Francine Eddy Jones Retires

After nearly 30 years of dedicated service to the Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida), Tribal Family & Youth Services (TFYS) Director Francine Eddy Jones has decided to make the leap into retirement.

Francine worked many years as a Social Worker before joining Tlingit & Haida’s management team in 1996. As the TFYS Director, she has provided invaluable leadership, managed the Tribe’s Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), Elderly, and Wellness programs, services and activities, and administered 15 to 20 grants a year to provide culturally-relevant services to tribal children, families and Elders.

Through her deep passion for tribal child welfare, Francine’s commitment to the Tribe’s mission and service to tribal families has been unwavering. Her demonstrated leadership to affect positive change in tribal child welfare for decades is unmatched.

“It is very important to keep the wisdom and voices of our tribal Elders close in our hearts and minds as we continue to serve our people and strive to make a bright future for our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren,” shared Francine.

During her tenure with the Tribe, Francine helped to transform Alaska’s child welfare system. She championed the first ever Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact with the State of Alaska in 2017. The funding agreement empowered tribes to assume more responsibilities in providing culturally relevant child welfare services across Alaska and opened the doors for Tlingit & Haida to conduct diligent relative searches on tribal citizen children that enter into the State’s child welfare system.

Continued on page 12
Youth Spotlight: Amelia Hope Fawcett

Congratulations to tribal citizen youth Amelia Hope Fawcett on her triple crown win at the 2020 Western States Championships wrestling tournament! Amelia won in all three styles (Greco-Roman, Freestyle and Folkstyle) in the 116 14U Girls Division.

The Western States Championships is a premier event for the USA Wrestling community and is historically one of the largest and most competitive events in the region. This year’s tournament was held July 30-August 1, 2020 at the Legacy Events Center in Farmington, Utah with athletes from more than 15 states participating.

Amelia’s father Andrew Fawcett shared, “Without help from my tribe and people I wouldn’t be able to give my girl the opportunity she needed to succeed. Thank you so much for the help when we needed it.”

Tlingit & Haida proudly supports tribal youth in their pursuit of all activities that foster sportsmanship, teamwork, and healthy living.

Catherine Edwards to Serve on National Task Force

Sixth Vice President Catherine Edwards was selected to serve on the Task Force on Research on Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women (Task Force) for a two year term. The Task Force was established on March 31, 2008 and plays an essential role in shaping the Department of Justice National Institute of Justice (NIJ) program’s research agenda by identifying new research questions and priorities, as well as assisting with disseminating recommendations that will inform policy and practice. Members are appointed by the Attorney General and include representatives of tribal governments, national tribal domestic violence and sexual assault nonprofit organizations, and national tribal organizations.

“As co-chair for Tlingit & Haida’s Violence Against Women Taskforce and with her extensive work in domestic violence, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW), and drug prevention programs, Catherine will be an invaluable asset to this federal advisory committee. With Catherine’s broad range of violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women knowledge, I have full faith that she will be instrumental in representing the views and interests of not only Tlingit & Haida, but all Indigenous women,” said President Richard Chalyee Éesh Peterson.

“It is an honor to be nominated and selected to serve on this task force. I learned recently that there isn’t a word for Domestic Violence in any of our Alaska Indigenous languages, this is because it wasn’t our way. Our Women, Children, and Men were and are sacred and it’s time to return to our teachings. My selection to this task force once again reaffirms that Tlingit & Haida is proactive in its leadership and a testament to our willingness to take on this important work and bring an end to the pandemic of violence that affects our communities,” said Catherine.

Catherine has served as a Seattle Tlingit & Haida Delegate since 2012. She serves as Chair of the Tribe’s Audit Committee and on the Executive Committee for the Tlingit & Haida Washington Chapter. She has extensive experience in tribal governance, budgets, domestic violence and drug prevention, and continues to be a strong advocate committed to serving the needs of tribal families. Catherine’s Tlingit name is Kashkaani and she is Raven of the L’eneidi (Dog Salmon) clan.
National Tribal Broadband Spectrum Grant Award

Tlingit & Haida was one of 23 tribes selected to receive a National Tribal Broadband Grant (NTBG) from the U.S. Department of Interior’s Indian Affairs Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development (IEED).

