

First Alaskans Institute

Progress for the Next 10,000 Years



Photo provided by CIRC program Medlak



Cultural performances are featured throughout the two-day conference.

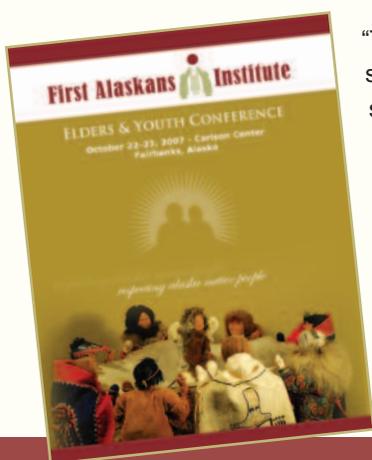
2007 Elders & Youth Conference - Living Cultures in the North: Respecting Alaska Native People

Excitement continues to build as the final touches are made for the 2007 AFN/First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference, which begins Monday, Oct. 22, in Fairbanks. More than 800 delegates are expected to attend the two-day event, which will feature general sessions and workshops that focus on the theme, *Living Cultures in the North: Respecting Alaska Native People*.

The conference brings together a unique mix of youthful energy and time-tested wisdom, in addition to indigenous leaders from local, regional, national, and international arenas.

“The goal of the conference is to strengthen the knowledge and self-confidence of Native people to speak out and to create change within themselves and their communities,” said Janie Leask, president and CEO of First Alaskans Institute. “It offers attendees – both youth and Elders – the opportunity

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Leadership Development Expands Offerings

First Alaskans Institute continues to expand its Leadership Development initiative to ensure Alaska Natives are prepared to lead their communities toward a healthy future. Currently, 44 percent of the Alaska Native population is 19 years of age or younger.

“It is essential that our potential young Alaska Native leaders receive the training and leadership opportunities necessary to prepare them with the solid grounding in social and economic issues that will challenge Natives in the future, and in the culture that sustained our people in the past,” said Memry Dahl, director of First Alaskans Institute’s leadership development.

According to Dahl, an up-and-coming cohort of emerging Alaska Native leaders are ready to enter post-secondary educational institutions and the workforce. An essential element for these leaders to assume a role in as well as have an impact on Alaska’s leading industries is to have a background and educational experience that provides them with the tools and skills to fully participate in civic, governmental, and private sector arenas.

“We’re in an ideal position to have a powerful impact on the future of Alaska Natives and their place as political, educational, economical, and cultural leaders by preparing them to step into the workforce and into leadership roles that will determine their future as 21st century indigenous people,” adds Janie Leask, First Alaskans Institute president and CEO.

With this in mind, the organization is developing a Legislative Internship Program to ensure participating Alaska Natives become familiar with the legislative process; understand their own cultural histories; learn and use the skills and knowledge of past and future leadership; and learn to recognize and understand emerging issues that confront Alaska Natives and the state of Alaska.

The program, which is being shaped into a 15-week internship experience for up to four interns per year, will provide an initial orientation to the internship program and weekly discussions; train interns in the processes of policy formation at various levels of government; and connect interns with monthly leadership training seminars on a wide range of topics ranging from ANCSA and Alaska history to effectively communicating in the workplace and participating on boards and in governance. Additionally, participating interns will discuss the facts and historical impacts of 20th century Native politics and leaders; visit other legislative and state government offices, statewide agencies and Native organizations in the Juneau area; learn about their own personality traits, their personal interactions and choices, and practical tools for effective planning and decision-making; present and discuss statewide issues in the context of Native cultural values; and identify, research,

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Janie Leask, President & CEO

Message from the President

As with many of you, the fall is a busy time for us at First Alaskans Institute. We're preparing the last details for the Elders & Youth Conference, closing out our summer intern program, and beginning work on our 2008 strategic plan. We held our first board meeting with our newly expanded board, and I left feeling incredibly energized and can already feel the power of new ideas!

