

the Council

Vol. 44, No. 10

A REPORT TO THE MEMBER TRIBES OF TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

October 2019

Rasmuson Foundation meets with Tribal Leadership



On September 19th, Chief/Chairman Victor Joseph, Vice President Charlene Stern, and Shirley Lee accompanied Rasmuson Foundation President and CEO Diane Kaplan, Communications Manager Lisa Demer, and Senior Program Officer Todd Shenk in visiting the communities of Alatna, Allakaket, and Nulato.

Rasmuson Foundation met

with tribal leaders and learned about projects and needs of each community.

Some of the proposed projects were:

Nulato is hoping to convert the oldest building, where the Mission was located, on the Yukon River into a museum for guests to learn about the history of Nulato and surrounding areas.

Alanta plans to place a helicopter pad in their community. When an emergency arises during break up within the community, there are few or no ways of travel.

This helicopter pad would also benefit Allakaket during emergencies.

Rasmuson Foundation and TCC were also able to tour Allakaket's new clinic and speak with tribal members.

Submit your Photos for our 2020 Calendar!

Send us your photos to be featured in the Tanana Chiefs Conference annual calendar! Help us celebrate the people, culture, and land of Interior Alaska by submitting your best photos. Don't forget to include a caption!

DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 18TH, 2019

Send your photos to
communications_dept@tananachiefs.org



In This Issue:

Birch Creek Culture & Wellness Camp
Pages 4-5

Elder Highlight
Page 6

Breast Cancer Awareness
Page 8

'My Internship at TCC' Story
Pages 10-11

MISSION STATEMENT

Tanana Chiefs Conference provides a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development, and culture of the Interior Alaska Native people.

VISION

Healthy, Strong, Unified Tribes



Tanana
Chiefs
Conference

TCC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Donald Honea Sr./Ruby
1st Traditional Chief

Trimble Gilbert/Arctic Village
2nd Traditional Chief

Victor Joseph/ Tanana
Chief/Chairman

Charlene Stern/Arctic Village
Vice President

Jerry Isaac/Tanacross
Secretary/Treasurer

William "Chaaiy" Albert/Northway
Upper Tanana

Nick Alexia Sr./Nikolai
Upper Kuskokwim

Nancy James/Fort Yukon
Yukon Flats

Eugene Paul/Holy Cross
Lower Yukon

Frank Thompson/ Evansville
Yukon Tanana

Norman "Carl" Burgett/ Huslia
Yukon Koyukuk

Peter Demoski/Nulato
Elder Advisor

Jolie Murray/Beaver
Youth Advisor

CHIEF'S REPORT

Dear Tribes and Tribal Members,



With hunting season behind us, I hope that you all had luck in filling your freezers. This time of year I like to spendtime with my family and teach my grandchildren about our way of life.

On August 29th the U.S. Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, was in Fairbanks for a workforce development roundtable. Participants, including myself, spoke of the importance of training programs from our companies and the boarder economy. We also spoke of the importance of robust public educations system and the unique nature of Alaska. Several Alaska Native leaders were in attendance including University of Alaska Fairbanks Vice Chancellor for Rural and Native Education Evon Peter, Doyon, Limited Vice President of External Affairs Sarah Obed, TCC Education Manager Ed Alexander, and myself.

The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) Annual Convention will take place October 17-19th, in Fairbanks. This year's theme is "Good Government, Alaska Driven." This convention allows us to address critical issues such as opportunities and challenges in front of official delegates from across the state. Help us welcome AFN participants at a potlatch on October 16th at the Big Dipper Ice Arena. More information on AFN can be found at www.AFNFairbanks.com.

October will be a busy month, with all of us here at TCC planning for the TCC Summit and Special Full Board of Director's Meeting. The meeting will be held November 13-14th at the Westmark Hotel. Discussions will focus on Behavioral Health and Hunting Fishing Task Force. In the afternoon on the 14th, we will call to order to consider the Behavioral Health and Hunting Fishing Task Force strategy. In addition, as directed by Resolution 2019-02 the "Random drug testing for the Executive & Health Advisory Board" policy will be presented for consideration, and I look forward to seeing you all there.