Tlingit & Haida is among tribes awarded funds within “Opportunity Zones”, which are economically distressed communities where new investments, including investments in broadband systems, may be eligible for preferential tax treatment under certain conditions.

“Increased availability of high-speed broadband services throughout Southeast Alaska improves access to quality education, healthcare, public safety, governance and economic development,” shared President Richard J. Peterson.

The funds awarded to Tlingit & Haida will be used to retain a qualified consultant, Magellan Advisors, to conduct a feasibility study to assess developing or extending broadband services in Southeast Alaska.

In July 2019, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced a Tribal Priority Window to accept applications from federally recognized tribes for unassigned 2.5 GHz Educational Broadband Service (EBS) spectrum in rural areas. In Alaska, all of the 2.5 GHz spectrum is unassigned and available to tribes which is the full bandwidth of 117.5 MHz. As reported by the FCC, this band is the single largest band of contiguous spectrum below 3 GHz and is suitable for both mobile coverage, fixed point-to-point uses and, depending on a tribe's needs, can play an important role in the deployment of 4G/5G applications and services in villages.

In response to the Tribal Priority Window, Tlingit & Haida, in partnership with the Denali Commission and State of Alaska, co-hosted a conference earlier this year to bring Southeast Alaska tribes together to discuss the mid-band spectrum opportunity and how best to ensure the 2.5 GHz spectrum allocation applications from Southeast Alaska tribes do not overlap.

Tlingit & Haida will submit applications for all areas of Southeast Alaska that have not been applied for by another tribe. Tlingit & Haida will work with Southeast Alaska IRA tribes to ensure the spectrum licenses are available to all communities and develop deployment and operations & maintenance plans.

Yéil Koowú Shaawát Graduation

Submitted By: Tribal Family & Youth Services

The Tribal Family & Youth Service (TFYS) department is in full swing with Phase III of its Yéil Koowú Shaawát Women’s Group and will be graduating eleven women in October. The Women’s Group provides education and support – emotionally, psychologically and spiritually. Through the class, participants learn coping and resiliency skills, embrace our Traditional Tribal Values and way of life, and become positive social supports for each other.

“These amazing and courageous women are incredibly resilient and remain committed to attending and participating virtually in this time of COVID-19 when it is common to feel isolated and anxiety intensified,” shared Amalia Monreal, Tribal Child & Family Clinician in TFYS. “They continue to enlighten and inspire me and each other in their journey of healing from childhood trauma(s).”

It takes a brave person to choose the path of healing because healing is hard work. The women of Phase III have demonstrated their commitment and determination to heal themselves and deserve our respect and admiration. Congratulations women!
Since time immemorial, our people have looked to our culture to find strength during hard times. Again, we find ourselves in a tough time. Like many, the Tribal Family & Youth Services (TFYS) department was blindsided by COVID-19 in March. All of the TFYS department’s programs and services are based on connection. We pondered - how can we offer programming to youth and families without connecting in person?

The TFYS staff reached out to Nancy Douglas, Director of Cultural Programs of the Sitka School District, and Lakrisha Brady, Education Director of the Sitka Tribe of Alaska, to inquire how they were going to support families during this time. Out of those conversations, TFYS partnered with the Sitka Native Education Program (SNEP) to create the Strengthening Families Through Culture virtual spring culture camp which was held March through May.

The project staff received favorable feedback from children and parents who participated in the spring culture camp and encouraged us to continue the programming. TFYS explored other funding sources and was fortunate to receive generous support from a private donation to extend the culture camp by eight weeks.

Our ancestors learned to thrive from the Lingít way of life and we hoped to impart those lessons upon our students. The virtual culture camp included lessons on harvesting Devil’s Club, salmon, seaweed and even a program on petroglyphs. Veteran educators, Kitty Eddy and George Holly, anchored the program with storytelling and book shares that focused on lessons relevant to helping families. Project staff enriched the culture camp with traditional games, Northwest Coast art, and other lessons.

Over 80 students from Anchorage, Wasilla, Sitka, Saxman, Haines, Ketchikan, Washington and Colorado participated in the virtual culture camp. Although COVID-19 had upended our service delivery, it also gave us the opportunity to provide new services to youth living in foster care out of state.

