BSNC ANNOUNCES 2020 ANNUAL MEETING ELECTION RESULTS

Bering Straits Native Corporation (BSNC) held its virtual 2020 Annual Meeting of Shareholders on Saturday, Oct. 3. Shareholders voted on the election of five board directors. Incumbents Henry Ivanoff Sr., Robert “Bobby” Evans, Deborah “Debbie” J. Atuk, and Roy C. Ashenfelter were reelected and Fred N. Sagoonick was newly elected to the Board. Directors serve three-year terms.

“Congratulations to BSNC’s incumbent candidates, and a warm welcome to our newly-elected Director, Fred N. Sagoonick,” said BSNC Board Chairman Henry Ivanoff Sr. “I would like to thank retiring Director Homer E. Hoogendorn for his more than three decades of service to BSNC.”

BSNC ANNOUNCES 2020 SHAREHOLDER DIVIDEND DISTRIBUTION

BSNC Board of Directors has declared a record-high dividend of $8.33 per share to be issued in December, an increase of $1.33 per share more than the 2019 shareholder dividend. The average BSNC shareholder who owns 100 shares of stock will receive $833. Checks will be mailed or direct deposited via the MyBSNC shareholder portal. Shareholders who have not signed up for direct deposit are encouraged to do so through the MyBSNC shareholder portal which can be found at https://shareholder.bsnc.net/home.

This dividend distribution will be paid through the BSNC Beringia Settlement Trust on a tax-free basis. The total 2020 distribution will be approximately $5.3 million to BSNC’s shareholders of record. Since 1972, BSNC has distributed $33.2 million in regular dividends.

There are many benefits that come with being a BSNC shareholder or descendant, including eligibility to receive scholarships from the Beringia Settlement Trust and hire preference for qualified shareholders, descendants and shareholder spouses. In addition to these benefits, BSNC provides Shareholder Bereavement Assistance in the amount of $2,500 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 a living original BSNC shareholder.

“BSNC’s continued success is rooted in the Board and Staff’s commitment to our mission, our Shareholders and our Region,” said BSNC Board Chairman Henry Ivanoff. “We are pleased to be able to provide this distribution to our shareholders.”
Dear Shareholders,

I hope that each of you had a good summer and fall, spending time outdoors with family and engaging in subsistence activities in preparation for the coming winter season. During challenging times like these, it is important that we continue our cultural traditions and look out for each other. The year 2020 has taught us the significance of gathering together and innovative ways to accomplish that. Even when we are not able to meet in person, there are many examples of that spirit being represented during this pandemic – whether it be the innovative ways we have found to subsist and share our food safely, to congregate virtually, and by making sure our high-risk or quarantined friends and family members feel supported.

This December marks the 50th Anniversary of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Since 1971, Alaska Native Corporations (ANCs) have strived to build businesses with social missions built on the foundation of our cultural values. On the eve of the 50th Anniversary, I am proud to see BSNC making a positive difference in so many ways.

Many residents may have heard about IPOP, LLC’s (IPOP), proposed mining project in Safety Sound. This mining venture is planned to be executed in waters and lands immediately adjacent to Solomon Native Corporation lands, the subsurface estate of which is held by BSNC. The impact of mining in these sensitive aforementioned areas would be devastating to the people and communities that continue to rely on their lands for survival, which is why BSNC’s Board of Directors announced their opposition to this project. Community trust, engagement and dialogue in operating locations is critical to the short and long-term success of mining projects. IPOP’s past actions and lack of interest in building community trust is very concerning. Transparency is imperative, and IPOP has not worked with local residents to communicate or address their concerns. BSNC has requested that the State of Alaska revoke the mining permit it issued to IPOP.

BSNC held its 2020 Annual Meeting of Shareholders virtually on Oct. 3. On behalf of BSNC, I would like to thank retiring Director Homer Hoogendoorn for his 30 years of service to BSNC. Homer joined the Board in 1989 and also served as an employee for BSNC subsidiary Bering Straits Development Company. I thank Homer for his hard work and dedication to BSNC.