This month we will be finishing the fall subregional meetings with the Yukon Koyukuk meeting in Galena. Subregional meetings are a high priority for TCC to ensure our staff continue to work in alignment with you as we strive to maintain our vision of Healthy, Strong, Unified Tribes.

Ana Bassee,
Victor Joseph
Chief/Chairman

Alaska Remote Generator Protection and Reliability Act will Ensure Lights Stay on in Rural Alaska

TCC applauds the House and Senate on their passage of the Alaska Remote Generator Protection and Reliability Act. Both chambers set politics aside and voted unanimously to pass this crucial legislation to protect electrical generation in our tribal villages. It is a clear nod that they are beginning to understand that lower 48 solutions are not always applicable in Alaska.

Due to a “one size fits all” regulation, remote Alaska tribal communities have been required to install complex, highly unreliable Diesel Particulate Filters (“DPFs”) on newly installed Tier 3 marine engines, the main power source for many Tanana Chiefs Conference communities. DPFs have proven so unreliable that marine vessels are not required to install DPF units on their engines because of the incredibly high failure rate which poses a risk to human safety in the

maritime industry.

Interior Alaska tribes reside in some of the harshest climates on earth. Temperatures can reach -60 degrees and diesel generators are often the only source of electricity to power remote homes, clinics, runway lights and water plants. If anything goes wrong with the DPF the generator will automatically shut down and only a factory-trained technician with the proper codes can fix the generator and restore it to operation.

Unfortunately, there are only a handful of technicians in all of Alaska and they are based in Anchorage or Fairbanks. This means our tribal communities can be without power for days at a time while they wait for a technician to arrive in the village. DPFs were intended to improve the air quality in our communities but instead their disposal has created a

hazardous waste issue and their use has decreased fuel efficiency and reliability while increasing costs.

Tanana Chiefs Conference is grateful for the work done by our staff in conjunction with the offices of Senators Sullivan and Murkowski, and Congressman Young who agreed to help champion our bill, paving the way for TCC communities and villages around the state to be able to deploy new, safe, and reliable generators in our villages. We also would like to acknowledge the work done by the Environmental Protection Agency in their rule making effort to resolve this issue, and the tireless advocacy of Clause Law in getting this across the finish line. This is significant victory for our tribes. These generators will produce cleaner power, reduce emissions, and ensure that the lights stay on across rural Alaska.



Celebrating Cultures with Molly of Denali

“Are we there yet?” may or may not be every parent’s favorite question.

In Alaska, it takes on a whole new dimension because of how vast the landscape truly is. Despite the immense distance, my children and I frequently travel back and forth between our home in Anchorage, Beaver and Fort Yukon, a journey which takes several days. Like my ancestors, we travel so that I can teach my kids about the world, about who they are, and where they came from.

In addition to being a mother of three, I’m also an educator, artist and Native language instructor. For the last 3 years, I’ve served on the advisory committee for MOLLY OF DENALI, PBS KIDS’ newest show, which features 10-year-old Molly Mabray and her adventures with her friends in the fictional village of Qyah, Alaska. Together with others from across the state, our advisory group helped ensure that the show authentically portrays the life of an Alaska Native girl growing up in Alaska. The show is the first to feature

an Alaska Native lead character, and has embedded curriculum to teach children how to interact with different types of information — such as charts, online resources, oral history from elders, and beyond.

In addition to learning how to read a map or vlog, I hope that MOLLY will inspire families to talk about the similarities and differences that exist in our world, and gain an appreciation for other cultures.



As I’ve learned in my own journey, language can build an important bridge across cultures. **Learning how to say “thank you” in your Native language, or that of a classmate or friend, can be an important first step towards understanding and appreciating our differences.** You can help your child explore their own cultural history with one of the many language dictionaries available online, or learn Alaska Native words with MOLLY’s interactive games.

While we honor our differences, **it’s important to see that many values are universal.** Knowing who you

are, respecting your environment, and honoring your elders are not just important Gwich’in values. They are important human values. As Molly learns these lessons during her adventures, it’s a great opportunity to talk with kids about what we all have in common, even with people whose lives may look very different than our own.