A total of 22 sessions were held and the Strengthening Families Through Culture was a testament to woon (working together). Gunalchéesh, Háw’aa to the many partners that allowed us to host Strengthening Families through Culture including Sealaska Heritage Institute and Harbour Publishing who generously allowed us to share their books.
Roald Helgesen Hired as Chief Operating Officer

Tlingit & Haida is pleased to welcome Roald Helgesen as the Tribe’s Chief Operating Officer (COO).

As COO, Roald will manage Tlingit & Haida’s administrative and program operations to ensure all activities are carried out consistent with the established goals and objectives of the Tribe’s strategic plan and within the framework of adopted budgets, applicable laws, regulations, policies and procedures.

In this capacity, Roald will act as a liaison with various government and private organizations, represent Tlingit & Haida in business negotiations and will also serve on the Tribe’s Investment Committee for the Tribal Trust Fund, board for the Tlingit & Haida/Hope Condominium Association and tribally-owned enterprises, and as a trustee for the Tribe’s Employee Retirement Plans.

“I am extremely pleased to welcome Roald to Tlingit & Haida’s administrative team,” shared President Richard Chalyee Éesh Peterson. “His wealth of knowledge and experience as well as commitment to serving our communities will not only strengthen the governance of Tlingit & Haida, it will greatly contribute to our efforts to keep the Tribe moving forward and expanding services and opportunities for our tribal citizens.”

Roald graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Minor in Public Administration from the University of Alaska Anchorage in 1994 and a Master of Science degree in Health Care Administration from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas.

“I appreciate the hard work and dedication of the Tribe to meet the needs of our tribal citizens,” shared Roald. “Building on the successes of the past, the efforts of President Peterson, the Executive Council, Tribal Assembly and staff are positively impacting the lives of our people. I am honored to join the leadership team and excited to support the Tribe’s priority of expanding political and economic sovereignty.”

Roald grew up in Sitka, Alaska. He is Eagle/Frog of the Sgajuuga.ahl clan, an enrolled tribal citizen of Sitka Tribe of Alaska and Tlingit & Haida, and a shareholder of Sealaska Corporation. He is married to Carly Helgesen and together they have two children, Kaare and Karin.

Sign up for Tribal eNews

Help us reduce the Tribe’s paper consumption and print/postage costs by signing up to receive the Tribe’s eNews via email!

Join other tribal citizens and friends who have subscribed to receive Tribal Updates, news on the Tribe’s activities and events, and notices when newsletters, annual reports and other publications are available for download.

To sign up, please contact:

Communications
Office of the President
9097 Glacier Highway
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Toll Free: 1.800.344.1432
Direct: 907.463.7369
communications@ccthita-nsn.gov

To view past newsletters, visit www.ccthita-nsn.gov/info/newsletters.
A federal judge recently ruled that the 2020 Census will continue through October 31, 2020. In the time that remains, it is critical that we are all counted in the 2020 Census which determines funding levels for our communities’ schools, public safety, hospitals and housing. Our villages, communities, region and state are counting on you!

Take the 2020 Census Survey: https://my2020census.gov/

To encourage Alaska Natives to complete the 2020 Census, the First Alaskans Institute has created a weekly drawing with some great prizes. If you have completed the Census, enter the drawing by going to the SurveyMonkey link on the slide.

Enter the Drawing: www.surveymonkey.com/r/FAICensusDrawing

Capital City Fire Rescue (CCFR) and the Juneau Unity Group, an umbrella organization involving all of Juneau’s Alaska Native cultural, governmental and corporate entities, partnered to incorporate formline art onto a refurbished ambulance. The Unity Group raised donations from major Native Alaskan corporations and tribal organizations in Juneau and funded the design and execution of the art installation.

Both sides of the ambulance chassis are designed in Tlingit form line art. The form line design was created locally by artists Crystal Worl and Mary Goddard. The hand represents healing, and in the Northwest Coast culture is known as the Healing Hand. In the Tlingit culture, there is a belief that everything is interconnected, which greatly impacts our health. This is represented by the Spirit Face. In Tlingit culture, balance is a common theme — to keep the ambulance balanced, one side represents day and the other side represents night. The sun and the stars illustrate the bright hope and help that our EMTs and first responders offer when responding to calls.

The refurbished ambulance was placed into service in September and a virtual unveiling was held on September 15, 2020.