I am pleased to welcome Fred Sagoonick to the BSNC Board of Directors. Fred served as a Board Director from 2008-2017. Fred is a resident of Shaktoolik and a commercial fisherman. He is a retired General Manager of Shaktoolik Native Corporation, is currently a Director of the Alaska Village Electric Cooperative and a member of the Village of Shaktoolik Tribal Council.

I am proud and inspired by the way our company and shareholders have risen to the challenges faced during the COVID-19 pandemic - with courage, flexibility, resilience and heart. This pandemic has tested us, yet we remain steadfast in our mission to improve the quality of life of Our People through economic development while protecting our land and preserving our culture and heritage. BSNC is blessed to be able to continue to provide enhanced benefits to our shareholders and descendants. Let’s work together, across all parts of business, community and region to keep going.

Please continue to look after yourselves and your families. Quyaana, and be safe and healthy.

Gail R. Schubert
BSNC President & CEO

BSNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Henry Ivanoff Sr.  
Chairman
Deborah Atuk  
Treasurer
Becka Baker  
Director
Louie Green Jr.  
Director
Lee Ryan  
Vice Chairman
Eugene Asicksik  
Assistant Secretary
Jason Evans  
Director
Cindy Towaark Massie  
Director
Gail R. Schubert  
President & CEO
Steve Ivanoff  
Assistant Treasurer
Robert (Bobby) Evans  
Director
Fred Sagoonick  
Director
Roy Ashenfelter  
Secretary
Ella Anagick  
Director
Charles W. Fagerstrom  
Director

HISTORICAL SPOTLIGHT: UNALAKLEET COMMUNITY GARDENS

Unalakleet once proclaimed itself the garden capital of the state when gardens grown there in the 1920s and 1930s produced enough food to sell region-wide. Many credit Reverend Ernest B. (E.B.) Larsson who introduced many Unalakleet residents to agriculture in 1923. This gardening tradition was practiced up until the 1970s when larger gardens were being replaced for housing and construction. The cultivation of vegetables also dwindled because many were abandoning the work of farming for high wages in defense construction at White Alice and the DEW Line station.

"Potatoes were the main crop then, but cabbage, cauliflower, rutabagas, turnips, carrots, beets, parsnips, lettuce, celery, onions, rhubarb, peas, radishes, Swiss chard and spinach were all grown successfully. Each year five or six thousand dollars’ worth of produce was grown, and most..."
BSNC shareholders should update the Shareholder Records Department directly in writing any mailing address or name changes. Address changes for shareholders under the age of 18 must be signed by the minor's custodian. Mail in this form or send a signed letter to BSNC with your social security number, date of birth and new address to:

Print name: __________________________
New mailing address: ________________________
City: ____________________________
Social security number: ____________________________
Contact phone number: ________________________
Email address: ____________________________

If you are 18 years of age or older, please fill in the blank in the signature line below.

Signature: ____________________________

Date: ____________________________

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

I, ___________________________________________________________, having attained the age of eighteen (18) years and being of sound mind, and solely for the purposes of AS 13.16.705(b) and ANCSA of 1971, Sec. 7(b)(2), freely and voluntarily execute this will and hereby devise and bequeath my shares of stock in Bering Straits Native Corporation and ____________________________________________________________ village corporation to:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Current Address</th>
<th>% of Shares</th>
</tr>
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Borough of: ____________________________
Subscribed, sworn to and acknowledged by me before my
the testator, ____________________________
Notary Public or Postmaster
In and for the State of ____________________________

Date of birth: ____________________________
Social security number: ____________________________
New name: ____________________________

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 that the remaining shares be split pro rata among the persons named below.

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

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) 443-5252 or (963) 563-3788 or email us at shareholders@beringstraits.com

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: ____________________________

BSNC guarantees that shareholders are given equal dividends, Qayaana!

