

## IN THIS





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# 2024 Annual Meeting of Shareholders

Saturday, Oct. 5, 2024 at 10 a.m. Nome Recreation Center 208 E. 6th Ave.

Questions about BSNC's business, programs and benefits will be compiled and answered during the Annual Meeting. Please submit questions by 5 p.m. AKDT on Friday, Sept. 20, 2024 to questions@beringstraits.com.

**Reminder:** Vote your proxy and be entered in to win great prizes! If you did not receive a proxy in the mail, please contact the Shareholder Department at (907) 443-5252 or shareholders@beringstraits.com.

More info: beringstraits.com/annualmeeting

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Roy Ashenfelter, Chair Cindy Towarak Massie, President Becka Baker, Vice Chair Jason Evans, Secretary Deborah Atuk, Treasurer Eugene Asicksik, Assistant Secretary Steve Ivanoff, Assistant Treasurer Ella A. Anagick, Director Robert Evans, Director Charles Fagerstrom, Director Louie Green, Jr., Director
Tyler Ivanoff, Director
Fred Sagoonick, Director
Gail R. Schubert, Director
Tony A. Weyiouanna, Sr., Director

#### **Our Region**

The Bering Strait region spans most of Alaska's Seward Peninsula and the coastal lands of eastern Norton Sound. The region encompasses 23,000 square miles and the coastline covers 570 miles along the Bering Sea, Norton Sound and the Chukchi Sea.

#### **Our Mission**

Our mission is to improve the quality of life of Our People through economic development while protecting our land and preserving our culture and heritage.



#### **Share Your Stories with BSNC**

At BSNC, our strength lies in our community and the incredible stories of Our People. BSNC is pleased to highlight Village Life Stories, Historical Spotlights and other newsworthy events. Your stories help us celebrate the diversity, resilience and success of Our People. Please email media@beringstraits.com with the following information:

- Name, contact information and a brief description of your news.
- Please provide relevant dates and details.
- High-quality photos are encouraged.

Disclaimer: BSNC reserves the right to review, edit, and decide which stories to publish. Submission does not guarantee publication. By submitting your story and photos, you grant BSNC permission to use them in its publications and media.

#### **Important Dates**

October 1	Beringia Settlement Trust Scholarship Opens	
October 5	Annual Meeting of Shareholders	
October 15	Deadline to Update Direct Deposit Information	
December 1	Beringia Settlement Tr	ust Scholarship Deadline
beringstraits.com		facebook.com/gobsno
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in Bering Straits Native Corporation

@BeringStraitsNativeCorpora5894

#### **LEADERSHIP MESSAGE**



## Message from the President

Dear Shareholders,

I hope you are enjoying a productive summer. While

looking at past issues, I came across an old article by my late brother and former president of BSNC, Tim Towarak. There is a photograph of "9 Eskimos on a Whale" from the book "Here is Alaska" by Evelyn Stefansson. In the photograph are my late father Clarence



Towarak Sr. and some of my uncles.

Reflecting on the photograph,

my brother Tim wrote, "To me, it is a reflection of time and is a historical statement on our Native subsistence way of life. It is a reflection of how our people survived in some of the harshest climate conditions in North America. And it also reflects how Natives think in terms of community rather than as competitive individuals, which seems to be the norm in non-indigenous cultures. It is also a reflection of happiness being expressed by all nine young men."

Tim's words resonated with me recently when I traveled to Washington, D.C. on behalf of our corporation to meet with our nation's policy makers. It is a constant struggle to educate people about our culture and native way of life. Even after more than 50 years, many people I meet with still don't know about the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act or what a native corporation is.

Claiming ownership of the land must have sounded as ridiculous to our ancestors as someone claiming to own the sun and demanding payment for its warmth. The concept of deeded land was foreign to our ancestors. No one could own the land, we are partners with it, we take care of the land, and the land sustains us. It was there long before we were, and it will be there long after us.

Recently, we were all shaken by the catastrophic fire in the community of Stebbins that burned down over half the teachers' housing and the entire school. The Stebbins fire revealed the ongoing need for better fire prevention. Working together we will build back even better.

I encourage all shareholders and descendants to vote in the upcoming national and statewide elections. Your vote is important and matters. Please also remember to mail in or vote your BSNC proxy online. By voting, you will be eligible for one of the many proxy prizes. Learn more at beringstraits.com/annualmeeting.

Thank you again for your continued involvement in BSNC. I am looking forward to meeting with you at the Annual Meeting in Nome and at AFN in Anchorage. Here's to a future defined by strength, growth and the courage to be humble. You all hold a very special place in my heart.

