

# Fairbanks Native Association Highlights

A VOICE FOR THE PEOPLE OF FAIRBANKS

FALL ISSUE 2018



## FNA receives multi-year grant to help fight opioid addiction

In September, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Deputy Secretary Eric Hargan and Dr. Deborah Bergeron, Director of the office of Head Start, toured FNA administrative offices and Head Start program. The visit was part of a larger effort by HHS officials to tour interior Alaska, its many communities, Behavioral Health providers and Education outreach programs to better understand the issues Native Alaskans and American Indians face at the local level while delivering HHS programs. "It's important for us to sort of see people who are on the front lines," said Hargan.

The visit was productive as FNA administrators shared triumphs and concerns face-to-face with top level HHS administrators. Deputy Secretary Hargan had a surprise for both FNA and Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) as well. Each organization were notified awards for Tribal Opioid Response grants. Over the next two years, Tanana Chiefs Conference is expected to receive just over \$700,000 and Fairbanks Native Association is expected to receive just over \$500,000 to increase access to culturally appropriate and evidence based treatment for Opioid Use Disorder. Tanana Chiefs Conference received an additional Healthy Transitions Grant to help address youth with serious mental disorders and is expected to receive just under \$5 million over the next five years. Both FNA and TCC expressed gratitude for the funding. "We're very thankful for the opportunity to expand our services," said Steve Ginnis, FNA Executive Director. "I think one of the areas that is most concerning to me is our ability to expand our services within the detox program; making beds available to people who have opioid types of issues and with this particular grant here I'd like to explore that idea, maybe utilizing those funds for that purpose."

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## Continued opioid grant

The increase in opioid use is an issue, one that FNA hopes to help alleviate with the new funding. “The treatment of opioid is relatively new in Alaska and looking out at all those resources that might become available for us to enhance the services we provide will benefit the people we serve,” said Perry Ahsogeak, FNA Behavioral Health Services Director. “We serve the entire state of Alaska both Natives as well as non-Natives so we’re always looking at those opportunities to really look at how we can do what we do better.”



The task now is to utilize the awarded funds to make the most impact. “A lot of these folks also have mental health issues associated with their addiction problem and so in that regard I would like to see the possibility of hiring a psychologist or a psychiatrist to serve all of our consumers in our programs that have issues beyond their addiction problems,” said Ginnis. “You know we represent not only the Native community but all races here in Fairbanks and we serve all races so I think this going to go a long way in helping us address this problem and I am very thankful for it.”

## ALASKA HEAD START ASSOCIATION AWARDS FIVE FROM FNA PROGRAM

The mission of the Alaska Head Start Association (AHSA) is to strengthen early learning programs through advocacy, education and leadership. AHSA has represented all sixteen (16) Head Start programs in the state since its formation in 1989.

Each year, the AHSA recognizes those who deliver outstanding performance in Head Start programs. The awards are considered prestigious and given as a way to unify membership, celebrate success, encourage high quality performance and offer a meaningful way to recognize those that went above and beyond.

On Monday, October 15th, AHSA held an awards banquet for those selected in the past year. Five (5) current and former FNA employees were selected as award recipients. Francisca Charriez was honored with the Administrative Support Staff of the Year award. Charriez has worked for FNA for 8 ½ years. Joshua Dumaine received a staff award, named the Assistant Teacher of the Year. Josh is in his second year with FNA Head Start. Enrollment Specialist Rebecca Ginn accepted the award for Content Area Specialist of the year. Rebecca has worked for FNA since October 2014. Teacher of the Year award went to Sarah Banks who is now entering her third season with FNA. Finally, Angela Adams from Fairbanks Memorial Hospital won the Humanitarian award for her car seat safety check collaboration with FNA. Adams works for Foundation Health Partners and leads the Fairbanks Safe Rider program.



Another FNA Head Start employee was also recently honored by the Northern Interior Association for the Education of Young Children. During its annual Early Childhood Conference it was announced that Daniel Powers from the Snowshoe Hare Preschool Head Start classroom was awarded the 2018 Provider Service Award.



## FNA RECEIVES GRANTS FOR HOME VISITING AND EDUCATION PROJECTS

The long existing Johnson O'Malley (JOM) program is expanding with the addition of three federally funded grant projects. FNA announced in early October the Young Learners project, the Native Families Engage in Education and Career Development project and the Native Allied Health project have all been fully-funded for the next several years.

The JOM Young Learners project will bring a team of dedicated tutors and family services coordinators to area schools, providing wrap-around social/emotional support and academic counseling. This project is funded by The Alaska Native Education Program grant (ANEP) and is a three year award totaling \$878,552. The funding will provide a Tutor and a Family Services Coordinator to three schools.

The Native Families Engage in Education and Career Development project is designed to pave a successful path for students in the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District (FNSBSD) by providing wrap-around social and emotional support as well as academic assistance. The project will provide nine (9) Family Services Coordinators in FNSBSD schools to work with students and their families to strengthen classroom success. The four-year project is fully-funded by the U.S. Department of Education in the amount of \$2,734,831.

The Native Allied Health project with JOM will provide support and guidance to high school juniors and seniors interested in pursuing a career in the health industry. Twenty-four students per year will attend course work in the Allied Health classes through Fairbank North Star Borough and/or CTC. JOM will provide financial assistance for tuition and text books and will provide case management for each student. The three-year \$1,328,685 grant comes from the Native American Career and Technical Program with the Department of Education.