Finally, it’s important to share your own family’s story. In one episode of MOLLY OF DENALI, Molly learns about her grandfather’s experience at boarding school, where he was shamed for his cultural background. He had never talked about this with his family. Like Molly’s, my own grandparents didn’t share much about similar experiences at boarding school. Watching MOLLY together has opened up important dialogue in my village about our collective histories.

As families watch MOLLY OF DENALI, **I hope that parents and grandparents will be inspired to share their own stories,** so that kids everywhere can understand where they came from, and gain an appreciation for how we are all interconnected.

By Rochelle Adams
Cultural Advisor, PBS KIDS



SHAHNYAATI VANAHKAT

Culture & Wellness Camp

The Shahnyaati Vanahkat Culture and Wellness Camp was held August 11th - 17th, 2019, a 30 minute boat ride away from Circle, Alaska.

There was over forty participants ranging from 1 years old to Elders from Fort Yukon, Circle, Arctic Village, Fairbanks, Venetie, and even Spokane to attend and learn about their cultural values and disconnect from the modern world.

Attendees participated in wellness activities such as suicide prevention and awareness, boat/life jacket and

gun safety, and more.

The Shahnyaati' Vanahkat camp's cultural activities focused on native language, beading, learning about the Athabascan Traditional values, cutting fish, and skinning caribou hide with traditional tools.

Through these camps, the participants spend time with their local Elders and learn about their families, culture, history, language.

These camps aide in giving our

youth a strong foundation as they move forward in their lives and help to strengthen their self-identity.

Tribes throughout the region continue to host Culture and Wellness Camps funded through Tanana Chief's Conference and the Administration for Native Americans.

Two camps will be hosted in each subregion with the hope that locals will continue with camps.



For more information on previous and upcoming camps, visit our website at www.tananachiefs.org/culture-and-wellness-camps





2019 Culture & Wellness Camp Schedule

Lower Yukon

- Shageluk - August 27-29
- Anvik - September 16-21

Upper Tanana

- Tanacross - June 17-21
- Healy Lake - Dates TBD

Yukon Koyukuk

- Galena - Dates TBD
- Koyukuk - September 1-7

Upper Kuskokwim

- McGrath - August 5-9
- Takotna - TBD

Yukon Flats

- Circle - August 12-16
- Birch Creek - August 29-September 3

Yukon Tanana

- Rampart - July 24-27
- Nenana - August 19-23

Tribal Governance Symposium

Living Tribal Stewardship

UAF Wood Center
November 5th-7th, 2019
8:00am - 5:00pm

A forum to build understanding, relationships, and knowledge to advance tribal self-governance for the health and wellbeing of all Alaskan peoples and ecosystems.



2019 *Subregional Meetings*

TCC Chief Victor Joseph and leadership continued fall subregional meetings in Circle. The Yukon Koyukuk Subregional Meeting will be held in Galena in October 2019.



AL WOODS, RAMPART

"There was a little Indian village across the river," says Al Woods, born on January 26th, 1937, recalling the beginnings of his hometown of Rampart, Alaska. Woods remembers seeing a lot of miners in Rampart as a child. "I think there was close to 10 mines operating when I was a kid, and I remember the steam boats." Woods recalls seeing the SS Nenana, a sternwheeler that currently sits at Pioneer Park in Fairbanks but used to go up and down the Yukon River. "It was a good town," says Woods of his hometown. "It was a bustling town."