MAIL COMPLETED FORM TO
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 Nome, Alaska 99762

SHARING FEEDBACK FOR THE NEXT EDITION?
BSNC has the right to respond to any feedback you provide.
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MISSING SHAREHOLDERS
BSNC continues to search for shareholders who may have funds on hold and identify the next of kin of deceased shareholders. Currently, a large amount of dividends are being held for BSNC shareholders because of outdated contact information. BSNC seeks to locate these shareholders to ensure they, or their descendants, receive their dividend distributions. If you know the whereabouts of someone listed, please contact BSNC’s Shareholder Department at shareholders@beringstraits.com or call (907) 443-4303 or (907) 443-8110. If you have been contacted by the Shareholder Department, please respond to their requests because you may be entitled to a dividend distribution. Help BSNC ensure that all shareholders receive their dividends, Qayaana!

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Signature: ____________________________
Date: ____________________________

BERING STRAITS NATIVE CORPORATION
THE AGLUKTUK

Bering Straits Native Corporation (BSNC) announced the awardees of its 2020 Young Providers Award as Shayla Titus of White Mountain honoring the late Minnie A. Tucker and Michael Ahkinga Jr. of Wales honoring the late Vincent Ayac Kunnuk. The Young Providers Award honors young people from the BSNC region who contribute on a daily basis to the health and well-being of their families, communities and culture. Titus and Ahkinga were recognized during the 2020 Annual Meeting of Shareholders which was held virtually on Saturday, Oct. 3, 2020.

SHAYLA TITUS

BSNC descendant Shayla Titus cares for her grandmother Mary Rose Ann Titus year-round in White Mountain and at their camp in Council. She chops wood, hauls water, picks berries, goes fishing, helps cut up wild game and shares what she harvests or gathers with others. Titus mentors her nieces and nephews and cousins on which berries are the right ones to pick and teaches them how to cut fish and game.

Traditional values are very important to Titus. She actively helped revive Eskimo dancing in her community and learned not only to dance, but drum as well. Her voice is powerful, and she has the very rhythm of Eskimo dancing in her soul, which can be felt and seen. Titus is involved in her school’s youth leadership group and is a suicide prevention advocate for her classmates and peers. She plays basketball and volleyball, enjoys running and participates in the Native Youth Olympics. Titus earns straight As in all her classes and is a positive role model for others. She is community-oriented and cares deeply about the health and well-being of White Mountain. Her parents are Amy Titus and Tyron Buffas Sr.

Titus was recognized in honor of the late Minnie A. Tucker of Nome who always put the people around her first. Known for watching and raising many children, Tucker took care of others and taught them to care for themselves. Her favorite place to spend time was at camp where she tended to her garden of rhubarb, lettuce, radishes and green onions. On the land, she picked greens, too-guy-cooks and berries and from the water she caught salmon and prepared them to dry, smoke, pickle, can or freeze. Tucker would comb the beach for firewood and burled logs so she could prepare traditional food and heat her cabin, where she was happiest. Whether it was salmon, moose or caribou or even seeds for the birds, she always had plenty for everyone. Tucker was an incredible cook and often experimented with new recipes. She left a legacy of being a humble and caring neighbor and friend. She always helped those in need and never expected anything in return. Tucker passed away April 28, 2010.

Michael Ahkinga Jr.

Since he was a toddler, BSNC descendant Michael Ahkinga Jr. of Wales has learned the subsistence way of life including gathering, hunting, cooking, preserving, storing and celebrating Native food from each season. Ahkinga is now 21 and has gained the confidence to become a successful hunter and gatherer. Ahkinga teaches the subsistence way of life to other youth in his community. With everything he catches or harvests, he always gives choice meats and gatherings to local Elders out of respect. Ahkinga also participates in Eskimo dancing and is always ready to volunteer and help his community without being asked. His parents are Terry Crisci and Michael Ahkinga Sr.