Our sincere congratulations to the 18 recipients of our Community Engagement Awards; we're looking forward to working with them over the next several months to identify ways that will make our People and communities stronger. We will be running profiles of the recipients both in our newsletter and on our web site so we can all share in their progress.

As mentioned elsewhere in this issue, we've held 16 conversations over the summer on "Native Communities of the Future." These conversations, coupled with a survey we commissioned to help us better understand the values, beliefs and attitudes of Alaska Natives, provides some insight into what Alaska Natives are thinking and feeling at a certain point in time. Needless to say, we're excited about the data and once the analysis has been completed, we intend to present our findings to the attendees at the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) Convention prior to releasing it to the general public.

We look forward to seeing you at this year's Elders & Youth Conference and the AFN Convention – the local Fairbanks planning team is working hard to make it another dynamic and rewarding conference! Look for us in the maroon Kuspuks or stop by our booth at the AFN Convention!

Janie Leask, President & CEO

First Alaskans Spearheads Attitudinal Survey

This past spring, First Alaskans Institute completed a statewide attitudinal survey of 600 Alaska Native and 300 non-Native households to identify, compare and contrast attitudes, values and beliefs. The information contained in the survey will serve as a baseline for future studies with the hope of providing information and understanding between generations and geographical regions now and over time. The Board of First Alaskans is committed to conducting an annual survey to map trends and keep current on "the state of the state" of Native people.

This survey, coupled with 16 conversations with Alaska Natives and two with non-Natives on the topic of "Native Communities of the Future," has provided important information to the Native community. First Alaskans is currently completing the analysis of the survey and conversations to see how they relate to each other and will share this information during the report to the full AFN Convention in Fairbanks later this month.

The information will be posted by the end of October on the First Alaskans Institute web site located at www.firstalaskans.org.

RDPM Report Released

First Alaskans Institute's Alaska Native Policy Center (Policy Center) released the findings from its latest research project – "Engaging Community Knowledge to Measure Progress: Rural Development Performance Measures" – funded by the Denali Commission. The project, which tackles how to measure outcomes of economic development activities undertaken in rural Alaska, explored a number of issues linked to our understanding, tracking and quantifying of the impacts of economic development efforts. The report includes:

- Identification of existing streams of data that provide reliable and accurate information about rural Alaskan communities
- A guide to help communities access available web-based data
- Identification of data gaps and data concerns regarding rural Alaska
- A review of performance measures used by state and federal economic development programs in Alaska
- A working paper to help villages identify and incorporate outcome-based measures in their planning process
- Literature reviews on concepts and definitions of poverty and work that has been done linking economic growth to poverty reduction
- Summaries of discussion input by Alaskans about poverty and rural economies
- An analysis of indicators available at the community level, approaches to gathering "new" data

The report is available online in the Alaska Native Policy Center section of www.firstalaskans.org.



Census Information Center Facilitates Free Training in Fairbanks

Learn how to locate Census Bureau data for planning, research and grant writing at one of the free training sessions held periodically throughout the year across the state facilitated by First Alaskans Institute's Alaska Native Policy Center, home to Alaska's only Census Information Center.

The next free workshop on how to use Census 2000 data and maps will be offered during the AFN/First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference in Fairbanks. Elders, youth, grant writers, administrators, planners and others interested in understanding how to access and use Census data can participate on Monday, Oct. 22, 2007, from 1 to 5 p.m., at the University of Alaska Fairbanks Elmer E. Rasmuson Microlab, Room 341. The event is hosted by the University of Alaska Fairbanks College of Rural and Community Development and facilitated by First Alaskans Alaska Native Policy Center. Wayne Kei, a customer liaison officer with the U.S. Census Bureau's Washington, D.C. office, will lead this informative workshop.

To register, contact First Alaskans Institute at (907) 677-1700 or e-mail AmberJenkins@firstalaskans.org. Space is limited. Another free training session is slated for January 2008; details will be posted at www.firstalaskans.org when available.



Charles Kincannon, U.S. Census Bureau director, visits the Census Information Center at First Alaskans Institute.