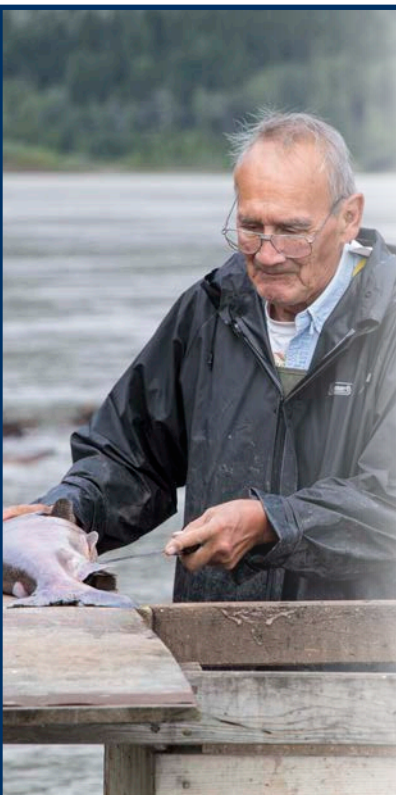
Woods spent his childhood in Rampart with his aunt and uncle. Fishing in the Yukon River and living off the land is a core part of who Woods is. "My fondest memories were probably fishing time and trapping time," smiles Woods. "It was excitement."

Today, Wood's fish camp sits along the Yukon River not far from Rampart. This is where Woods feels the most at home, spending all day working on subsistence fishing with his family.

Woods met his wife, Linda, in 1984. "That's the best thing that ever happened to me," smiles Woods. "I told my wife that she's the rock in my shoe...she got a big kick out of that." Woods looks around at his fish camp, his little sanctuary, reflecting on the impact Linda has had on his life. "Thirty-five years later, and look at us," says Woods. "We have 3 smokehouses, a guest cabin, a shower, a sauna..." he pauses, "She's done a lot for me."

Woods sums up his advice to future generations with this: "What you do or say, it's what comes around goes around. Always treat people with respect. Real friendship is forever, you know."

To hear Al's full story, visit www.tananachiefs.org



TCC's Legacy of our Elders series documents the lives and stories of Athabascan elders throughout the TCC region. Their interviews are compiled into volumes that include a DVD movie as well as an accompanying book. The books and DVDs highlight the elders and the stories that they want to share. These videos are available on our website at www.tananachiefs.org

Funding for Legacy Project made possible by TCC & The National Park Service.

Saving Seeds and Breeding your Own Varieties

By Heidi Rader
Tribes Extension Educator, TCC

In the not-so-distant past, if you gardened, you also saved seeds. You don't have to now, but you still might want to. Saving seeds is like the black belt for gardeners. If you want to take your garden and your gardening skills to the next level, then start saving seeds. Next, select seeds from the most prolific, aesthetic or tastiest plants and suddenly you're a plant breeder.

Saving your own seeds can be a fun challenge. It's also a great way to teach kids how genetics work. Gregor Mendel, considered the father of genetics, made most of his discoveries while breeding peas. When you breed your own vegetables, you become the author of your own garden.

Maybe you're looking for a particular characteristic in a crop and you haven't found that in an available seed variety. For example, much of the snap bean breeding has been focused on bush beans. Johnny's sells 23 types of bush beans but only seven types of pole beans. Mechanically harvested beans must be grown in a bush form. Since commercial interests drive breeding efforts, new bush bean varieties are developed more often than pole bean varieties. When you engage in plant breeding, you can grow and breed crops that lack commercial value but hold tremendous value to gardeners.

How do you get started? Beginners should start with the easy ones like annuals (plants that complete their growth cycle in one year). Biennials crops complete their growth cycle, and thus produce seed, after two growing seasons. In Alaska, this means that you need to winter biennial crops over in a root cellar, then allow them to grow and produce seed the following year, outdoors. Many

root crops — think carrots and beets — are biennials. The root helps the plant store energy to produce seed in the following year.

Self-pollinated (inbred) seeds produce more predictable results than those that are cross-pollinated. Plants with separate male and female flowers are most likely cross-pollinated, while those with closed flowers are likely self-pollinated. Beans, lettuce, eggplants, peas, peppers, tomatoes, lupine, snapdragon, stock and sweet peas are examples of self-pollinated vegetables and flowers. Cross-pollinated vegetables include beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, corn, cucumbers, onions, radishes, spinach, squash, turnips and pumpkins, to name a few. If you have a small garden and lots of neighbors with gardens, you'll want to be careful with squash and anything in the broccoli family as they will cross-pollinate freely. More often than not, flowers cross-pollinate.

