NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR YOUNG PROVIDERS AWARD

Do you know a young person from the Bering Strait region who contributes on a daily basis to the health and well-being of their family, community and culture? Nominate him or her for BSNC’s 2017 Young Providers Award! Awardees receive $1,000!

This award recognizes a young person who perpetuates Alaska Native culture and a positive lifestyle not by measure of academic or financial success, but by serving as positive examples and providing for their community in one or more of the following ways:

- He/she cares for family through subsistence activities, Elder care, or mentoring of young people in traditional activities and values or education.
- He/she is involved in activities that benefit the community such as suicide prevention programs, youth sports, and community well-being and health.

The deadline for nominations is Wednesday, July 19, 2017. For more information and nomination forms, go to www.beringstraits.com/youngproviders. You may also call BSNC at (907) 443-5252 or email Kimberly Gooden at kgooden@beringstraits.com to learn more.

BSNC WELCOMES ITS 2017 SUMMER INTERNS!

BSNC is pleased to welcome eight interns to its 2017 Summer Internship Program. The program provides professional development training to qualified shareholder and descendant students.

Learn more by visiting www.beringstraits.com/internship.

BSNC SHAREHOLDER WINS FIRST LADY’S AWARD

Alaska’s First Lady Donna Walker announced BSNC shareholder and former BSNC Board Director June Degnan as a recipient of the 2017 First Lady’s Volunteer of the Year Award. Degnan is the founding president of the volunteer Board of Directors of Haven House Juneau (HHJ), a transitional home for women exiting prison. Degnan has demonstrated exceptional dedication to HHJ, leaving her paid employment to nurture HHJ into an entity that has successfully helped countless women make healthy changes in their lives as they transition out of prison.

BSNC celebrates 45 years!

The company was incorporated on June 6, 1972 as the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act regional corporation for the Bering Straits region. Since then, BSNC’s Board of Directors, management team and employees have worked with dedicated resilience and vision to build a company that holds true to its mission.

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BSNC commends Christian “Atragig” Apassingok, a 16-year-old from Gambell, for providing for his community. In 2017, he harvested a bowhead whale and distributed it to residents of Gambell. BSNC presented Christian and Sierra Tucker of Nome its 2016 Young Providers Award.
Summer is a beautiful time of year in the Bering Strait region. Ice and snow have given way in the warmer weather to open tundra and flowing waters. I have enjoyed reading the posts on social media of our Spring subsistence activities, including the harvests of abundant amounts of herring roe on seaweed, migratory bird eggs, salmon and marine mammals. Soon, salmonberries, blackberries, blackberries and cranberries will ripen and be harvested and either frozen, canned or made into jams or jellies for future use. I am thankful for all that our lands and seas provide, and proud that our time-honored tradition of sharing our rich subsistence harvests with our Elders and others continues to be a core value for us. Our subsistence way of life is a critical cornerstone of BSNC’s mission: “To improve the quality of life of our people through economic development while protecting our land and preserving our culture and heritage.”

I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate all of the 2017 high school and college graduates, and deliver a special message to young people starting out in their careers. To the friends and families of graduates, I applaud you too for the sacrifices you have made in your efforts to support your loved ones as they worked to earn their educational degrees.

Graduation marks the end of one chapter in a person’s life and the beginning of the next. The current successes of many Alaska Native Corporations (ANCs) like BSNC have meant that a generation of Alaska Natives have grown up benefitting from scholarships, dividends and other shareholder benefits that ANC’s provide.

I share this because it’s important to take note of progress and to remember our early Native leaders who made these benefits possible. They fought for our rights with very little formal education and financial resources. They did the best they could with available resources, despite being thrust into a corporate world that few understood or had prior experience working in.

Graduation marks the end of one chapter in a person’s life and the beginning of the next. Today’s graduates have the opportunity to serve Alaska Native people during a very complex time. Our state faces major challenges ahead. On the positive side, ANCs currently have a profound positive impact on the state’s economy, while at the same time delivering benefits to our shareholders and descendants. ANCSA corporations rank among the top revenue-generating companies in the state. However, ANCSA has not solved all of the social ills that our people currently face. Today’s graduates have an opportunity to help make things better. They can build upon early mistakes that were made, apply what we have collectively learned since then, and make progress from a stronger position.