Ahkinga was recognized in honor of the late Vincent Ayac Kunnuk. Kunnuk was born on King Island, Alaska, the second child in a family of 12 siblings. Kunnuk was trained at an early age to provide for his family by watching and learning the needed skills from his grandfather, Chief Olaranna. Kunnuk was able to continue living a subsistence lifestyle until the age of 83. Kunnuk left King Island and joined the Army when he was 18, after serving for a period of time, he chose to make his home in Seattle, Wash., where he lived for 10 years working with the Japanese People and learning to speak nearly fluent Japanese.

Kunnuk moved back to Nome, Alaska, where his parents were residing, so that he could help provide their need for Native foods. He retired from Alaska Commercial Co. in 1983 and relearned the art of ivory carving, becoming an accomplished artist specializing in traditional type carvings. In 1959 Kunnuk joined the National Guard and served his country for 23-years and six-months, retiring as Master Sergeant (E-8) in 1983. He has received the Sergeant Major’s Award, the Master Sergeant’s Freedom Team Award, a certificate for outstanding service to the nation as a United States soldier and the Chief’s Challenge Award. Kunnuk received the Distinguished Service Medal for outstanding dedication to performance of his unit’s missions. He also received a Medal of Commendation for personally supervising the rescue of a family of 10 during the Nome flood in 1974, only minutes before their home was swept out into the Bering Sea. Kunnuk passed away on May 24, 2017.

SIGN UP FOR DIRECT DEPOSIT IN MyBSNC

BSNC shareholders are encouraged to sign up to receive their dividend via direct deposit through the MyBSNC. Signing up is easy and it ensures that your dividend is delivered faster. To sign up for direct deposit:

1. Sign into your MyBSNC account: https://shareholder.bsnc.net
2. Click on the blue Update Payment Profile button.
3. Click on blue Add Payment Profile button.
4. Once you are at your Payment Profile, you will then select from the Payment Method drop down menu - select Direct Deposit.
5. Add your Account Information. You will need your:
   - Bank Name
   - Account Type (Checking or Savings)
   - Routing Number
   - Account Number
6. Click Default, Save and Close after you have entered in the information.

If you experience any trouble, or have any questions please contact BSNC at shareholders@beringstraits.com or (907) 443-5252.
CAREER PATHWAYS SERIES – Medicine

BSNC: What kinds of study skills and habits did you utilize to achieve your career goals?

Dr. Darby: Time management! Never underestimate the power of an early start, and even if you are short on time, confidence, or skills, use your focus and drive to make the best out of whatever you have left. Alaska Native values include a strong work ethic and responsible custodianship for our lands and resources in our gathering and harvesting while making our livelihood. Consider this a cultural resource and approach your studies with the same values.

BSNC: What were some barriers or challenges that you overcame to get to where you are today?

Dr. Darby: There will be days where you feel you are not up to the task or where you feel you don’t belong, or days when you feel discouraged over the many sacrifices you will make – financially, personally, temporally. Find your support, whether it be from your friends, family, local cultural support groups or offices, and financial aid officers and counselors, and don’t be afraid to ask for help. Your hard work and dedication WILL eventually pay off.

BSNC: What resources did you utilize to earn your degree?

Dr. Darby: I was blessed to attend many very helpful preparatory programs throughout school, from middle school through medical school, including summer American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) STEM summer camps, U-DOC UAA minorities in medicine summer camp, Indian Health Pathways Program at University of Washington School of Medicine, and received many merit-based scholarships for minority students. Utilize all your resources, and visit your local minority support office or school counselor’s office to see what they have to offer.

BSNC: What advice would you give to Alaska Native young people interested in pursuing a career in medicine?

Dr. Darby: Find a good mentor! You will need them. Be open to looking at things in a new way. Let yourself evolve into the person you know you can be. Be strong. Be resilient. Don’t listen to those who say you can not do it (and there will be some, I have certainly had a few of those myself). Trust that with hard work, belief, and resilience, anything can happen. Know that YOU can do it, because that is what you need to succeed.