To maintain the vigor or stability of a variety, you need to grow a certain number of plants and think about isolation distances. This would be more important if you are seriously trying to develop a new variety or to sell your seed commercially. If you're simply saving the seed for your own use and it is available elsewhere commercially, you can be more laid-back about this because you have a backup plan so to speak.

I'd be remiss if I did not mention there is a downside to saving your own seeds. It requires you grow heirloom or open-pollinated varieties. (Technically, you can save seeds from hybrids as well, but with unpredictable results.) Although I like the idea of growing



Above: Larger seeds are easier to save than smaller seeds. Photo by Kara Cox

heirlooms, in reality, I prefer the performance and productivity of hybrids. For example, in recent variety trials (bit.ly/2QxV0Cz), we found the two lowest-yielding beet varieties were open-pollinated varieties (Lutz Green Leaf and Early Blood Turnip) while the five highest-yielding varieties were hybrids.

If you decide to save your seeds and breed your own varieties, "Breed Your Own Vegetable Varieties: The Gardener's and Farmer's Guide to Plant Breeding and Seed Saving" by Carol Deppe and "Basic Seed Saving" by Bill McDorman, will give you step-by-step instructions.

Before you spend too much time breeding your dream variety, explore the many unique, available varieties to see if it already exists.

There is also a seed library in Ester (bit.ly/2zpsqfq). The idea behind the seed library is that you can "check out" seeds, grow them, then return them the following year. This is a great way to share and develop varieties that thrive in Fairbanks at no cost to you other than your time and energy.

Nationally, Seed Savers Exchange (www.seedsavers.org) is an excellent source for many more rare and commercially unavailable seeds as well as for additional resources. For more information on this topic, check out this audio story at bit.ly/2MVooEH and article at nyti.ms/2XU5xej.

Questions about gardening? Contact Heidi at Heidi.Rader@tananachiefs.org or 452-8251 x 3477a

This project was supported by the Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA Grant # 2017-41580-26928. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author (s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

October is National **BREAST CANCER AWARENESS** Month

Did you know that 1 in 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime? October is dedicated to increase the awareness of about the importance of early detection of breast cancer and all of us at Tanana Chiefs Conference want to provide you with some great educational information that could **SAVE YOUR LIFE**. The good news is that most women can survive breast cancer if it's found and treated early. A mammogram - the screening test for breast cancer - can help find breast cancer early when it's easier to treat.

Call your provider and schedule your mammogram **today!**

WARNING SIGNS

Knowing how your breasts normally look and feel is an important part of breast health. Finding breast cancer early as possible gives you a better chance of successful treatment. Knowing what to look for does not take the place of regular mammograms and other screening tests.

- A new lump/mass is the most common symptom
- Swelling of all or part of a breast (even if no distinct lump is felt)
- Skin irritation or dimpling
- Breast or nipple pain
- Nipple retraction (turning inward)
- Redness, scaliness, or thickening of the nipple or breast skin
- Nipple discharge (other than breast milk)

Sometimes breast cancer can spread to lymph nodes under the arm or around the collar bone and cause a lump or swelling there.

Because mammograms do not find every breast cancer, it is important to be aware of changes in your breast and to know the signs of breast cancer.

TREATMENT

Your plan will be based on your stage, type, personal information, and history.

Choosing Your Doctor

Working with a doctor to guide your breast cancer treatment decisions is key. Determine what you need to do to create a positive partnership with your doctor and when it might be prudent to seek a second opinion.

Standard Treatment vs. Clinical Trials

Before selecting your treatment plan, it's a good idea to understand the difference between standard treatment and clinical trials so you can make an informed decision.

Treatment

The most common form of treatment is surgery, but there are other methods such as chemotherapy, radiation, hormone, and targeted.

Follow-Up Care

You'll need regular check-ups after treatment. This helps ensure that any changes in your health are noted and treated if needed.

Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center (CAIHC) has one of the best mammogram machines in the state which offers 3-D mammography. This machine is able to detect small cancers that you may not be able to see on a regular mammography machine. All of us here at TCC encourage everyone to get screened regularly.