Gunalchéesh, Háw’aa Capital City Fire and Rescue for embracing our Southeast Alaska cultures and reflecting it through the new design on your first responder vehicle!

The Unity Group
The Unity Group is a collaborative partnership between Juneau’s Native organizations: Sealaska, Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, Goldbelt Inc., SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium, Huna Totem Corp., Kootznoowoo Inc., and Tlingit Haida Regional Housing Authority.
This year, Tlingit & Haida’s Back to School Backpact event looked a little different than past years. Traditionally, the 477 Division hosts a Back to School Celebration in Juneau, Alaska with families gathering at the Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall for students to pick up a backpack filled with starter school supplies. However, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and safety measures the Tribe has taken, school supplies were delivered to homes with the option for families to drop-in by appointment at the Mendenhall Mall which served as the distribution center.

Jason Wilson, the Tribal Emergency Operations Center’s Incident Commander, recommended that Chromebooks be included with the backpacks to support youth education (Head Start through High School) with the uncertainty of how the school year would begin, but assumption that distance education would be required by the varying school districts throughout Alaska. The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program Coordinator Julie Chapman and her dedicated team organized the backpack distribution and received a record number of applications – the Chromebook proved to be a success judging by the overwhelming response received by the Tribe.

During the week of August 10th, Tlingit & Haida distributed supplies to approximately 1,135 students (539 families) in Juneau. Additionally, supplies were distributed in partnership with local tribes throughout Southeast Alaska to approximately 1,220 students!

Staff from a wide variety of departments throughout Tlingit & Haida assisted in delivering school supplies to families in the Juneau area. Tlingit & Haida’s Business & Economic Development department not only provided meals to families receiving school supplies, but also used their large catering van to help safely deliver school supplies in areas where many families reside. Coloring books and child-sized COVID-19 safety masks were created and provided to all students by the 477 Division’s Child Care and Employment & Training departments.

This year’s Back to School Backpack event was a community effort and the 477 Division would like to extend their appreciation to the following contributors who made this event a success: President Richard J. Peterson and the Executive Council for their support, Patsy Anderson-Dunne (who contributed the space at the Mendenhall Mall), Juneau Tlingit & Haida Community Council, Tlingit Haida Regional Housing Authority (THRHA), Sealaska, SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium’ (SEARHC) Pediatric Dental, and OfficeMax.
The Washington Supreme Court ruled that courts must apply federal and state Native child welfare standards to custody proceedings if there is indication that a child has tribal heritage, saying tribes should settle the question and reversing and remanding a state superior court’s 2018 opinion.

The unanimous decision was written by Justice Raquel Montoya-Lewis, a member of the Pueblo of Isleta and Pueblo of Laguna tribes from New Mexico.

“In Native American communities across the country, many families tell stories of family members they have lost to the systems of child welfare, adoption, boarding schools, and other institutions that separated Native children from their families and tribes,” Justice Montoya-Lewis wrote.

Tlingit & Haida was involved as an amicus to the child welfare case. The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) had not been initially applied by the judge although the two children that were removed from their home were tribal children. Tlingit & Haida successfully intervened and, thereafter, ICWA was applied, but only after the children had already been placed in foster care without the normal protections ICWA would have offered such as prioritizing placement with family whenever possible.

“A tribe’s very existence is dependent on having future citizens,” shared Tlingit & Haida General Counsel Madeline Soboleff Levy. “The Tribe’s existence as a cultural entity and sovereign government depends on those citizens having connections with their community and having a sense of who they are.”

Sealaska Awards Language & Culture Grants

Gunalchéesh, Háw’aa to Sealaska for investing in the revitalization of our languages! Tlingit & Haida was one of three grant award recipients under Sealaska’s first major investment made possible by the $10 million language endowment authorized by the Sealaska board in November 2019. The funding will go toward creating fluent language speakers for all three Southeast Alaska Indigenous languages – Lingít (Tlingit), Sm’algyax (Tsimshian), and Xaad Kíl (Haida).

“Supporting and prioritizing advanced second-language learners is critical. We have limited time. We must act now to create new, young, adult fluent speakers while the birth-speaking Elders are still with us,” shared Tlingit & Haida President Richard Chalyee Éesh Peterson.