We Alaska Native people have thrived in remarkably difficult conditions for thousands of years. We are resilient. We adapt to changes and yet remain steadfast in our tradition of looking out for each other. Once universal value found across all Alaska Native cultures is a strong responsibility to our families and communities. Young people – you are in a unique position to leverage your achievements and special responsibilities to build upon the successes and failures of ANCSA to make the work you do a blessing to the people you serve.

I challenge you to work with purpose to build alliances and tackle the social and other issues that we face. Ensure that your company’s mission is upheld. I also challenge you to take on meaningful projects throughout your career and serve as an ally to Alaska Native people. Work to empower the next generation with the tools, knowledge and skills they will need to make their own positive impact.

Step outside of your comfort zone and do something that generations before you never thought possible. Making an impact requires more than a vision and passion. Your education has taught you to be organized. To be strategic. To see a problem and not view it as such, but as an opportunity use your creative skills to find solutions. Use those skills well to light your path with purpose, and to pave the way for the next generation to improve upon your successes.

Quyana and I hope everyone has a safe and productive Summer.
GAIL SCHUBERT PRESENTS AT WILSON CENTER FORUM

BSNC President & CEO Gail Schubert presented “Life in the Arctic: Perspectives from Bering Straits Native Corporation” at the Wilson Center’s Arctic Circle Forum on June 21. The Wilson Center, chartered by Congress as the official memorial to President Woodrow Wilson, is the nation’s key non-partisan policy forum for tackling global issues through independent research and open dialogue to inform actionable ideas for the policy community.

The Arctic Circle Forum explored the Arctic region’s social, economic, political and environmental issues. The forum was attended by hundreds of attendees and featured members of the U.S. Congress, international dignitaries, members of indigenous communities and a wide array of experts from the policy, science and business spheres.

Learn more about the Wilson Center by visiting www.wilsoncenter.org.

BSNC PROMOTES LARRY PEDERSON TO VP NOME OPERATIONS

BSNC shareholder Larry Pederson was promoted to Vice President of Nome Operations. Peterson formerly served as Vice President of Lands and Resources. In his new role, Pederson is responsible for corporate and subsidiary operations in Nome.

Pederson assumed many of the responsibilities of Jerald Brown, former Vice President of Nome Operations. Brown retired on April 15 after a 23-year career with the Company.

Pederson earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Biology from Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colo. In addition to his employment with BSNC, Pederson is currently the president of Council Native Corporation and chair of the Nome Planning Commission and Golovin Bay Watershed Alliance.

GINNY FAGERSTROM RECEIVES BP EDUCATION AWARD

BSNC shareholder Virginia “Ginny” Fagerstrom received the 2017 BP Educational Allies Award for her involvement as a tutor at Cottonwood Creek Elementary School. The Educational Allies Award celebrates a person who makes a positive impact in their school or community.

“No one would guess this individual was not a full-time staff member, because they do the work of a skilled, certified teacher, going well above and beyond a large variety of responsibilities. This individual is a shining example of what it means to go above and beyond for the students,” said the principal of Cottonwood Creek Elementary School.

SHAREHOLDER NEWS

DID YOU KNOW THAT BSNC PROVIDES BEREAVEMENT ASSISTANCE?

BSNC provides Shareholder Bereavement Assistance in the amount $1,500 to help defray the cost of funeral expenses for an original BSNC shareholder, a lineal descendant of an original BSNC shareholder, or the spouse of an original BSNC shareholder. The deadline for filing for bereavement assistance is within three months of the date of death. The benefit may be applied for by an immediate, surviving family member either in the Nome or Anchorage office.

A note about Stock Wills: Some people find it easy to think about wills, while others prefer to avoid the subject entirely. Having a Stock Will on file with BSNC lets you decide who will inherit your stock after your death. If you pass away without a Stock Will, your stock will be distributed according to state law, and may be distributed to individuals you do not intend to benefit. To encourage shareholders to complete their Stock Wills, BSNC continues to have monthly drawings for those shareholders who submit a Stock Will, with a prize of $200. Please visit beringstraits.com/shareholders/forms/ or call (907) 443-5252 to update your stock will today!