Cynthia a Massie

Quyaana,

**Cindy Massie** 

President

# BSNC and Other Regional Entities Continue to Oppose Mining Near Safety Sound

In March, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced it had overturned its previous decision to deny a permit to IPOP LLC, a group planning to dredge the Bonanza Channel estuary. BSNC continues to be deeply concerned about the potential for mining near Safety Sound.

"We can't stress enough the importance of community trust, engagement, and dialogue in planning and operations is critical to the short and long-term success of mining projects," said President Cindy Massie. "IPOP LLC's past actions and lack of interest in building community trust is very concerning. Transparency is imperative, and IPOP has not worked with locals to communicate or address concerns."

BSNC provided written opposition to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources in late July, stating in its letter, "The area described in the permit application, along with nearby areas, serves as an estuary crucial for fish and wildlife to raise young, find shelter, and access food. Given the critical habitats these areas provide for various species important to subsistence, commercial, and recreational uses, they should be off-limits for mining."

Due to the way IPOP has done business thus far, BSNC will continue to oppose their planned operations for fear that they might breach the terms of their permits.

#### **BSNC Establishes Three New Holding Companies**

BSNC has enhanced our ability to manage and grow our diverse business portfolio. Over the past year, BSNC established three new holding companies to oversee our more than 30 subsidiaries. The new holding companies are BSNC Government Services, LLC (BGS), BSNC Commercial Services, LLC (BCS), and BSNC Regional Services, LLC (BRS). Each holding company will concentrate on specific areas, allowing for more specialized management and growth strategies tailored to the unique needs within each sector.

BGS will focus on government contracting, ensuring that we can capitalize on opportunities

and achieve operational efficiencies in these areas. BCS will oversee subsidiaries in retail sales and equipment management. BRS will focus on the forward-facing companies in-region, including BSNC subsidiaries involved in gravel and rock sales, hospitality, vehicle rentals, and property management.

This reorganization allows BSNC to streamline operations, provide targeted support to essential businesses, foster strategic growth, and ensure continued alignment with 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 Announces 2024 Shareholder Dividend and Elder Distribution

The BSNC Board of Directors has declared a record-high dividend of \$12.86 per share. Shareholders (on record as of Nov. 1, 2024) with 100 shares, for example, will receive \$1,286. In addition, a \$1,500 Elder distribution has been declared for original BSNC shareholders aged 65 years or older as of Nov. 1, 2024, the date of record. These distributions will be paid through the BSNC Beringia Settlement Trust and are not taxable.

"BSNC is proud to deliver this record-high dividend to its shareholders," said BSNC President Cindy Massie. "This milestone reflects our Corporation's strong financial performance and our commitment to delivering value to our shareholders. Quyaana for your continued support as we work together to build a prosperous future."

The Elder distribution and shareholder dividends will be mailed or direct deposited on or before Nov. 15, 2024. Shareholders can receive their dividend sooner by signing up for direct deposit via the MyBSNC shareholder portal at shareholder.bsnc.net. All shareholders are strongly encouraged to verify their mailing and/or direct deposit information via the MyBSNC Shareholder Portal by Oct. 15, 2024. For those who prefer receiving a check in the mail, please ensure your address on file is up to date. If you need assistance, please contact the Shareholder Department at (907) 443–5252 or shareholders@bsnc.net.

The total 2024 shareholder dividend will amount to approximately \$8.1 million, and the total distribution to BSNC Elders will be approximately \$1.8 million. Since 1972, BSNC has distributed \$62.5 million in dividends, including this distribution, and \$14 million in Elder distributions.



# BSNC Announces the Launch of its New LEAD Program and the Selected Participants

BSNC is pleased to announce the launch of the Shareholder Leadership Exploration and Development (LEAD) Program and its inaugural participants. The participants are shareholders Roy Craft, Ana Grayson and Sara Leckband. Designed to cultivate the leadership qualities of high-potential shareholder and descendant employees, BSNC's LEAD Program offers a structured curriculum led by both internal and external experts, aimed at elevating leadership capabilities and fostering a supportive environment for professional growth and retention.

This two-year program, with 3-day sessions held thrice annually, is comprised of a structured blend of foundational and advanced modules covering leadership fundamentals, communication skills, team dynamics, project management, strategic leadership, change management, knowledge of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, the history and future of BSNC as well as cross-cultural diversity training. Emphasizing experiential learning, participants engage in real-world projects, and receive mentorship and networking opportunities. Continuous feedback and evaluations tailor the curriculum to individual needs, aligning their growth with BSNC's strategic objectives and succession planning.



Roy Craft, General Manager at BSNC, holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance from the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA). Craft was born in Nome and has lived in various regions across the state including Unalakleet, Valdez, Fairbanks, Soldotna and Anchorage. He is the son of Esther Tobuk and Joel Craft,

Sr., and his grandparents are the late Catherine and Roy Tobuk Sr. of Nome.



