap, Charles Oxereok, Four A's</p> | <p>Kahtnu (Kenai) Room 2 (2nd Floor)</p> | <p>Digital stories created by rural Alaskans will be used to kick off an interactive talking circle about wellness education and HIV prevention.</p> |
| <p>Paying For College (45 min)</p> <p>Establishing Financial Success in College through Rural Student Services (45 min)</p> | <p>Andrea Kavlaq Van Ravenswaay, AK Commission on Postsecondary Ed,</p> <p>Debbie Mekiana Toopetlook, UAF, Rural Student Services Director</p> | <p>Tubughnennq' (Tyonek) Room 3 (2nd Floor)</p> | <p>Come to this workshop to learn about financial aid for college or a career school. We will help you understand what financial aid is and how to apply for it.</p> <p>A strong Native life, restoration and balance, and sense of belonging can be accomplished through academic success at the college level. RSS presents current information to help students plan the funding of their education.</p> |
| <p>The Sky is not the Limit: Aviation & Space Careers in the 21st Century</p> | <p>Angie Slingluff, Federal Aviation Administration</p> | <p>Tubughnennq' (Tyonek) Room 4 (2nd Floor)</p> | <p>A panel of Alaska Native aviation professionals will talk about their careers in aviation and how the future is NOW for any young person not afraid to step boldly into challenging and new careers in aviation and aerospace.</p> |
| <p>It's Time to Walk the Talk; Alaska Native Youth Making a Real Difference in our Communities</p> | <p>Alannah Hurley and youth members, Leadership and Assets Youth Coalition</p> | <p>Tubughnennq' (Tyonek) Room 5 (2nd Floor)</p> | <p>This workshop includes a talking circle discussion, small group activities that will tackle what youth want for their communities and how to make a commitment to see it to the finish!</p> |
| <p>Southcentral Foundation's RAISE Internship Program</p> | <p>Robert Roehl and previous RAISE interns, Southcentral Foundation</p> | <p>Tikahtnu (D) 3rd Floor</p> | <p>RAISE offers meaningful summer employment to create opportunities for Alaska Native youth by enhancing education, life and employment skills. Come talk to staff and past interns to find out more!</p> |
| <p>Do your People Have Rites of Passage for their Young Men and Women? Is it as Important Today, as it was Yesterday?</p> | <p>Della Cheney, Kake School District, Cultural Teacher</p> | <p>Tikahtnu (E) 3rd Floor</p> | <p>In this workshop participants will learn and discuss ways to emerge into the "Rites of Passage" or ceremonies that celebrate the natural transitions that we humans all experience: puberty, and maturity. Participants will move forward with a plan to learn and research ways to transition into a responsible man or woman of their tribe and/or mentors.</p> |
| <p>Resolutions Workshop</p> | | <p>K'enakatnu (Knik) Executive Boardroom (2nd Floor)</p> | <p>Participants will discuss issues for possible resolutions for the 2010 conference.</p> |
| <p>Ancient Wisdom for Modern Times: Kickin' It with the Elders</p> | <p>Larry Mercurieff, Funded By the Alaska Humanities Forum</p> | <p>Tikahtnu Main Ballroom 3rd Floor</p> | <p>The first half of the forum will center around a Talking Circle in which Elders address important issues to the Alaska Native community; the second half will feature an interactive dialogue between the young people and the Elders.</p> |