U.S. Census Bureau Director Visits First Alaskans

Charles Kincannon, director of the U.S. Census Bureau, made a visit to the First Alaskans Institute on Monday, Sept. 24 to visit with former Alaska Native Policy Center Director Greta Goto and Adrienne Fleek, research projects manager, who have been instrumental in setting up the Census Information Center at the Institute.

Kincannon, who has directed the Census Bureau since his nomination by Pres. George W. Bush in July 2001, was in Alaska to meet with approximately 40 Alaska Native tribal representatives at a tribal consultation meeting held at Cook Inlet Tribal Council on Sept. 25. His visit was to inform Alaska tribal leaders about the importance of participating in the next U.S. Census and how to use current and future Census information for the benefit of their communities.

Last year, First Alaskans Institute was designated by the Census Bureau as a Census Information Center (CIC), an official source of demographic, economic and social statistics produced by the Census Bureau. The Institute is one of 59 organizations across the U.S. participating as an official CIC with web site access for Census information and a library work station in the First Alaskans office.

Dynamic Speakers featured at Elders & Youth Conference

Presenters at this year's Elders & Youth Conference personify the conference theme: *Living Cultures in the North: Respecting Alaska Native People*. Two members of the First Alaskans Institute Board of Trustees are scheduled to speak: Sen. Georgianna Lincoln and Valerie Davidson.

Keynote Speaker: Sen. Georgianna Lincoln

Considered one of the most outspoken leaders for indigenous peoples in Alaska, Sen. Georgianna Lincoln is a tireless advocate for Elders, youth, families, and education. She is the only Alaska Native female to serve in the Alaska State Senate, serving first in the House of Representative from 1990 to 1992 then in the Alaska State Senate from 1992 through 2004. She will open the 2007 AFN/First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference Monday, Oct. 22.



"Education for our Alaska Native youth is a priority. But these youth are going to reap major benefits from the interaction with their Alaska Native Elders and learning from their traditional ways and the value of culture and heritage. It's important that our younger generations keep in contact with our Elder generation and not lose site of their teachings but continue to learn and benefit from their past experiences," said Lincoln.

Lincoln, Athabascan, was raised in Rampart and Fairbanks, Alaska. She graduated from Lathrop High School in Fairbanks and attended the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Throughout her life, Lincoln has served the Alaska Native community in various capacities, including as executive director of the Fairbanks Native Association, director of programs for Tanana Chiefs Conference; consultant to the National Indian Women's Association, and the Alaska and Indian Health Boards. She currently serves on the boards of First Alaskans Institute, Native American Contractors Association, and the Alaska Native Heritage Center. She is the chairwoman of Doyon, Limited and its subsidiaries, and has served as a Doyon board member for the past 31 years.

Featured Speaker: Valerie Davidson

More than twenty years ago, Valerie (Nurr'araaluk) Davidson was the first president of the Alaska Federation of Natives Youth Council. Today, she is the Senior Director of Legal and Intergovernmental Affairs for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) and will be speaking on "healthy choices – the way to success" at the Elders & Youth Conference, Tuesday, Oct. 23.



"I was fortunate, to be able to spend a lot of time with my grandmother, the late Taurluq Annie David. She taught me that

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Where Are They Now: Matt Calhoun



Matt Calhoun

Last summer, Doyon shareholder Matt Calhoun was a participant in the First Alaskans Institute Summer Internship Program working for Herb Schroeder and his Alaska Native Science and Engineering

Program (ANSEP) at the University of Alaska Anchorage. Today, Calhoun is ANSEP's director of academic enrichment in rural Alaska and is charged with motivating high school students from rural Alaska to take upper level math and science courses while in high school in preparation for attending college and entering the science and engineering field.

Additionally, he is busy with his graduate studies in environmental engineering at UAA—where he earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in civil engineering. Calhoun applied for the 2006 Summer Internship Program after hearing about it through ANSEP, when he was a former student participant.

"I took away valuable leadership skills that I can apply in an Alaska Native organization such as the ANSEP program," says Calhoun, who is interested in pursuing his PhD in environmental engineering once he completes his graduate work.