Ana Grayson holds the position of Associate Communications Director where she leads the development of communications and marketing content, campaigns, strategies and BSNC's cultural initiatives. Joining the company in 2013

as a summer intern, Grayson has progressively advanced through various positions.

Grayson earned a bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in psychology from UAA.

Originally from Unalakleet, Grayson now resides in Eagle River, Alaska with her husband and children.

She is the daughter of Chip and Joanne Swanson.

She is an enrolled member of the Native Village of Unalakleet.



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Sara Leckband recently accepted the position of Corporate Executive Assistant. Joining BSNC in 2019, she previously served as Contracts Administrator in the Legal Department. Leckband holds a bachelor's degree in Rural Development with a focus on Environmental, Land and Resource Management.

In the fall of 2024, she will commence the Rural Development master's program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Leckband, originally from Nome, is the proud granddaughter of Marge Apok and Virgil Warnke, and the daughter of Diane "Oupa" Warnke and George Leckband. Currently, she resides in Anchorage with her two children, Cambria and Silus.

#### BSNC Offers Discount for Shareholders and Descendants at Aurora Inn and Vehicle Rentals

BSNC is pleased to provide a 40% discount exclusively for shareholders and descendants when booking at the Aurora Inn and Suites and on vehicle rentals from Aurora Vehicle Rentals. To book a room, visit aurorainnome.com or contact our reservation desk by calling (907) 443-3838 or emailing aurorainn@beringstraits.com. Please note that the discount is verified and then applied at the time of check-in. For vehicle rentals, visit the rental office or call (907) 443-3838 and mention your BSNC shareholder or descendant status.

The discount applies to personal travel at standard rates and is subject to availability. Shareholders and/or descendants must be over 21 and must occupy the room to receive the discount. For vehicle rentals, shareholders and descendants must hold a valid driver's license, be 25 years of age or older, and be the original driver of the vehicle they rent. Descendants must be registered in the Descendant Registry to qualify for the discounts. Learn how to register as a descendant at beringstraits.com/descendants.



The Aurora Inn and Suites looks forward to welcoming you and providing you with a memorable experience.



#### BSNC Announces the Appointment of Jeff Shirley as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

BSNC is pleased to announce the appointment of Jeff Shirley as Senior Vice President (SVP) and Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Shirley joined BSNC in 2016 and previously served as Interim CFO and Vice President of Operations



"Jeff has extensive experience in the business and financial aspects of Alaska Native corporations and brings great value to BSNC's accounting department," said President Cindy Massie. "As a leadership team member, his familiarity with BSNC will benefit our shareholders and our mission to improve the quality of life of Our People through economic development while protecting our land and preserving our culture and heritage."

As SVP and CFO, Shirley will oversee all accounting activities, financial strategy, and managing and reporting all financial-related activities for the company.

As Vice President, Shirley drove profitable growth from operations and led digital transformation initiatives. Shirley is a Certified Public Accountant and holds an undergraduate degree in accounting from Saint Cloud State University. He currently serves on the Armed Services YMCA of Alaska board and as Treasurer of Nine Star Education and Employment Services.

### BSNC Summer Interns Engage in Hands-On Learning and Professional Development



The 2024 BSNC Summer Intern Cohort included Shane Angnaboogok, Nathaniel Appolloni, Jorden Barnhill, Joseph Butzke, Aiyana Campbell, Kyle Collins, Jessica Davis, Brady Dickens, Avrey Hansell, Reece Ivanoff, Adria Lawrence, Isaiah Nayokpuk, Luke Polito, Taylor Tiulana, and Paige Miller. It's the largest cohort BSNC has had so far. Throughout their time at BSNC, the interns had the opportunity to participate in hands-on learning and professional development. This experience deepened their appreciation for cultural traditions and community knowledge, while also shedding light on the business operations and strategies that drive our subsidiaries.

One of the many trainings the interns received included salmon filleting from shareholder Buffy Meyer, the owner of Fish on Camp Grill. In addition to mastering this essential skill, they also learned how to make fish head soup. Shareholder Mike Sherman crafted the ulus that the interns used during their training, which further connected the interns with practices rooted in their heritage.

Additionally, the intern cohort donned proper Personal Protective Equipment and participated in an educational tour of three of BSNC's subsidiaries: Alaska Industrial Hardware, Arcticom, and Central Environmental Inc. During the tour, the interns received detailed information about the operations of each company, including the wide range of services and products offered and the roles these companies play in their respective industries. This

experience was designed to provide the interns with a comprehensive understanding of the business operations and strategies that drive these successful subsidiaries, enhancing their knowledge and preparing them for future roles.