ILLEGAL ARTIFACT LOOTING IMPACTS BSNC LANDS

BSNC has learned that an ANCSA property, selected and conveyed through Section 14(h)(1) (Cemetery and Historic Sites), and located along the coastline between Shishmaref and Wales, has been looted. The looting and artifact hunting that is occurring throughout the region on village corporation lands, Native Allotments, and Federal lands has accelerated in the past 5 to 10 years. The loss of our collective cultural heritage through the desecration of old village and cemetery sites is illegal, but more importantly, it shows a blatant disrespect for our ancestors and the places where they lived, died and were buried. BSNC is working with federal agencies to determine the extent of the looting on all lands in the region and to bring the force of law to bear, if necessary, on those responsible for these acts of destruction and theft.

If you witness looting on any lands in the region, please make note of the location and individuals involved and report this information to (907) 632-7197. Your name will be kept confidential.

FAI ACCEPTING PROPOSALS FOR ELDERLY & YOUTH

First Alaskans Institute is accepting presentation proposals for the 34th annual statewide Elders & Youth Conference. The conference will be held in Anchorage, Alaska, Oct. 16-18 at the Dena’ina Center. The 2017 conference theme is “Part Land, Part Water - Always Native.” The theme speaks to how our identity as indigenous peoples is informed by our deep connection to our lands and waters, no matter where we live, and recognizes that Alaska always has been - and always will be - a Native place.

The deadline for proposals is Friday, July 21. Proposals may be submitted online at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017EYCallForPresentations.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

Saturday, Oct. 7, 2017 at 10 a.m.
Mini Convention Center
102 River Street, Nome, Alaska
SHAREHOLDER ADDRESSES NEEDED

Are you receiving important mailings from BSNC, including newsletters and dividends? It is important that shareholders keep their mailing address up-to-date. Please visit http://beringstraits.com/shareholders/forms/address_change.pdf to update your address today or use the form below.

Print name:
New mailing address:
City: State: ZIP: 
Social security number: Date of birth: 
Contact phone number: 
Email address: (If applicable)

SHAREHOLDER NAME AND ADDRESS CHANGE FORM

BSNC shareholders should update the Shareholder Records Department directly in writing anytime their mailing address or name changes. Address changes for shareholders under the age of 18 must be signed by the minor’s custodian. Mail this form or send a signed letter with your social security number, date of birth and new address to:

BSNC shareholders should update the Shareholder Records Department directly in writing anytime their mailing address or name changes. In and for the State of

This will revoke any bequest of the stock, described above, in any previously existing will or codicil. If I now own more shares than I have bequeathed above, I direct

For name changes, BSNC requires that you attach a legal document with your new name, such as a copy of a court record, valid government ID, marriage certificate or divorce decree.

New name: Former name: 
Social security number: Date of birth: 
Signature: Date: 

BERING STRAITS NATIVE CORPORATION
ALASKA STATUTE 13.16.705(b) WILL
ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT OF 1971

I, _______________________________________________________________, having attained the age of eighteen (18) years and being of sound mind, and solely

This instrument shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Alaska.

Dated at ____________________________________________________________

This will revokes any bequest of the stock, described above, in any previously existing will or codicil. If I now own more shares than I have bequeathed above, I direct

For name changes, BSNC requires that you attach a legal document with your new name, such as a copy of a court record, valid government ID, marriage certificate or divorce decree.

New name: Former name: 
Social security number: Date of birth: 
Signature: Date: 

MAIL COMPLETED FORM TO
Bering Straits Native Corporation
P.O. Box 1008
Nome, Alaska 99762

You may also call our Nome or Anchorage offices at (907) 543-5252 or (907) 563-3788 or email us at shareholders@beringstraits.com

MAIL COMPLETED FORM TO
Bering Straits Native Corporation
P.O. Box 1008
Nome, Alaska 99762

Are you receiving important mailings from BSNC, including newsletters and dividends? It is important that shareholders keep their mailing address up-to-date. Please visit http://beringstraits.com/shareholders/forms/address_change.pdf to update your address today or use the form below.
DONATING TO BSF

The Bering Straits Foundation (BSF) thanks shareholder Cindy (Towarak) Massie and her husband Thomas for their generous $20,000 donation to the Foundation. Cindy’s parents are the late Clarence and Guerie Towarak of Unalakleet.