Schedule your mammogram **TODAY!**

REAL ID Card *Checklist*

Alaska Real IDs become required on **October 1, 2020**



Step 1: Establish your identity

To apply for a REAL ID card, you must present one identity document, which shows your date of birth, true full name, identity and U.S. citizenship or lawful status. Select a document that has your current true full name (first, middle and last). An original document or certified copy is required.



Step 2: Check your name

Is your current true full name (first, middle and last name) the same as the name listed on the identity document you selected in step 1? If not, to document your name change, bring documents that connect the name on the identity document you selected to your current true full name (first, middle and last name). Select the documents you will use (this can be more than one if needed to connect the name listed on your identity document to your true full name). An original document or certified copy is required.



Step 3: Confirm Social Security Number

Select ONE document you will use that contains your full social security number (SSN). An applicant must present any of the following genuine documents bearing the name of the applicant and their full social security number. (Example: Social Security Card, W-2 form, pay stub with full SSN)



Step 4: Verify Residence Address

To establish Alaska residency, you must present two documents that verify your residence address. The document must list the applicant's first and last name and match the residence address as listed on the driver license or ID card application. One of these residency documents needs to be dated within 90 days. (Example: mortgage bill, deed or title, rental or lease agreement, IRS tax return, home utility bills)

To view the full checklist and see what documentation will be accepted, please visit <https://online.dmv.alaska.gov/REALIdChecklist>

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Help welcome thousands of visitors by VOLUNTEERING for the AFN Welcome Potlatch!

October 16, 2019
Big Dipper Ice Arena
Fairbanks, AK
Doors open at 5:30pm - Dinner at 6pm



TCC HEALTH CLINICS ACHIEVE AAAHC ACCREDITATION

Chief Andrew Isaac, Nenana, and Galena Health Centers achieved Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC) for another full, three year accreditation term. Additionally, 11 new village clinics (Allakaket, Circle, Eagle, Hughes, Huslia, Kaltag, Koyukuk, Minto, Nulato, Ruby, and Tanacross) also received their first, three year accreditation term

My 2019 Internship at TCC

By Alissa Healy, Community Planning Summer 2019 Intern



I had just finished my junior year at the University of Alaska Fairbanks when I applied for TCC Summer 2019 Community Planning Internship. My first day back at TCC was on June 10th. I was asked to join LaVerne, Renee Linton (Rural Economic Development Specialist), Jolene Malamute (Community Planning Specialist), and community members from Venetie, Tetlin, and Nenana for a Community Planning Specialist Training. I learned about creating and conducting community surveys, compiling survey data, researching online resources, citing references, facilitating a community meeting, setting goals and objectives, managing time and stress, and public speaking. Throughout the training, I also participated in group activities and created a community planning snapshot for myself.

Moving forward, I worked on community plans for Tanacross, Alatna, and Kaltag. On July 15th, Jolene, Renee, and I made our way to Nenana to facilitate a community planning meeting. The leaders of Nenana made me feel very welcome. My main meeting tasks were to welcome people, take pictures, answer questions to my best knowledge, and organize activities.

Before long, I was off to Eagle with Renee to conduct a community planning and economic development meeting. It was my first time in Eagle, I helped get community members signed in and gave a brief overview of the surveys.

The next meeting on my calendar was the Yukon Tanana Subregional in Nenana. The meeting was two days long, but the time seemed to fly by. A few of the other delegates introduced

themselves throughout the days and were happy to hear about my involvement at TCC.

For a few weeks, I mostly worked on more community planning. My focus was on Eagle's plan because their community wanted it to be both an economic development plan and a community plan; that means a lot of research.

The Upper Tanana Subregional was held in Tanacross this year, so I had the privilege to travel again. Healy Lake, my village, is a part of the Upper Tanana, so I knew a lot of the people gathered at the community hall. It was great to see familiar faces, shake new hands, and learn what we've all been up to over the past few months. I'm proud of the newer leaders that I saw as well as the ones who have seemingly always been subregional delegates.