The interns attended CPR, First Aid, and AED training at Environmental Management Inc. (EMI), a BSNC subsidiary specializing in environmental consulting, engineering, and training services. The in-person training offered a full day of hands-on learning, and each participant received certification through the American Heart Association, earning an American Heart Sayer Card.

They also participated in various cultural activities, including an Inupiaq language class with shareholder Josie Bourdon, a decolonization discussion led by shareholder Ukallaysaaq Okleasik, King Island singing and dancing, a tour of the Anchorage Museum with shareholder Paul Ongtooguk, an overview of the book Menadelook with shareholder Eileen Norbert, and a visit to the Alaska Native Heritage Center with shareholder Paul Asicksik.

BSNC expresses pride and excitement for this group of interns and their future journeys, acknowledging their hard work and dedication as a reflection of the company's future. A huge thank you to staff, instructors and culture bearers for sharing your time and knowledge with the interns.

## BSNC Hosts Land Planners Meeting in Nome

BSNC hosted a gathering of the region's village corporations in Nome from May 21-23, 2024, to facilitate discussions between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) staff and village representatives regarding remaining issues related to ANCSA land conveyances. Thirteen of the region's member villages participated. Each village corporation received a digital copy of the ANCSA land status maps, providing easy access to land patents, easements, allotment information, and Master Title plats. BSNC extends sincere thanks to all village representatives who attended and to the BLM staff for sharing their expertise.



# Sign Up for Direct Deposit

Sign up for direct deposit and be entered to win prizes! The deadline to verify direct deposit information and be entered into the drawings is Oct. 15, 2024. Shareholders who are already enrolled in direct deposit will be automatically entered into the drawings.

Please ensure your banking information is correct in your MyBSNC account. To sign up for direct deposit or update your account information, follow the steps below:

- Sign in to your MyBSNC account: https://shareholder.bsnc.net
- Click on the Update Payment Profile button.
- Select Direct Deposit from the Payment Method drop-down.
- Add your Account Information.
  You will need your:
  - Bank Name
  - Account Type (Checking or Savings)
  - Routing Number
  - Account Number
- Click Save and Close after you have entered the information.
- 6 Click Ok. Your changes should be reflected in your Payment Profile.

### **BSNC Activity Book**

BSNC is delighted to share our first ever Bering Straits Activity Book with its youth. We extend a heartfelt thanks to the following artists and culture bearers who generously contributed their talents to put this book together: Susan Ringstad Emery, Karen Garcia, Cassandra Johnson, Laura Lagstrom, Katie O'Connor, Danielle Pungowiyi and Joanne Swanson. Pages from the coloring book can be downloaded at beringstraits.com/activity-book. We hope our youth enjoy the coloring pages and have fun learning about our culture and heritage!



### Educational Highlight: Janelle Pootoogooluk



BSNC descendant Janelle
Pootoogooluk, originally from
Shishmaref, lived in Nome,
Alaska for 10 years after
graduating high school and
then moved to Fairbanks,
Alaska where she attended
the University of Alaska
Fairbanks. Currently, she
works as a family services
intake specialist for Tanana

Chiefs Conference and recently completed her Associate of Applied Science degree in Applied Business. She feels taking business courses helped her to navigate how to work online, communicate effectively and how she might someday run her own business. Her family includes her partner, Herman, and their daughters Aria, Cora, Aurora and Harper. "My partner and children are my inspiration and motivation. They make sure I get my homework turned in on time and motivate me not to give up." – Janelle Pootoogooluk

## What are you studying and what inspired you or interested you about that field?

I completed my Associate of Applied Science–Applied Business Administrative Management degree this month. I feel as though business courses helped me understand how to work nowadays with everything being online and through email. This course has helped me learn how to communicate effectively and how to someday run my own business.

## What were some challenges or barriers you faced?

A challenge I faced was not having enough time for my homework and family. I had a rough Fall 2023 semester as I was taking hard classes that took a lot of time to learn the material and complete my classwork along with getting my oldest daughter in her first sport. I was very overwhelmed with the schedules, but I made it work!

## What habit and resources are assisting you in your success?

Making enough time to get homework done and getting it all done after the girls' bedtime is one habit that I had formed and that helped me get through the semesters. I also reached out to the communications department during my speech class, and they helped a lot. Keeping in touch with my instructors and letting them know when I needed a little extra time to get homework done also helped.

## Do you have any advice to those interested in college?

Just do it, don't overthink it. You will learn so much about yourself while taking college courses and gain confidence in yourself. You will make great friends as they are in the same boat as you in the courses. It's important to find at least one person in your class that you can collaborate with if needed.