In addition to his work and studies, Calhoun serves as a volunteer for Southcentral Foundation's Elder Program and assisted First Alaskans Institute with their Breakfast Reading Club at Tyson Elementary School reading to students. In his spare time, he enjoys snowboarding, traveling, and surfing.

First Alaskans Promotes and Adds Staff

Jenel Franklin became part of the First Alaskans Institute team in July 2006 as a receptionist and was recently promoted to projects assistant. She provides support to the Alaska Native Policy Center, Leadership Development, and Community Engagement.

Franklin, who was raised in Kotzebue, Alaska, received a bachelor's degree in business management with a concentration in human resources from the University of Arizona in 2005. During her free time, Franklin enjoys camping, fishing, traveling, and spending time with her family.



Jenel Franklin

Amber Jenkins joined First Alaskans Institute in August as administrative assistant and web coordinator. She is the first point of contact to the public and provides support to the finance director, as well as to leadership and development. In addition, she is responsible for maintaining the web site.



Amber Jenkins

Jenkins spent the summer working in the Alaska Native Heritage Center's human resources department as part of First Alaskans Institute's 2007 Summer Internship Program. She is currently attending the University of Alaska Anchorage, pursuing a bachelor's degree in strategic communications and a minor in Alaska Native Studies. During her free time, Jenkins enjoys spending time with her family, sports, and the outdoors.

Hearty congratulations to Franklin and warm welcome to Jenkins – two great members of the First Alaskans team.

Funder's Spotlight: Princess Tours

It is the financial and in-kind support from Alaska businesses and organizations that allows First Alaskans Institute to present a dynamic and engaging Elders & Youth Conference each year. The 2007 event is shaping up to be one of the best ever, and First Alaskans is pleased to recognize Princess Tours for its generous support of this year's conference.

The largest cruise and tour operator in Alaska, Princess Tours owns and operates five riverside wilderness lodge properties, a fleet of deluxe motorcoaches and 10 luxury rail cars in Alaska. The company offers a variety of Alaska cruise itineraries where passengers may visit Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan, Glacier Bay, Sitka, Seward, Anchorage, Tracy Arm, Hubbard Glacier and College Fjord. On land, cruise-tour packages showcase the state's most popular spots including Denali National Park, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, Copper River, Anchorage, Fairbanks, and the Kenai Peninsula, among other areas. Princess also provides turnaround services and shore excursions for Princess ships in Alaska. In addition, Princess offers deluxe land packages for western Canada and the Canadian Rockies that can be combined with Alaska cruises.

Princess Tours contributes to Alaska's economy and actively partners with and contributes to the communities it serves. With year-round and seasonal offices throughout Alaska and the Canadian Yukon, Princess Tours employs more than 1,500 people during the Alaska's busy summer visitor season. The company has a long history of being a generous contributor to nonprofit and commerce activities, seeking out opportunities to partner.

"We are proud to be a sponsor of the Alaska Federation of Natives annual convention and the AFN/First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference. This is a great opportunity to partner with Fairbanks and show our appreciation and respect to the Alaska Native community, their Elders and business leaders," said Bruce Bustamante, vice president, community and public affairs for Princess Tours. "AFN contributes greatly to the state, providing cultural awareness, education and serving as a critical forum for Alaska's issues."

First Alaskans thanks Princess Tours for their commitment and support of the 2007 Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) Convention and AFN/First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference.

Elders & Youth Conference Featured Speakers Continued from page 3

it is important to be mindful of the words you use, how you treat people, and the choices you make in everything you do,” said Davidson. “No matter where you go and what you do, remember who you really are, and where you came from. You can do anything, if you remember that.”

“For me, attending this conference for the first time was a defining moment in my life. As a young person sitting along side respected Elders and my peers, I felt empowered to make a difference. Linking the past and the future to resolve today’s issues through time-honored traditions is one of the most critical factors for our survival as Native people. I’m looking forward to the day when my little girls, Tyarr’ Kylie (6) and Taurluq Alana Negale (4) are old enough to participate in the conference,” she added.