Donations are critical to the success of BSF and without the very generous support of individuals and organizations, BSF would not be able to help shareholders and descendants who seek to further their education. If you would like to make a tax-deductible monetary donation to BSF, you may write a check payable to the Bering Straits Foundation or conveniently authorize BSF to charge an amount to your credit or debit account.

Checks can be addressed to:
Bering Straits Foundation
Attn: Finance Officer
PO. Box 1008, Nome, AK 99762

Should you have any questions please contact BSF Program Officer Becka Baker at (907) 443-4316 or foundation@beringstraits.com.

To learn more, visit www.beringstraits.com/foundation.

BSF BOARD MEMBER GUY MARTIN RETIRES

Longtime board member and Nome resident Guy Martin recently retired from the BSF board. Kirsten Timber, BSF’s past Executive Vice President, has filled his position. Martin continues to remain active as an advisory member of the Sitnasuak Native Corporation Elders Committee. He is a proud father of five children with his wife Blue Taxac Martin.

BSF RECEIVES FUNDING FROM ALYESKA’S ALASKA NATIVE PROGRAM

The Bering Straits Foundation received scholarship program funding from Alyeska Pipeline Service Company’s Alaska Native Program. Alyeska awards annual scholarship funding to Alaska Native people through partnering with various statewide organizations for educational programs, specifically for students pursuing higher education that may lead to Trans Alaska Pipeline System industry specific jobs. This funding will be used to supplement a limited number of eligible students who apply by the June 30 and Dec. 1 deadlines—separate applications are not necessary.

To learn more about Alyeska Pipeline’s Alaska Native Program, visit www.alyeska-pipe.com/Employment/AlaskaNativeProgram.

BSNC ANNOUNCES PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

GRAND PRIZE WINNER: BSNC shareholder Karlen Tocktoo submitted the above photo of his "82-year-young" grandpa ice fishing in Shishmaref.

VILLAGE LIFE
1st Fisher Dill
 "Kowegok Slough, Unalakleet, Alaska"
2nd Brandi Oquilluk
 "Edna, Rose and Clara feasting on Elisima food in Teller"
3rd Lucia Ivanoff
 "Dean and boys"

SUBSISTENCE ACTIVITIES
1st Sharon Nayokpuk
 "Zoe Nayokpuk helping cut oogruk"
2nd Benjamin Payenna
 "Boat on the Ocean"
3rd Sharon Nayokpuk
 "Zoe Nayokpuk thinning oogruk meat in Shishmaref"

SCENERY AND LANDSCAPE
1st Patti Huhta
 "Baby birds on the Unalakleet hillside"
2nd Aurora Johnson
 "Cabin in the fall time"
3rd Fisher Dill
 "Moon rise northern lights, Unalakleet Alaska"

HISTORICAL
1st Fisher Dill
 "Muktuk Marston Park, North River, Unalakleet, Alaska"
2nd Lucia Ivanoff
 "Old wooden boat"
3rd Rebecca Charles
 "Leo Charles Jr. ice fishing for tomcods and smelts"

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES
1st Candy Pete
 "Stebbins singers and dancers"
2nd Fisher Dill
 "UAF Iñu-yupiaq dance group"
3rd Rebecca Charles
 "Leo Charles Jr. ice fishing for tomcods and smelts"
DESCENDANT BENEFITS AND GIFTING SHARES

Did you know that BSNC descendants receive many of the same benefits as BSNC shareholders? Descendants are eligible to receive scholarships from the Bering Straits Foundation and qualified job applicants are eligible for the same hiring preference offered to BSNC shareholders.

If you are interested in the gifting process, please contact the BSNC Shareholder Department at P.O. Box 1008, Nome, AK 99762 or call us at (907) 443-5252 or toll-free at 1-800-478-5079.

Please note that if you are a shareholder of the village corporations of Sitnasuak (907) 443-2632, Unalakleet (907) 624-3411, Stebbins (907) 934-3281 or Shishmaref (907) 649-3751 and you wish to gift at the village level, you must contact the respective village corporation to request information and forms directly from them.

PILGRIM UPDATE

Great things are afoot again this summer at Pilgrim Hot Springs! Plants are springing up and improvements continue. Come on out for a visit, but please obtain a permit prior to heading out. Permits are required for access and can be obtained at the BSNC Land Department, the Aurora Inn and the Visitors’ Center. Happy Summer!