#### Kingikmiut Dance Festival



In this episode of Mazzaq Tigittuaq, we celebrate our culture with one of the largest Alaska Native dance festivals in the state, the Kingikmiut Dance

Festival, which returned in 2023 after a hiatus due to the pandemic. Since its establishment in 1999, and prior to the pandemic, the festival has been held at least yearly in the community of Wales. The festival is a testament to the enduring traditions passed down from Elders to the younger generations. Through dance and song, the festival ensures that the culture and heritage of Our People thrives, fostering a deep sense of community and continuity. Watch as we celebrate this profound cultural exchange at bsnc.tv/Kingikmiut.

### 2024 Open Enrollment Survey Results

BSNC recently conducted an open enrollment survey as part of its efforts to evaluate the possibility of opening enrollment to descendants of original shareholders born after December 18, 1971. In 2012, the BSNC Board of Directors established the Open Enrollment Subcommittee to assess the feasibility of this initiative. Since then, the Board has been diligently evaluating open enrollment for descendants of BSNC shareholders.

The 2024 survey had 2,059 responses as follows:

# Are you in favor of enrolling descendants born after December 18, 1971, and placing the question on the 2025 proxy for a Shareholder vote?

The enrollment of descendants of original shareholders is expected to significantly increase the BSNC shareholder base, given the number of descendants born since December 18, 1971.

**Results: 74% yes 26% no** 

## Are you in favor of enrolling descendants even if the impact is a reduction of the dividend?

Maintaining dividend amounts would most likely only be achieved if new stock was not issued by way of a decision not to open the rolls. Should open enrollment be implemented, there is no guarantee that BSNC could financially perform to meet the dividend expectations of BSNC's current shareholder base. BSNC currently has approximately 8,200 Alaska Native shareholders. The Company does not have an estimate on how many descendants would be eligible to enroll.

#### Results: 84%\* yes 16% no

\*Results from question two reflect only the responses of those who answered yes on question one.

## Should new enrollees have the same voting rights as shareholders with original shares?

Current voting rights include: the right to vote in elections for the Board of Directors as well as the right to receive dividends or other distributions from the corporation based on the number of shares held. If the individual is a non-Native shareholder by inheritance, they do not have the right to vote.

A yes vote would indicate new enrollees should have the same voting rights as shareholders with original shares. For shareholders under 18, the practice will remain for their guardian to cast their votes in elections.

A no vote would indicate new enrollees should not have the same voting rights as shareholders with original shares.

Results: 70% yes 30% no

## Should individuals who are adopted into shareholder families be allowed to enroll?

Adopted In individuals are adopted by Alaska Native people but may not be of Alaska Native decent themselves.

#### **Results: 45% yes 55% no**

The Board and management are taking additional steps to understand the potential impact on existing shareholders. The 2024 survey was conducted to capture what matters most to BSNC shareholders and will guide the development of future goals should open enrollment be put to a vote. The Board of Directors is committed to carefully considering the appropriate path forward, informed by shareholder input. Quyaana, quyana cakneq, igamsiqanaghhalek, thank you for your involvement and taking the time to fill out the survey.

#### **HISTORICAL SPOTLIGHT**

# BSNC to Receive Conveyance at Agnatquksraq (Old Woman Mountain)

BSNC is pleased to announce that 90 acres at Aġnatquksraq (Old Woman Mountain) will soon be conveyed to the corporation in partial fulfillment of the acreage available pursuant to Section 14(h)(1) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). Section 14(h)(1) allowed regional corporations to select cemetery and historic sites on unappropriated lands. Village corporation lands and Native allotments were not available for selection under 14(h)(1) by the regional corporation. On August 3, 1982, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) certified a regional selection application for Old Woman Mountain site, as an eligible historic place.

Agnatquksraq has been used for centuries by residents of the Norton Sound communities.

As an important lookout post for caribou and moose hunting, the area continues to be used in Our People's subsistence pursuits. It is an unmistakable landmark at the junction of Old Woman and Unalakleet Rivers. Located on

the Kaltag Portage, the mountain served as a landmark and campsite for travelers and continues to this day as an important stop on the Iditarod trail.

The Statement of Eligibility from the BIA states: "Outside of the historical dimension, Old Woman Mountain is associated with stories and religious beliefs of Eskimos and Indians. The mountain was originally named after an old woman who perished in an avalanche on the eastern slope of the mountain and is said to continue to haunt the mountain today. One Unalakleet man told us that the woman's spirit had the ability to transfer itself into animals and other forms."

If you have family stories or traditions associated with Agnatquksrak or know of other names for Old Woman Mountain, please email them to media@beringstraits.com so all our shareholders and descendants can learn of its history and significance.