Near the end of my internship, I made a presentation to TCC's Senior Management. Victor Joseph, the current TCC Chief/Chairman, welcomed me and my group. I then had the floor, I made sure to thank them for allowing me to speak that day and proceeded by sharing my thoughts and experiences from being an intern this summer.

Even though I felt a little nervous, no one said I looked nervous when I spoke! I made sure to thank Will Mayo (Executive Director of Tribal Government & Client Services) for the public speaking tips that he gave me (and a couple of other interns) last year. I would say that speaking to Senior Management became one of my favorite parts of my internship because I got to practice using those tips at TCC!

I spoke about what I learned about communities from research and travels. I assisted the Village Planning & Development team with community planning for Alatna, Eagle, Evansville, Galena, Kaltag, Nenana, and Tanacross over the past months, so I gained a lot of new knowledge. Each community has a unique culture and history. Road communities face different challenges from villages that require travel by plane; but all of the cultures and histories of these villages help them draw strength to overcome the challenges.



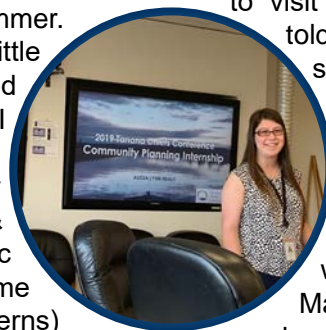
Each village is beautiful in its own way as well. For example, Eagle is surrounded by rolling hills and the Yukon River, whereas Nenana has a decorative community hall and meeting spaces. The people of the TCC Region also vary. Some community members are silent and thoughtful and others are more vocal and determined. There are many leadership styles for this reason, and they all work in their own ways.

After my presentation, everyone gave me a round of applause. Victor asked me to stay up front for the Senior Managers to ask questions. They were curious about if anything could be improved for future interns and if I had a chance to visit schools on my travels. I told them that the past two summers have gone really smoothly and that it's just important to keep interns involved.

Afterwards, I headed back to Tribal Development with my group. The Senior Managers were still clapping when the board room door gently slid shut behind us. LaVerne, Jolene, and Mitch said they were all very proud of me and that it was a great presentation! It was definitely good to have their support!

I can't thank everyone enough for the friendships and teamwork this summer. I've never had another job with the level of teamwork I've witnessed at TCC. My last hours at TCC for summer 2019 were spent writing this reflection. I'm not sure what next summer has in store yet, but I've got my eye on what TCC internships come up in 2020!

Tsín'ęę, thank you!
Alissa Healy



Community Health Aide Spotlight

Margie Ambrose shares her vast rural medical experience with TCC

By Nancy Tarnai, TCC

For nearly three decades, Margie Ambrose has been working at the Huslia Health Clinic and serving as a valuable resource for her community.

For the first five years at the clinic, Ambrose was a community health representative. While observing health aides do their jobs, she decided she would enjoy that career and went to Fairbanks to receive her training with Tanana Chiefs Conference.

"It's rewarding when I'm able to help somebody," Ambrose said of being a health aide in her own hometown. "But it's hard when you have to do emergency procedures on your own family. Sometimes you have to if you are the only one here."

Health careers run in Ambrose's family. Her mother-in-law and aunt are health aides, and her daughter, Andrea Ambrose, works on the North

Slope as a health aide.

Crystal Stordahl, TCC's Community Health Aide Program director, shared high praise for Ambrose. "She is amazing," Stordahl said. "She is my go-to health aide."

Ambrose has been instrumental in working with TCC to design a class called "Coping Skills for Health Aides" and she is often sent to other village clinics to help new health aides get their bearings.

"Margie has responded to everything a health aide might ever be asked to respond to," Stordahl said. "From helping sick babies to handling horrible traumatic injuries. Any community would be blessed to have her."

Stordahl said Ambrose takes care of



the Huslia Clinic as if it were her own home, and helped prep the clinic for accreditation reviews.

Huslia, population 315, is located on the north bank of the Koyukuk River, 290 air miles west of Fairbanks. It lies within the Koyukuk National Wildlife

Refuge.

Ambrose likes to recommend the health aide track for young people from her village. "I advise them to give the job a chance and don't quit at the first hard obstacle. And don't take anything personally."