“This opportunity will allow Tlingit & Haida, in partnership with Sealaska, to work collectively to reverse language trends and revitalize our Southeast Alaska Indigenous languages by creating opportunities for language learners to achieve fluency, shared Cultural Heritage & Education Director Sarah Dybdahl. “We know that the health of our languages is tied to the health of our people.”

When We Know Our Language, We Know Who We Are
Southeast Alaska Indigenous Language Assessment Survey

Tlingit & Haida’s Cultural Heritage & Education department is conducting a survey to identify interest in and capacity for Southeast Alaska Indigenous language revitalization efforts. The responses received will be used to inform department planning efforts and develop future opportunities and funding requests. Tlingit & Haida is committed to providing cultural education opportunities to tribal citizens and welcomes your feedback.

Take the Survey: bit.ly/2FwFW7d

For more information on the survey, please contact:
Miriah Twitchell, Cultural Program Coordinator
mtwitchell@ccthita-nsn.gov
907.463.7129

Tlingit & Haida is pleased to announce it has been awarded a $150,000 CARES Act Recovery Assistance grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration (EDA).

Tlingit & Haida is a current EDA-designated Native American planning grantee and was one of more than 850 existing, high-performing grant recipients invited to apply for the supplemental funds.

Tlingit & Haida will use the funds to update the Tribe’s economic development plans, increase capacity to develop programs, and provide technical assistance to community and tribal businesses in response to the Coronavirus pandemic. Under the grant-funded project, Tlingit & Haida’s Vocational Training & Resource Center (VTRC), a State of Alaska authorized post-secondary institution, will develop resources, secure equipment and leverage today’s technologies to offer vocational, small business, and cultural education distance delivery opportunities to tribal citizens and the general public.

“The VTRC has traditionally provided in-person training opportunities, but the pandemic has caused operations and opportunities to come to a halt,” shared Cultural Heritage & Education Director Sarah Dybdahl who oversees the VTRC. “It is our goal to provide cultural, educational, and vocational opportunities to assist our tribal citizens and community in the recovery from job loss and the changing workforce due to the pandemic.”

Earlier this year, Congress appropriated Economic Development Administration (EDA) with $1.5 billion for economic development assistance programs to help communities prevent, prepare for, and respond to Coronavirus. The EDA’s CARES Act Recovery Assistance grant provides a wide range of financial assistance to communities and regions as they respond to and recover from the impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic.

“I am proud of the perseverance and strength shown by our communities coast to coast throughout this pandemic, and these funds will help provide Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska with resources to make a swift and lasting economic comeback,” said Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross in a press release issued by the U.S. Department of Commerce’s EDA.
Mark Your Calendars

September Events
1-2: ATNI Land into Trust Summit 2020
2: Southeast Environmental Conference Begins
3: Lunchtime Chats with Tlingit & Haida (Tribal Operations)
7: Labor Day (Offices Closed)
11: Virtual Scholarship Workshop
15: Application Deadline for Alumni Scholarship
17: Lunchtime Chats with Tlingit & Haida (Facebook Live Event)
18: Youth Commission Application Deadline
18: Last Day to Enter #OldWaysSummerDays Challenge
22: National Voter Registration Day
24: Lunchtime Chats with Tlingit & Haida (Facebook Live Event)

October Events
1: Virtual 85th Annual Tribal Assembly
4: Voter Registration Deadline for General Election
6: Juneau Municipal Election Day (Get Out & Vote!)
8: Lunchtime Chats with Tlingit & Haida (Facebook Live Event)
11-14: Statewide Elders & Youth Conference
12: Indigenous Peoples’ Day Virtual Celebration
12: Indigenous Peoples’ Day (Offices Closed)
15: Lunchtime Chats with Tlingit & Haida (Facebook Live Event)
15-16: Alaska Federation of Natives Convention
18: Alaska Day
19: Observance of Alaska Day (Offices Closed)

November Events
3: General Election Day (Get Out & Vote!)
11: Veteran’s Day
12: Observance of Veteran’s Day (Offices Closed)
13: Observance of Dr. Walter Soboleff Day (Offices Closed)
26: Thanksgiving Day (Offices Closed)
27: Native American Heritage Day (Offices Closed)

December Events
25: Christmas Day (Offices Closed)

Indigenous Peoples’ Day Virtual Celebration

Join us on Tlingit & Haida’s Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ccthita) for an uplifting virtual celebration of Indigenous Peoples’ Day on October 12, 2020 at 11:30 AM!