#### Career Pathways: Matthew Piscoya



BSNC descendant
Matthew Piscoya is a
First Lieutenant in the
United States Marine
Corps and is currently
stationed in Corpus
Christi, Texas at Marine
Aviation Training
Support Group 22. He
has been training on the
T-6B Texan II, and T-44C
Pegasus aircraft in the
multi-engine, fixed wing
program in perpetration

to fly the KC-130J Super Hercules. Prior to this, Piscoya graduated from Officer Candidate School, The Basic School, and Primary Flight Training. Additionally, he received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Norwich University, in Northfield, Vermont.

Piscoya was born in Ketchikan but grew up in Fairbanks with his five siblings: Daniel, Nicholas, Molly, Ethan, and Samantha. He is the son of Lawrence and Bridget Piscoya. In 2021, he married his wife Anastasia and they've had the joy of raising their one-year-old daughter, Elenor.

## What inspired you to pursue your career? What schooling, skills and experiences did you need or were helpful?

I was inspired in high school to join the Marine
Corps as an officer because of the respect I
had developed for the Marine Corps growing
up. The Marines I knew always looked sharp,
stood up straight, and displayed an unyielding
determination. I always wanted to set myself
up for the most challenging and respectable
positions available and they afforded that
opportunity to me. The implicit promise they make
is that, through discipline and spirit, regardless
of technical expertise, you can build a successful

career. That is a sentiment that can be invaluable to anyone looking to set themselves up for something greater. Once I started training to be an officer, I was given the opportunity to apply for an aviation contract to be a pilot. It wasn't something that was on my radar before, but I saw it as another way that I would be able to test myself.

## What were barriers you faced? What resources did you use to pursue your degree?

For many, the most significant barrier to getting a college degree is being able to pay for tuition. Fortunately, I qualified for and was awarded a Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) scholarship that paid for my tuition, room and board. The same scholarship is available to anyone who can demonstrate good academic and physical fitness. While competitive, the scholarship is an incredible opportunity to attend a school that would not be financially attainable otherwise. It can be a direct benefit of good grades in difficult classes in high school.

## What advice do you have for young people?

Another barrier I faced was needing to pass the academic rigors of flight school to become a pilot. The lesson I learned from this is the same lesson that the Marine Corps taught me in Officer Candidate School and The Basic School and the same lesson that applies to anyone working to start their career. If you show that you have dedicated yourself to mastering every aspect of the position you want to fill, your peers and seniors will work tirelessly to help you succeed, even if you struggle with the technical skills. You don't have to focus on scores. If you work incredibly hard to be the best in any field, the scores will follow.

#### Shareholder Addresses Needed

ADAMS, LANGFORD, III ALEXANDER-HICKS, DARREN B. ALURAC, MARY ANN AMAROK, FRANK DUTCH ANAGICK, MILDRED ELLEN ANALOAK, PATRICK JR ANALOAK, WALTER ANDERSON, JONI ANDERSON, THERESA KAY ANDREWS, RUTH ELIZABETH ANGNABOOGUK, NATHAN L. ANOWLIC, THERESA LEE ANUNGAZUK, LEE ARNOLD, CRISTA LYNN ASILA. RAYMOND THOMAS ATUK, NORMAN, JR BAILEY, AUDREY BAUMEL, BRIANNA L. BEEMAN, KATHERINE BELL MURIELL BENNETT, SHARON YVETTE BERROTERAN, ALLISON BLUMER, DARLENE L. BORKOWSKI, CHELSEA ROSE BRADLEY, ELLIOTT D., JR. BRANDON, DONALD E., II BROWN, MARCELLE T. BUCK, MARY CALHOUN, MELODY CAMPBELL STEFANEY CANO, AMANDA J. CARR, RAYMOND LEE CAYWOOD, ROBERTA CHEEMUK, TOMMICINA E. CHISKOK, EVAN ANTHONY, JR COFFEY, NATALIE N. COLE, KATHRYN ANNE COLE, ROBERT NORMAN COLEMAN, GRETCHEN COLEMAN, KAYLIN J. CORUZZI, KIM MARIE COURTRIGHT, ANNAMARIE D. DALILAK, CHRISTINE DONNA DAVID, RANDALL EUGENE DAVIS. WILBUR DESARRO, TONY JOHN DEWILDE, SHAWN DOBSON, DEGEE A. DUNN, ANASTASIA MARIE FDWARDS NANCY ERNAK, FREDERICK EARL, II ETUKEOK-JOHNSON,