BSNC: What did you do on your own to help people?

Dr. Darby: I still remember admiring his ability to help people and how others looked up to him. Many years later I was finally able to add MD after my own name.

BSNC THANKS HOMER E. HOOGENDORN FOR MANY YEARS OF SERVICE

BSNC thanks Homer E. Hoogendorn for his more than 30 years of service to BSNC as a Board Member and for his service from 2003-2017 as a valued employee with Bering Straits Development Corporation. Hoogendorn’s wisdom and leadership on the board helped forge the way for BSNC’s current success.

Hoogendorn earned his Airframe and Powerplant certificate and pilot’s license and worked for Munz Northern Airlines briefly as an aircraft mechanic. He then worked for the Federal Aviation Administration as an air traffic controller for 26 years. In 1979, Hoogendorn acquired and operated the air taxi Seward Peninsula Flying Service and today he owns Anvil Aviation.

Hoogendorn served as a director for both the Arctic Native Brotherhood and Sitnasuak Native Corporation. Hoogendorn is a father to six children, with whom he shares his subsistence traditions and passion for fishing and flying. His wife Peggy Hoogendorn serves as BSNC’s Vice President of Administration.

Thank you, Homer, for contributing your time and knowledge and for your support 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.

BSNC HONORS ELDERS AT THE 2020 VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING

In appreciation for their accomplishments in maintaining our traditional lifestyle and their determination to share their valuable cultural knowledge with our youth, the following Elders were recognized at the 2020 Annual Meeting of Shareholders that was held virtually on Saturday, Oct. 3, 2020. Elders were selected by their respective village corporations.

Larry F. Fagerstrom Sr.  
Joseph Kunnuk Sr.  
Virginia Menadelook  
Edgar Jackson Sr.  
Ida Ruth Nayokpuk  
Homer E. Hoogendorn  
Carol Piscoya  
Blanche Cragle  
Joseph Senungetuk  
Phillip Brown

BSNC thanks these esteemed Elders for their tireless efforts to promote, advance and perpetuate the traditions, culture and heritage of the Bering Strait region.
BSNC is pleased to announce Jolene Nanouk as the 2020 awardee of the Beringia Settlement Trust (BST) Tim Towarak Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is a $10,000 merit-based competitive scholarship awarded annually to one high-performing student enrolled in an accredited college or university. The scholarship honors the late Tim Towarak, who worked tirelessly to advocate for Alaska Native people.

Nanouk has worked for the Bering Strait School District for 26 years; 23 years of which have been as a bilingual/bicultural teacher. She is a culture-bearer who teaches the Inupiaq language and culture to youth. Nanouk helps to build a historical and cultural foundation for youth to understand and follow Inupiat values in their daily lives. Nanouk is a subsistence gatherer, harvester and fisher. She has served as a Director of Unalakleet Native Corporation for 19 years. Nanouk earned a Bachelor of Arts in Alaska Native Studies with a minor in Inupiaq and is pursuing a Master’s degree in Rural Development. She expects to graduate in May 2022.

Candidates for the Tim Towarak Memorial Scholarship are professional career-track shareholder or descendant students with a passion for advocating for, or serving, Alaska Native people. Students do not apply separately for the scholarship. Preference for the scholarship award will be given to students who are Alaska residents.

BSNC CONGRATULATES SHAREHOLDERS AND REGION RESIDENT RECOGNIZED AT AFN

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, BSNC will host its annual Celebration of Native Art (CONA) online through December. Artist shareholders, descendants and shareholder spouses are encouraged to email media@beringstraits.com with a URL link of their personal website/webpage, Facebook page, Instagram profile or Square Market webpage, a photo of themselves or their art and a one-paragraph artist biography. BSNC will share this information on its CONA webpage at: https://beringstraits.com/cona/. Each shareholder, descendant and shareholder spouse artist will receive a CONA hoodie.