WORKSHOPS TRACK II

Monday, October 19, 2009 3:30-5:00 pm

| Title of Presentation | Presenter/Organization | Location | Description |
|---|---|---|---|
| Giving Voice to Treasures of the Past | Jenya Anichenko, Nancy Furlow, Shannon Gramse, Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center, History Education Curator | Kahtnu (Kenai) Room 1 (2nd Floor) | UAA Students, representing each of Alaska's major Native cultures, will give brief multimedia presentations focusing on objects and artifacts they have selected from the Anchorage Museum's Alaska Gallery collection. |
| The Success of the Elder Mentor Program in Rural Alaska (45 min) | Jennifer Bell, Alaska Community Services, Rural & Southeast Alaska Director | Kahtnu (Kenai) Room 2 (2nd Floor) | This workshop will highlight the successes of the Elder Mentor program in rural schools, demonstrating the value of our Elders teaching youth about who they are and how important it is for youth to know that in school. |
| You Don't Have to Change Your Life to Change Theirs (45 min) | Flossie Iqilan Spencer, Big Brothers Big Sisters | | Join us for an interactive discussion on the importance of traditional values and passing our culture to future generations, and some snacks too! |
| Make a Choice: Dead End Job OR Changing Lives? | Tina Woods, UAA PhD Student & Ramy Brooks, AMHT Ambassador | Tubughnenq' (Tyonek) Room 3 (2nd Floor) | Presenters will describe the variety of jobs available, the different levels of training and education needed to fill them and information about funding opportunities and career track options for improving the mental health care system for Alaska Native people. |
| An Alaska Native Youth Living with FASD (45 min) | Morgan Fawcett | Tubughnenq' (Tyonek) Room 4 (2nd Floor) | Educating the youth about what happens when you do not think before you act, is my career. Playing the Native American Flute and teaching youth the power of music to heal, is my passion. |
| Healthy Communities: Using Traditional Knowledge & Youth Empowerment to Prevent FASD (45 min) | Dana Diehl, RuralCap, Community Service Coordinator | | This interactive workshop will provide elders and youth with educational experiences and ideas for how to take action in their home communities to prevent Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders. |
| Native Education for Preservation | Amber Thomas & Josephine Edwards-Vollertson, Title VII Indian Education Counselors | Tubughnenq' (Tyonek) Room 5 (2nd Floor) | This workshop focuses on the Title VII Indian Interactive Networking with opportunities for feedback. Student Performance & Native snacks. |
| Learning Across Generations: Tips for Rich Conversations with Our Elders | Christian Muntean, Beyond Borders | Tikahtnu (D) 3rd Floor | This workshop will provide a space for participants to discuss their experiences learning from elders and explore what they can do to help those relationships grow. |
| Empowering Our Native Identity | Native Emerging Leaders Forum | Tikahtnu (E) 3rd Floor | This workshop is a space for engaged dialogue on how we feel about ourselves and our Native community. The focus will be on health & wellness towards identifying ways to strengthen who we are. |
| Resolutions Workshop | | K'enakatnu (Knik) Executive Boardroom (2nd Floor) | Participants will discuss issues for possible resolutions for the 2010 conference. |
| Ancient Wisdom for Modern Times: Kickin' It with the Elders | Larry Mercurieff, Funded By the Alaska Humanities Forum | Tikahtnu Main Ballroom 3rd Floor | The first half of the forum will center around a Talking Circle in which Elders address important issues to the Alaska Native community; the second half will feature an interactive dialogue between the young people and the Elders. |

Appendix B:

2009 Elders & Youth Resolutions

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.
2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 09-01

- TITLE:** REAFFIRM THE INTEGRAL ROLE THAT ELDERS & YOUTH CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS AND THEIR RESOLUTIONS HAVE IN AFN
- WHEREAS:** For 26 years, AFN has recognized the integral role that the voice of Alaska Native Elders & Youth have in the Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** This support has been shown by Elders & Youth Conference participants being welcomed and engaged in AFN in a variety of ways including, but not limited to, attendance at AFN, time on the main floor agenda to report on the Conference, and by incorporating Elders & Youth Resolutions into the AFN Resolutions package; and
- WHEREAS:** The Elders & Youth Conference participants recognize and greatly appreciate this dedication and support from AFN; and
- WHEREAS:** As the Conference has evolved over the past 26 years into one of the longest running statewide Alaska Native conferences, so has the ability of its participants to grapple with the many issues and often difficult realities of contemporary Alaska Native life; and
- WHEREAS:** This competence and growth of knowledge is often exemplified through the resolutions brought to AFN from the Conference; and
- WHEREAS:** Resolutions from the Conference participants have resulted in local, state, and Congressional action, including influencing and supporting the War on Alcohol and Drugs, Veterans receiving 160 acre allotments, ROSE Urban/Rural Youth Exchange, to name a few; and
- WHEREAS:** The Elders and youth want to ensure that continued emphasis is placed on the inclusion of this vital voice of our Native peoples in AFN; and
- WHEREAS:** Over the past few years, the role and relationship that the Elders & Youth Conference participants and their resolutions have in AFN has changed and is in need of reaffirmation of its importance to AFN;
- WHEREAS:** Efforts must be made to unite, clarify, and empower the Elders & Youth Conference participants and the resolutions with AFN to help promote leadership, knowledge building, and engagement in the issues that affect Alaska Native peoples by our culture bearers and our leaders of tomorrow.
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the delegates of the 2009 Elders and Youth Annual Conference that AFN is hereby recognized and honored by the 26th Annual Elders and Youth Conference for their dedication, support and recognition of the integral role of the Elders and Youth Conference, its participants, and resolutions over these many year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this dedication, support and recognition be reaffirmed by the AFN Voting Delegation by adoption of this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that by adopting this resolution as its own, the AFN Voting Delegation emphatically reinforces to AFN and its leadership the continuing need for the recognition and active participation of the Elders & Youth participants and resolutions into AFN; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this participation includes at a minimum, allowing Elders and Youth participants the privilege to address the main AFN delegation, confirming that all Elders & Youth resolutions will be included in the AFN priorities, and the Elders and Youth are allowed to be active participants in the main convention Thursday, Friday, and Saturday to speak to issues and resolutions offered from the Elders & Youth Conference.