REBECCA HELEN

EVAN, EDWARD

EVANS, KAYLENE KELLY FAGERSTROM, BRIAN JOHN FAGLIE, KYLE M. FARRIER, SHAWN LEE FERGUSON, JILLIAN FITKA, CLIFFORD CHARLES FOSTER, ERICH J. FRANK, LEWIS G. FRANZEN, DEAN FRY, ANTHONY LANE GABLICK, DYLAN GABLICK, MADISON GEDDES, SANDRA LEE GILBERT, CHRISTOPHER GILBERT, DAMIEN D. GOGUE, JANET M. GOLD, LOIS A. GONANGNAN, MYLES, II GOULD, ANNA MARGARET GRAHAM THOMAS F **GRANT, JEFFERY EUGENE** GREEN, JOHN GREEN, KHAILA GREEN, MELONY L. GREEN, TERRELL GREENE, LESLIE KIT, SR GREGORY, JULIE GUSTAFSON, MATTHEW R. HAGNEY, KRISTIE EMMA HANCOCK TYDIA ANN HANSEN, STEVEN LEE HARRELL, JASON NEAL HAWES, FRED R. HEIDLEBAUGH, JAMES N. P. HELTON, SETH ANTHONY HENRY, PATRICK S. HERSEY, LADESSA ANN HICKS, TANYA HINCH, COLLINS LEE HOLDER-GUTIERREZ, VANESSA HORN, SUSANNA KATHERYN IVANOFF, JOHN CYRUS IYAHUK, RALEIGH R. IYAHUK, THOMAS IYAPANA, ERIC TOMMY IYATUNGUK, OUINCY JACK, HAZEL NANCY JAMES, JESSE T.

KATCHATAG, BRUCE A. KATEXAC ROMALD K KELLER, WAYNE M. KERR, DONALD LEE KILLARZOAC GREGORY KIMINOCK, AARON SPIKE KINEGAK, ERIC SCOTT KINNEY, JUSTIN PAUL KIRK, FRANCIS KISSELL, CRAIG KIYUTELLUK, HERBERT LANE KIYUTELLUK, WARREN A. KLOSS, KAY GENEVIEVE KOMAKHUK, REGGIE RAY KOMAKHUK RONALD LARRY KOONOOKA, RUBEN G. KOST, SHANDAN JOHN KOUTCHAK, VERNA FAYE KOWCHEE, JEDIDIAH D. T. KLIG7RLIK VERNON KEELICK KUNNEMANN, PETULA ANN LANGTON, RAYMOND W. LARSEN, ADAM LARSEN, ELIZABETH JANE LARSEN, RANDOLPH DANIEL LEE, CAROLYN M. LEE, MIKE, III LICK, MATHILDA LOCKWOOD, FLOYD B. LOCKWOOD, RICHARD WAYNE LUPSON, LORRAINE LUPSON, LORRI LUPSON, MARRIE LUPSON, RONNIE H. KEITH MAGRY KODI D MAILLOUX, NATHAN MALEWOTKUK, WOODROW, JR MALONE MICHAEL P MARTIN, RICHARD MARTINEZ MONICA .I MAYAC, LAWRENCE MAYAC, ROBERT MAZONNA, ANTHONY PITOOKNUK MCCOMAS, JOSHUA D. MCJUNKIN, CLAYTON MCMAHAN, ROBERT LEIGH MERRILL GARY R. MEYERS, STACEY ELAINE MIKE, IGNATIAS MILLER, MARIE ANN

MILLIGROCK, SHERRY

MINKIER JARROD W

MINOCK, JOHN E., JR.

MIXSOOKE, CYNTHIA MORGAN, JAMES F., JR MORGAN, MARVIN L. MORGAN, MARY LOUISE MORGAN VIRGII J MOSQUITO, BURL FRANK, JR MUNROE, MARILYNN MICHELLE MURPHY MCBRIDE, LOUCILLE CATHERINE MURPHY, ANTHONEY J. MURPHY, CHERYL ANN MURPHY DAVID NAPOUK, ROSEMARIE ELIZABETH NASHALOOK, ANDREA NELSON MCINTURFF, PATRICIA NELSON, ROBERT RYAN NERSHAK, ANNIE JUNE NEWTON, GEORGE W. NICHOLSON, TERRENCE T. NORBERT, WILLIAM CHARLES NORD, MICHAEL JOHN NORMAN HENRY O'CONNOR, MARTIN OCTUCK, GLENN OCTUK, SHANNON ELAINE OKLEASIK, BRAYDEN OKPEALUK, THERESA M. OLLOM, SHIRLEY OMELAK, RICHARD RAYMOND ONGTOWASRUK, JULIA OUTWATER, JEREMIAH R. OYOUMICK, CRYSTAL OZENNA, GABRIEL, SR PARKER, JAHOMITT PAUL, PATRICK CHARLES PAVIL, ERIC J. PEDERSON, CALLEN PEDERSON, DALE PEDERSON, IRA DOWNS PEREZ, NANCY P. PHILLIPS, ALEXIS PICKUS, JULIA MAY PIKONGANNA, HELEN LYNN POLLOCK, MARK ALAN PORCH KIMBERLY PUSHRUK, GLORIA PUSHRUK, MEGAN REYNOLDS, ROBERT EARL RICHARD, SHERMAN EDWIN ROCHON, FRANCIS HOWARD, III RODDY, MICHAEL RODGERS, JAIME LEEANN SAARIO, JAN ARVO