Ambrose, mother of three and grandmother of six, enjoys traveling in her free time.



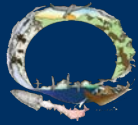
TCC Quality Improvement Contest

In September, Kim Blood, TCC Diabetes Program, won the TCC Quality Improvement Contest for developing a plan to improve the rates of quality control checks within her program.

TCC will be doing a quarterly quality improvement contest for employees.

Congratulations Kim!





Tanana
Chiefs
Conference

THE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

122 First Avenue, Suite 600
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Phone: (907) 452-8251 ext. 3424

Fax: (907) 459-3884

communications_dept@tananachiefs.org

www.tananachiefs.org

Letters to the Editor, other written contributions and photo submissions are welcome. However, space is limited and program-oriented news has priority. We reserve the right to edit or reject material. Letters and opinions are not necessarily the opinions of Tanana Chiefs Conference.

Follow us:     

JOIN THE TCC FAMILY

WWW.TANANACHIEFS.ORG

Village Vacancies

- Community Health Aide/Practitioner(Alatna, Allakaket, Chalkyitsik, Circle, Dot, Lake, Healy, Hughes, Ruby, Stevens Village)
- Home Care Provider(Allakaket, Arctic Village, Birch Creek, Fort Yukon, Koyukuk, Nenana, Northway, Nulato, Rampart, Tetlin)
- Substitute Elder Nutrition Cook(Arctic Village, Circle, Nulato, Venetie)
- Community Outreach Specialist(Circle)
- Village Public Safety Officer(Circle, Grayling, Huslia, McGrath, Nulato, Ruby, Tanana, Venetie)
- Preschool Lead Teacher(Fort Yukon)
- Preschool Assistant Teacher(Fort Yukon)
- Edgar Nollner Health Center Director(Galena)
- Elder Nutrition Cook(Hughes, McGrath, Nikolai, Ruby, Venetie)
- Family Visitor(Hughes, Shageluk)
- Tribal Family Youth Specialist(Koyukuk, Nenana)
- Physician - Primary Care(Tok)
- Behavioral Health Aide(Northway)
- Tribal Workforce Development Specialist(Tanacross)

Fairbanks Vacancies

- Pharmacy Technician I
- Dental Assistant I
- Physician - Urgent Care
- Optometrist
- Phlebotomist - Temporary
- Lead Travel Clinical Laboratory Scientist
- Operations and Maintenance Engineer
- Camp Counselor
- Rural Recruiter
- Addictions Behavioral Health Clinician
- Travel Coordinator
- Purchased Referred Care Accounting Assistant
- Exercise Technician (Part-time)
- Purchased Referred Care Accounting Assistant
- Exercise Technician (Part-time)
- Head Start Program Manager
- Eligibility Specialist
- Early Intervention Specialist

Region- Wide Vacancies

- Itinerant Clinician - SOC
- Healthy Transitions Project Manager
- Healthy Transitions Youth and Young Adult Coordinator

JOB LISTED WERE OPEN AS OF September 25, 2019

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

Yukon Koyukuk Subregional Meeting
October 8-9 • Galena, AK

AFN Welcome Potlatch
October 16, 2019 • Big Dipper Ice Arena

AFN Convention
October 17-19, 2019 • Carlson Center

DEADLINE to Submit 2020 Calendar Photos
October 18

Gwich'in Athabascan Fiddle Dance
November 6-9, 2019 • Morris Thompson Cultural & Visitors Center

ACCEPTING BIA HOUSING APPLICATIONS

HOW TO APPLY

- Pick up an application at your local Tribal Office
- Provide a copy of your Tribal Enrollment Card
- Provide proof of income for entire household
- Proof of ownership of land or obtain a 25 year lease agreement
- If you are claiming disability, provide a letter stating disability from clinic
- TCC Housing department recommends mailing in your application & documents to our office. Please make a copy for your record, if addition information is needed or if documents are missing

**If you calling outside of the TCC/Doyon region,
call BIA at 907-271-4178 to find your filing location.*