SUBMITTED BY: 2009 Statewide Elders and Youth Council

CONTACT: Amber Jenkins
First Alaskans Institute
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907.677-1709

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.
2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 09-02

TITLE: MAKING THE ELDERS & YOUTH CONFERENCE A THREE DAY CONFERENCE, MONDAY-WEDNESDAY OF AFN WEEK TO REFLECT THE IMPORTANCE OF ELDER & YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN AFN AND TO BUILD UNITY AMONG PARTICIPANT GROUPS DURING THE AFN CONVENTION WEEK

WHEREAS: The Elders and Youth Conference has historically met for two days during AFN week, the Monday and Tuesday preceding the main AFN Convention days of Thursday, Friday, and Saturday; and

WHEREAS: The Elders & Youth Conference participants emphatically reiterate that this is not sufficient time to adequately and fully address issues of major importance to the entire Alaska Native community they are a vital part of; create meaningful learning opportunities around culture, language, Tribes, ANCSA, Alaska Native history, politics, and Native identity; and nurture strong relationship building between Elders, Youth, and rising and current Native leaders; and

WHEREAS: From the inception of AFN, all delegates have consistently recognized the wisdom of the Elders and the essential contributions of our Youth to fully interact with AFN leaders who mentor and role model Native identity, pride, dedication to community, and future leadership; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2009 Elders and Youth Annual Conference that AFN and the AFN Board, in honor of the 26 year support of the Elders & Youth Conference, truly unite that Conference with the annual AFN Convention by allowing the Elders & Youth Conference to incorporate the day before the main AFN Convention, generally the Wednesday preceding the Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of AFN, as a part of its annual conference; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the AFN Board make the necessary accommodations to honor this action and work with the Elders & Youth Conference to ensure this one day expansion of the annual Elders & Youth Conference creates a unique bridging opportunity between the Elders & Youth and AFN.

SUBMITTED BY: 2009 Statewide Elders and Youth Council

CONTACT: Amber Jenkins
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ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.
2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 09-03

TITLE: SUPPORT OF RURAL AND URBAN YOUTH TO ATTEND AFN CONVENTION

WHEREAS: Over the years a number of youth have moved into urban communities and schools from their villages due to school closures, and educational and employment opportunities for their families; and

WHEREAS: Many of these youth do not adapt well to urban schools with the loss of community nurturing and love that exist in rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Many of these youth feel separation anxiety, loss of identity, and culture shock when they are no longer able to participate in our Native way of life through activities such as hunting and fishing, harvesting and gathering, community and cultural celebrations, with their parents, grandparents, aunties, uncles, siblings, cousins, friends and communities; and

WHEREAS: Since many of these youth will grow to be future leaders of the Alaska Native community, it is imperative that they are given the opportunity to be a part of the statewide Native activities that surround AFN, including the Elders & Youth Conference, to ensure their voice is heard, their identity is nurtured, and they have an annual opportunity to engage in the current issues that face Alaska Native communities, and in particular our rural and urban youth; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2009 Elders and Youth Annual Conference that the AFN delegation vote to support rural and urban school districts in creating attendance policies for students that will enable them to attend the Elders & Youth Conference without being penalized for absences and that recognize the cultural and educational significance of the Elders & Youth Conference, by developing curricula that could allow for credit for participation; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the school districts create a system in which participants can receive academic credit for their participation in the Elders & Youth Conference, by either elective cultural enrichment credit or in a specific subject deemed relevant by scholastic boards and administrators.