SACCHEUS, VIOLA E. SAMBO-FREEMAN, NATANE SANCHEZ, ANNOKAZOOKA LAZYNA SANDS, CYNTHIA M. SCHMIDT, JACOB SCRIBNER, MINNIE GRACE SEETOT, LISA SEETOT, SELENA SENUNGETUK, WILLIAM GUUGZHUK SETTERS, DOUG SHADE FLAINE SHAW, TARA BEATRICE SILAS, LEVI ALFRED SILOOK, LISA MARIE SMITH, FRANK SMITH, KENNETH DAVID SMITH, ROBERT L. SMITH, WILLIAM LAURENCE SNOWBALL, BIBIANNA M. SOCKPICK, JAMES K. SOLLICH, STEVEN STEVENS, JAMIE MASSAK STEWART, SALLY RENEE STORK, MABEL STRICKLAND, CHRISTOPHER H. STRICKLAND-KIPPI, SHARON KAYE SWETT, EVA J. TEA, VERONICA THRASHER, CYNTHIA MARIE TOKEINNA, LINDSEY P.S. VELTRANO, ERIC CHRISTIAN WALKER-DUNDAS, ALICE WALLACE, MARGARET WALLUK, TOMMY MORRIS WALLUK, WAYNE SCOTT WALSER, JAMES MELVIN WALSTON, ERMA JANE WASHINGTON MARTHA MARIE WASHINGTON, PRESTON WATSON, HARRY MARKUM WEBB, ELIZABETH J. WETHINGTON, ELIJAH WHEELER, BERNARD J., JR. WHEELER, MIKE WHITE, JOSEPH MICHAEL WHITE, PAUL R. WIDEMAN, GEORGE H. WILHITE ANTHONY YOUNG, MARY JILL YOUNKINS, JEFFREY SCOTT

ZACHRY, JOSEPH V.

Z'AVIER, AHLTIELL

BSNC continues to search for shareholders who may have funds on hold and attempts to 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.

JAMES, THOMAS B.

JOHNSON, JORDAN LEE

JOHNSON TERESA ANN

JOHNSON, LEANDRA

JOHNSON, LILLIAN

KARMUN, EDDIE T.

#### 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.

#### 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 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 \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Phone Number\_\_\_ Email Address\_ If applicable I am also a custodian for \_\_\_\_ 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) 443-5252 or (907) 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			
SSN			
Signature			
Darka			



## BSNC Movers and Shakers &



BSNC is pleased to announce a series of promotions its shareholder and descendant employees have recently earned. BSNC congratulates:

Chugie Folk - Senior Accounting Manager

Justin Maxwell — Payroll Specialist II

Melissa Aningayou – Associate Director of Shareholder Development

Dana McMillin — Shareholder Recruiter

Geraldine Ongtowasruk — Billing Specialist II

Malorie Lomer — Senior Human Resources Manager



Scan the QR code to read employee bios.















Bering Straits Native Corporation P.O. Box 1008 110 Front Street, Suite 300 Nome, AK 99762 PRSRT STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID ANCHORAGE, AK PERMIT #537



### BSNC Descendant Spotlight: Meryem Udden



BSNC descendant Meryem
Udden is teaching a
class at the University of
Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) this fall,
titled History of Colonization
in Alaska: The Indigenous
Response. This class teaches
students the history of the
colonization of Alaska, from
contact to the signing of

the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act in 1971. It examines Alaska's history, how colonization and federal Indian policy shaped the state, and how Alaska Native people responded to and dealt with the changes. It is unique in that it examines this history from an Indigenous perspective and integrates Indigenous knowledge and the wisdom of Elders. It is taught virtually and asynchronously, which offers students flexibility to accommodate their schedule and work at their own pace.

Udden lives in Fairbanks, Alaska with her husband and three children. She is an adjunct professor of Indigenous Studies at UAF. She has a bachelor's and master's in English from UAF. Her father is Phillip Kugzruk Jr. of Teller and Nome and her mother is Margaret Kugzruk. Her grandparents are the late Phillip and Ida Kugzruk of Teller.