Davidson, Yup’ik, was born in Bethel, Alaska, and raised Bethel, Aniak, and Salcha. She graduated from the University

of Alaska Southeast with a bachelor’s degree in elementary education. While in college, she worked for the Alaska Senate Finance Committee under former Senator John Binkley. During that time, she learned how the entire state benefits when Alaska Natives have a meaningful voice in key policy decisions. She went on to earn a Juris Doctorate with a Certificate of Indian Law from the University of New Mexico School of Law.

Davidson has extensive experience in tribal self-governance and Alaska Native health issues. She worked for the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation for seven years before joining ANTHC. She serves as chair of the Tribal Technical Advisory Group to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, member of the Alaska Department of Health & Social Services/Tribal Medical Task Force, member of the First Alaskan Institute Board of Trustees, and member of The Foraker Group Governance Board.

2007 Elders & Youth Conference

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to hear and network with statewide organizations and individuals who are making a positive impact on our communities through Native traditions and modern technology.”

This year’s conference keynote speaker is the only Alaska Native woman ever elected to the Alaska Senate. Sen. Georgianna Lincoln, who served from 1990 to 1992 in the Alaska House of Representatives and from 1992 to 2004 in the Alaska Senate, will kick off the conference Monday morning.

Lincoln will be followed by a lively, outgoing 10-year-old from Minto – Kia HoChee – who will share the importance of learning and passing on traditions and language. A fifth-grader at Minto School, she is already a seasoned speaker. She participated in the National Indian Education Association inaugural oratory contest in October 2006, taking second place for her speech on the circle of knowledge. This past March, HoChee was asked to share that presentation at the Doyon, Limited’s annual meeting.

In addition to a variety of motivational and educational speakers, panels, and cultural presentations, delegates have the opportunity to participate in a number of events, including a job fair, youth dance, Elders dinner and potlatches scheduled

across the community. The conference exhibit area encourages participants to learn about programs, services and educational opportunities available to them.

For those unable to attend the AFN/First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference in person this year, First Alaskans will again broadcast the general sessions live online. Look for the link on First Alaskans Home Page at www.firstalaskans.org. The web site will also have the conference program available to download by Oct. 19.

Leadership Development

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and summarize a topic pertaining to a statewide issue affecting Alaska Natives and present findings in a written report.

The Legislative Internship Program, which will be based in Juneau, Alaska, is slated to begin on Jan. 7, 2008, and end on April 18, 2008. Recruitment will begin at the end of this month. For more information, continue to visit the First Alaskans Institute web site at www.firstalaskans.org.

Thank you to Elders & Youth Sponsors

Thank you to the 2007 AFN/First Alaskans Elders & Youth Conference sponsors that support our Alaska Native Elders, youth, and communities with their generous contributions.

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Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority • Alyeska Pipeline Service Company • Arctic Slope Regional Corporation
BP • ConocoPhillips • Fraternal Order Alaska State Troopers • NANA Regional Corporation
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Teacher

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium • Northrim Bank • Premera Blue Cross

Student

AIDEA • Alaska Communications Systems • Alaska Permanent Capital Management • Alaska USA Federal Credit Union
Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development • Bering Straits Native Corporation • CIRI • Cook Inlet Housing Authority
RIM First People • The Aleut Corporation • Van Ness Feldman • Wallace Insurance Inc.

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Vision

Progress for the next ten thousand years
True to Heritage and Values, Alaska Natives are informed and engaged in leading the decisions that shape the future.

Mission

Advance Alaska Natives through community engagement, information and research, collaboration, and leadership development.

Values

Integrity
Collaboration
Traditional Knowledge
Responsibility
Excellence

Meet Our Board of Trustees

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Byron I. Mallott (*Tlingit*)
Senior Fellow, Alaska Native Policy Center

Marie Nash (*Aleut*)
Director, Ugashik Tribal Village Council
Retired Staff to Senator Ted Stevens

In Memoriam:
Morris Thompson (*Tanana Athabaskan*)
Our Friend and Colleague

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