SUBMITTED BY: 2009 Statewide Elders and Youth Council

CONTACT: Amber Jenkins
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ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.
2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 09-04

TITLE: CREATION OF A YOUTH BOARD MEMBER SEAT WITHIN EACH OF THE ALASKA NATIVE REGIONAL CORPORATIONS

WHEREAS: The Statewide Elders and Youth Council recognizes the importance of developing the potential of Alaska Native youth by providing them with the essential knowledge, skills, and experience to become effective leaders; and

WHEREAS: According to the 2000 US Census, more than 44% of Alaska Natives were 19 years of age or younger with a median age of 24, illustrating the large population base that is moving towards leadership; and

WHEREAS: The creation of a youth board seat on each Alaska Native Regional Corporation Board is a vital step in building strong relationships with the next generation of leaders and providing mentorship opportunities at the corporate level and beyond; and

WHEREAS: Some regional corporations have already recognized and embraced this growing population by including younger generations at the corporate level; ASRC, Ahtna, Inc., Doyon, Limited, NANA, and Sealaska have voted to issue stock to lineal descendants of original shareholders who meet the eligibility requirements and are born after December 18, 1971; and

WHEREAS: Many Native organizations have also created Youth Board positions to allow representation at the Board level and to participate first-hand in decision-making, such as NCAI, NIEA, Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, and Sealaska; and

WHEREAS: Having a board diverse in age, is as equally important and strengthening to the overall board as having a strong combination of various skills, genders, and backgrounds, as well as being more reflective of the value Alaska Native peoples place on the voice of Elders and Youth; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2009 Elders and Youth Council that AFN, through its voting delegation Board, support and encourage every Alaska Native regional corporation to create a youth board seat for shareholders and/or descendants with all rights of authority as other board members.

SUBMITTED BY: 2009 Statewide Elders and Youth Council

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Appendix C:

“Indigenize It” Handouts

RULE FOR INDIGENIZE IT BRACELETS

****There is only one rule; THEY MUST BE GIVEN AWAY!** The bracelets are for giving. The reward is not to accumulate but to give as many away as possible. Give them away to people you see that use their Native language or Native values.

For example, saying thank you to someone in your Native language, giving your chair to an Elder or sharing with a friend in need. Remember that gifts are important acceptance of love and recognition. Gifting is an honor that lifts the spirits and makes you stronger by making a sacrifice. **The bracelets should keep moving after you leave this conference, keep giving them to people who are INDIGENIZING IT!**

FOOD FOR THOUGHT DURING LANGUAGE TALKING CIRCLES

Alaska Native cultures all hold certain values to be paramount to their cultures. Below is a list of some important values all Alaska Native Cultures share, and at the bottom of the page are links to individual culture pages.¹

- Show Respect to Others - Each Person Has a Special Gift
- Share what you have - Giving Makes You Richer
- Know Who You Are - You Are a Reflection on Your Family
- Accept What Life Brings - You Cannot Control Many Things
- Have Patience - Some Things Cannot Be Rushed
- Live Carefully - What You Do Will Come Back to You
- Take Care of Others - You Cannot Live without Them
- Honor Your Elders - They Show You the Way in Life
- Pray for Guidance - Many Things Are Not Known
- See Connections - All Things Are Related

Four “rules” for Native language teaching in an immersion setting by Darrell Kipp², Blackfeet language advocate and educator:

1. Never ask permission; never beg to save the language
2. Do not debate the issues
3. Be very action-oriented; just act
4. Show, do not tell

Ten Points for Successful language learning by Leanne Hinton Linguist/Native language scholar:³

1. Leave English behind
2. Make Yourself Understood with Nonverbal Communication
3. Teach in Full Sentences
4. Aim for Real Communication in Your Language of Heritage
5. Language is Also Culture
6. Focus on Listening and Speaking
7. Learn and Teach the Language Through Activities
8. Use Audio taping and Videotaping
9. Be an Active Learner
10. Be Sensitive to Each Other’s Needs; Be Patient and Proud of Each Other and Yourselves!

¹From: <http://www.ankn.uaf.edu/ANCR/Values/>

²Kipp, Darrell. (2009). *“Encouragement, Guidance & Lessons Learned: 21 Years in the Trenches of Indigenous Language Revitalization.”* In J. Reyhner & L. Lockard (eds.). *Encouragement, Guidance & Lessons Learned.* (pp. 1-9). Flagstaff, AZ: Northern Arizona University.

³Hinton, Leanne (2002). *“How to Keep Your Language Alive: A Commonsense Approach to One-On-One Language Learning.”* Berkeley, CA: Heyday Books.

BE BOLD & INNOVATIVE IN LEARNING YOUR LANGUAGE; ENJOY IT AND HAVE FUN!

“You deserve to be proud. You are making a heroic commitment to a wonderful cause by working together to bring your language back out into the air where it belongs.” Leanne Hinton