The free Facebook Live event will include Lingít, Xaad Kil and Sm’algyax stories, songs, and language lessons and will close with a world premiere of the music video “The Gathering” composed by David A. Boxley and performed by Stephen Qacung Blanchett and Arias Hoyle.

Let us celebrate our cultures, traditions and history together!

Special Guests:
Lyle & Kolene James
David R. Boxley
Benjamin & Marita Young
Stephen Qacung Blanchett
Arias “AJ” Hoyle
AmeriCorps Volunteers Provide Service

Gunalchéesh, Háw’aa to United Way of Southeast Alaska! In honor of National Day of Service and Remembrance, AmeriCorps members across the country volunteered their time to work on service projects. In Juneau, more than a dozen AmeriCorps volunteers assisted the Tribal Emergency Operations Center in preparing COVID-19 Community Care Kits which will be shipped to 21 communities.

“This is huge for us to have this kind of help,” shared Incident Commander Jason Wilson. “We are extremely grateful to United Way of Southeast Alaska and the AmeriCorps volunteers for their partnership to support our communities.”

Three-months worth of emergency supplies were purchased by Tlingit & Haida to support communities in their effort to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus or prepare for a future disaster. The COVID-19 Community Care Kits include disinfectants, personal protective equipment (PPE), food rations and three-day emergency Meals Ready-to-Eat (MREs). The first of the kits are expected to ship in early October.

United Way of Southeast Alaska - AmeriCorps Volunteers (middle photo courtesy of United Way of Southeast Alaska)

Head Start to Start School Year Virtually

Tlingit & Haida Head Start will start the 2020-2021 school year virtually on September 21st and is still accepting enrollment applications. Enroll your child and receive a free Hatch Tablet!

Tlingit & Haida Head Start is a comprehensive early childhood program for children ages 3-5 from low-income families. The free federally-funded program provides nutritious meals and a learning environment that promotes school readiness by enhancing children’s cognitive, social and emotional development. Educational activities support children’s growth in language, literacy, mathematics, science, creative arts and physical skills.

Communities Served: Angoon, Craig, Hoonah, Juneau, Klawock, Petersburg, Saxman, Sitka, Wrangell & Yakutat

Apply Online: bit.ly/3jZMiuo

Eligibility Requirements: Child must be age 3 by September 1, 2020

For more information, contact Head Start: 907.463.7127 or headstartenrollment@ccthita-nsn.gov.
Francine Eddy Jones Retires

Over the course of her career, Francine has received numerous awards and recognitions including the AWARE Women of Distinction Award, Alaska Federation of Natives’ Shirley Demientieff Award and the National Indian Child Welfare Association’s Champion for Native Children Award.

Francine’s Tlingit name is Xaasteen and she is Eagle/Wolf of the Yanyeidi clan of the Taku Tlingit people. She was born to the late Florence and Francis Eddy in Sitka, Alaska. Francine and her six siblings were raised with strong values in family, culture, education, and community service. In 1979, she graduated from the University of Utah with a Master’s degree in Social Work. She and her husband Laird Jones are proud parents of their son, Justin.

Gunalchéesh, Háw’aa (Thank You), Francine for the many years advocating for our tribal children and families, implementing the spirit and tenets of the Indian Child Welfare Act in Alaska, and protecting and maintaining the integrity and rights of Alaska Native people and our tribes! You will be missed, but we know how much you have worked and deserve this new chapter in your life!

Internship Spotlight: Claire Helgeson

Through the First Alaskans Institute’s Summer Internship program, Tlingit & Haida’s Cultural Heritage & Education department welcomed Claire Helgeson as an intern within the Haa Yoo X’atangi Kúdi (HYXK) Lingít language immersion nest from June to August 2020.

Claire is of Irish and Sámi descent, and graduated with her Bachelor’s degree in Alaska Native Languages and Studies from the University of Alaska Southeast and is passionate about Indigenous language revitalization. She worked diligently with HYXK co-lead instructors Daaljini (Mary Cruise) and Yatooteen (Mallory Story), and her supervisor Miriah Twitchell to create wonderfully useful resources for the classroom and families, including posters, flashcards, and labels.