In addition to the above grants, FNA has been awarded funds for the Tribal Home Visiting project. It is funded through the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting grant from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The award amount of \$2,006,545 will employ one (1) Project Director and two and a half (2.5) Parent Educators for the next five years. The aim of the project is to improve maternal, newborn and child health, improve school readiness and academic achievement, and improve family economic self-sufficiency and to coordinate referral of other community resources and support.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES WANTS YOU TO ADOPT-AN-ELDER FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Things are always happening at FNA's Community Services (CS)! With the recent move to a larger building, the employees at CS Elders Program continue to host luncheons, monthly birthday celebrations and are thankful for the extra space. Currently, 159 Elders routinely attend the lunch program. In recent months, CS has also hosted Lunch & Learn events, where invited guests from the community come to talk to elders about a chosen topic that affects elders. Also at this event, are resource tables where elders are given time to talk with each table's representative. CS plans to continue providing these types of services and events over the next year for the elders.

Community Services is planning something new for the upcoming holiday season and is excited to host this inaugural outreach. The Adopt-an-Elder project will be a way for the Fairbanks Community to give back this Holiday season. FNA will place a few Christmas trees around town and each tree will have ornaments listing an Elder's name and their interests. Those that wish to Adopt-an-Elder can choose one (or more) names and provide a gift for Christmas. A dollar amount limit of \$20 is suggested for the gift item. As details emerge, make sure to keep up with FNA's Facebook page for more information regarding Adopt-an-Elder.



'TIS THE  
SEASON  
OF  
GIVING

## Help FNA Reduce Waste and Protect Resources

Native culture is rooted in tradition and values. A large part of these values focuses on the care of our lands and environment. FNA tries its best to reduce waste and conserve resources in all of its facilities and at special events.

If you enjoy reading our quarterly newsletter, please consider opting in to our digital newsletter. We will add you to our newsletter database and you will receive our newsletter in your email. Simply give us your full name and a valid email address. That's all there is to it and by doing so, you are helping FNA reduce paper and waste and protect the environment.

To submit your email, please contact Executive Coordinator Shaylene Dublin at [sdublin@fairbanksnative.org](mailto:sdublin@fairbanksnative.org) or Communications Director Darrell Clark at [dclark@fairbanksnative.org](mailto:dclark@fairbanksnative.org).

# REGISTRATION FOR FNA PAGEANTS BEGINS IN JANUARY

Organizers with the annual FNA pageant are always impressed with the traditional regalia contestants wear during the competition. “The beadwork is amazing, the hand-sewn dresses are custom tailored,” said FNA Executive Coordinator Shaylene Dublin. “It is hard to estimate, but the pieces represent hundreds of hours of preparation and needle work.” Which is why FNA is reminding those interested in competing to begin preparing now.

The FNA Pageant occurs during the Annual Potlatch on the third Saturday of March. To be eligible for the Miss FNA competition you must be a single female, and 18-24 years of age. Contestants must be a Fairbanks resident and have at least 1/4 Alaska Native or American Indian blood. Categories for the crown include originality, confidence, poise, personality, knowledge of Native culture/issues and, of course, Native regalia. Competitors for Miss FNA Princess have similar eligibility requirements, but the competition is open to ages 13-17. FNA Baby is open to those 6-24 months of age and at least 1/4 Alaska Native or American Indian. Parents who wish to enter their child must have documentation of blood quantum (BIA card) to submit. Judging for the baby contestants will only focus on their traditional Native regalia.

More information can be found on FNA’s website. Please visit <https://www.fairbanksnative.org> and scroll down to the “News & Events” column.



Showcase your regalia. Participate in the FNA Pageants.

## AN UPDATE ON THE FNA DENAAK'E CLASSROOM

The Denaakk'e classroom at Anne Wien Elementary school is off to another good year as they look to wind down the first half of the school year. This is the second full year of this partnership with the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District. Pre-schoolers, age 3 to 5, attend class while also learning the Denaakk'e language and Native culture.

For the families of students wishing to practice language taught in the program, visit the FNA website. Audio recordings of words and phrases can be found under the Indigenous Language's page, along with downloadable written documents.

The Denaakk'e students are fast becoming popular little performers in the Fairbanks community and have performed songs for many events. On September 24, students performed at the Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall for dignitaries visiting Alaska from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee. In October, the students performed their songs for the Indigenous Day festivities at UAF's Wood Center, their second year being invited. More performances are scheduled throughout the rest of the school year.

Lorraine David, Høkk'aaghneestaatno, is the Project Director for FNA's Indigenous Language Program. Educators in the classroom are Freeda Felix, Yaats'ek'etl'o', and Anastasia Agee, Kk'oodaa'o'. The program is hiring for an Associate Educator. Information about that opening can be found on FNA's website, <https://www.fairbanksnative.org>.



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POSITION WITHIN THE  
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## Important Dates

- 11/09 VETERAN'S DAY OBSERVATION  
CLOSED
- 11/22 THANKSGIVING - CLOSED
- 11/23 ALASKA NATIVE DAY - CLOSED
- 11/27 CAREGIVER LEARNING CIRCLE  
(WEEKLY AT COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDING)
- 11/29 COVERDISH LEARNING CIRCLE



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# FNA Employee of the Month



**June 2018**  
**Teresa Faucette**  
**BHS**



**July 2018**  
**Rebekah Jackson**  
**ECD**



**August 2018**  
**Sara Teel**  
**JOM**