BSNC CONGRATULATES SHAREHOLDERS AND REGION RESIDENT RECOGNIZED AT AFN

Shareholder Dr. Christina Darby received the Glenn Godfrey Law Enforcement Award. This award recognizes an Alaska Native law enforcement officer who has shown outstanding dedication to the safety of the public in Alaska, often requiring heroic courage in the face of danger. Sears was the first female Alaska Native State Trooper hired and has served as a Trooper for more than 19 years and in law enforcement for more than 20 years. Sears received the Never Quit Service Award from the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees in 2016 for demonstrating true dedication to her work. Sears is often recognized as one of the Troopers on National Geographic’s show Alaska State Troopers.

Nome resident Carol Seppilu received the Hannah Paul Solomon “Woman of Courage” President’s Award. Seppilu runs long distances to tell her story of overcoming depression and to raise awareness for suicide prevention. Her goal is to reach every state in the U.S. but she is currently focusing on her home here in Alaska. She and a friend are working on a project called Kilgaaqu Run Series where they will run all three roads in Nome. Kilgaaqu means “a long-distance run” in Siberian Yupik.

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BSNC shareholder employee Tamaira Tocktoo-Austin has been promoted from Accounts Payable Specialist I to Accounts Payables Specialist II. Tocktoo-Austin’s duties and responsibilities have expanded since joining the Accounting department in May 2017. Tocktoo-Austin earned her Bachelor of Business Administration degree with a dual major in Business Management and Accounting, and a minor in Alaska Native Business Management from the University of Alaska Anchorage in 2019. She is now pursuing her Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Tocktoo-Austin is the daughter of Archie Tocktoo and Kathy O’Connor. Her grandparents are the late Jacob Olanna Sr. and Eileen Ezaiakmeow of Nome, Clarence Tocktoo and the late Sarah Tocktoo of Shishmaref.

“I am grateful for the support and opportunities that BSNC has provided for me throughout the years. My desire to pursue higher education has been widely encouraged and the leadership within BSNC has been very accommodating. I enjoy taking classes and working for BSNC. I am able to apply my class topics to my work experience to enhance both my studies and work experience. BSNC has provided a plethora of opportunities for me, allowing me to grow within my community and corporation. I want to say thank you to all those who have supported me, I look forward to my future career with BSNC.”
– Tamaira Tocktoo-Austin

BSNC descendant Annalise Contreras has been promoted from HR Benefits Intern to Benefits Assistant. Contreras is currently a full-time student at the University of Alaska, Anchorage where she is working toward earning a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology with a minor in Speech Pathology. She was recently awarded a 15,000 competitive scholarship from the Norton Sound Health Corporation for her active involvement in her Native community. Contreras’ goals are to improve the health of Alaska Native and American Indian people. She plans to attend graduate school and earn a Master’s degree in Speech Language Pathology (SLP) followed by a doctoral degree in SLP to fulfill her dreams of being a dysphagia physician who treats patients who are suffering from swallowing disorders. Contreras’s family is originally from Nome, Alaska.

BSNC shareholder Lynn Kinney has been promoted to Proposal Manager. In her role, Kinney manages business development proposals and submissions. Kinney interned in the Business Development Department during the 2017 Summer Internship Program and began working for BSNC after graduating from the University of Alaska Anchorage with her bachelor’s degree in Business Administration in Management. Kinney is the daughter of Dawn and Rodney Kinney, Jr., granddaughter of Rodney P. Kinney, Sr. and great granddaughter of Paul Kinney and Anna Moon, with roots in Koyuk.

“BSNC continues to provide their shareholders - including myself - with endless opportunities for growth and development. For this, I am humbled and forever grateful to be a part of an amazing corporation”
– Lynn Kinney

BSNC shareholder Brandi Wheelehan has transferred from Communications/Benefits Coordinator to Shareholder Development Coordinator. As Shareholder Development Coordinator, her duties have shifted to assisting shareholders and descendants in identifying and reaching educational and professional career goals. Wheelehan was hired in 2014 as a Human Resources Intern and has participated in other internship programs to broaden her knowledge of Alaska Native organizations. Wheelehan’s family is originally from Deering and Shishmaref and she grew up in Nome.

“I have been fortunate to work in a variety of departments within BSNC and I look forward to continuing to learn about the different aspects to better understand the organizational functions as a whole. I am grateful to everyone who has influenced me along the way and for the opportunities that BSNC has provided.”
– Brandi Wheelehan

BERING STRAITS NATIVE CORPORATION

The Spring scholarship deadline is Dec. 1, 2020. For more information and to apply, go to https://beringstraits.com/scholarship.

HISTORICAL SPOTLIGHT: UNALAKLEET COMMUNITY GARDENS

American Indians and Alaska Natives suffer from the highest rates of violence in the U.S., according to the National Institute of Justice. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many survivors have been sheltered with their abuser.

StrongHearts Native Helpline 1-844-7NATIVE (762-8483) is an anonymous, confidential, safe domestic, dating and sexual violence helpline for American Indians and Alaska Natives, offering culturally-appropriate support and advocacy daily from 4 a.m. to 7 p.m. AKST. Callers reaching out after hours may connect with The National Domestic Violence Hotline, a non-Native based 24/7 domestic violence helpline by selecting option one. You can also connect one-on-one with a live advocate through the Chat Now feature at: https://www.strongheartshelpline.org.

Another proponent for self-sufficient farming was Marvin “Muktuk” Marston. Marston’s food security concerns after the war inspired him to promote potato farming in Unalakleet where he resided. A large field was cleared near the North River bridge in Unalakleet by the Covenant High School where a large plot of potatoes and other vegetables were grown. This garden was resurrected this summer by a group of Unalakleet residents looking for a way to contribute to the community during the COVID-19 pandemic. Harvested vegetables were distributed to Elders, the Elder lunch program and other homes in need within Unalakleet. Many Unalakleet residents still cultivate gardens, including Unalakleet’s eldest female resident Elder Betty Anagick, age 93.
Kawerak Income Loss Support Program: Kawerak has CARES Act funding to provide financial assistance to Bering Strait region tribal members who were affected and have lost income due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding may cover rent, utilities, housing, childcare, fuel, household supplies, hygiene, and more. Eligible reasons for lost income include, furlough, lay-off, reduction in work hours, lost work time due to lack of child or Elder care, reduction in sales or business revenue and more. For more information and to apply, please visit: https://kawerak.org/cares/.

* Due to CARES Act Funding requirements, this program excludes Nome Eskimo Community (NEC) and Native Village of Unalakleet Tribal Members. If you have questions or need assistance, please call (907) 443-4367 or (907) 443-4466.

General Assistance: Kawerak continues to offer General Assistance to Bering Strait region tribal members to assist with unmet need costs when no other resources are available (such as Public Assistance). More information can be found at: kawerak.org/welfare.

* NEC Tribal members receive this service directly from NEC.

Nome Eskimo Community: NEC provides COVID-19 assistance to their tribal members. For more information and to apply, go to: https://www.necalaska.org or call (907) 443-2246.

Housing Assistance: Alaska Housing Finance Corporation is offering programs to assist with housing payments if you have lost income due to COVID-19. Check eligibility requirements at: https://www.alaskahousingrelief.org.

Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC): CITC aids eligible participants affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligibility is not solely based on income. Each family is affected by COVID-19 differently and amount of assistance may vary. For more information and to apply, please visit: https://citci.org/employment-training/covid-19-assistance or call (907) 793-3300 if you have any questions.

Alaska Unemployment: To file for unemployment, the fastest way to do this is to go to my.alaska.gov and file online. If you do not have internet, please call the Anchorage office at (907) 269-4700.