Tlingit & Haida greatly appreciates Claire’s commendable design and Tlingit language skills, her easy-going nature and helpful personality, and most especially, her efforts to support Indigenous language revitalization and Indigenous led education.

Tlingit & Haida is grateful to First Alaskans Institute for the summer internship program partnership and for their continued leadership in advancing Alaska Natives through community engagement, information and research, collaboration, and leadership development.
The John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act was signed into law on March 12, 2019 which permits Alaska Native Veterans to apply for a Native allotment of up to 160 acres.

To be eligible for a Native Veterans allotment, the Veteran must have served at least one day in the armed forces between the dates of August 5, 1964 and December 31, 1971 and cannot have received an original allotment pursuant to the 1906 Native Allotment Act. A State of Alaska court-appointed personal representative may also apply on behalf of a deceased Veteran and the allotment will go to his/her heirs. Unlike the 1906 Native Allotment Act, there is no use and occupancy requirement.

Applications from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are not available yet, however, the application period will be open for five years. Tlingit & Haida’s Native Lands & Resources (NLR) department’s role is to assist Veterans in the application process which includes providing a map and legal description of the land that is selected.

BLM has sent out a total of 1,069 letters to eligible Veterans and is expected to send out an additional 891 eligibility letters. It is very important that Veterans update their address with Tlingit & Haida or their service provider.

If you need further information or assistance, contact NLR Manager Desiree Duncan at 907.321.2449 or dduncan@ccthita-nsn.gov or Realty Specialist Irene Lampe at 907.209.2186 or ilampe@ccthita-nsn.gov.

Visit BLM’s website for up-to-date information on the Veteran Allotment program: https://on.doi.gov/3hvUaCn.

Virtual school during the COVID-19 pandemic is challenging enough. Tlingit & Haida’s Navigators program is here to help and is offering two free study groups to help keep tribal citizen youth on track with work assignments. Tutoring and homework coaching is also available via Zoom in Breakout Rooms.

**Elementary Study Group**
- **Date:** Every Wednesday
- **Time:** 3:15 - 4:15 PM
- **Where:** Zoom (bit.ly/3jJGXax)
- **Ages:** Kindergarten-5th Grade

**Middle/High School Study Group**
- **Date:** Every Friday
- **Time:** 4:30 - 6:30 PM
- **Where:** Zoom (bit.ly/2DB3aHZ)
- **Ages:** 6th-12th Grade

**Study Group Pays!**
- Good Grades + Door Prizes

For more information, contact:
Navigators Program
907.463.7752
Navigators@ccthita-nsn.gov
**CARES Act Need-Based Programs**

Tlingit & Haida is pleased to offer two CARES Act need-based programs for tribal citizen households impacted by the Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. The two programs will provide one-time financial assistance up to $500 per program per household to offset expenses for education, retraining, rent, mortgage and utilities. Note: This support is not a per-capita distribution.

**Family Education & Retraining Program**

This is a one-time, needs-based program that supports households with unexpected education and related expenses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The program was established to offset some of the expenses households are facing due to home schooling, retraining because of loss or diminishment of employment, and new education required.

**Family Home & Utility Program**

This is a one-time, needs-based program that supports households with unexpected reductions in income and increased family expenses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The program was established to offset some of the expenses households are facing for rent, mortgage and utility.

**Funding Amount:**
- $500 per program and household

**Who Can Apply:**
- All tribal citizens, regardless of where they reside, are eligible to apply to receive support from these programs.

**Eligibility Requirements:**
- Must be a U.S. Citizen
- Must be enrolled with Tlingit & Haida
- Must demonstrate financial hardship that directly relates to COVID-19

Apply Now


For more information or questions, email caresrelief@ccthita-nsn.gov or call 907.463.7788.

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**Wellbriety Affirmations & Devotionals**

In an effort to hold each other up during these times where our tribal citizens may feel overwhelmed by fear, anxiety or isolation, the Tribal Family & Youth Services department is hosting Wellbriety Affirmations & Devotionals Monday through Sunday from 6 to 7 AM.

To participate in the Wellbriety Affirmations & Devotions, call 978.990.5109 and enter access code 697384.

Taking steps to reduce stress is important and will make you, the people you care about, and your community stronger.

For more information on the Wellbriety Affirmations & Devotionals, please contact the Tribal Family & Youth Services department:

*Justin McDonald*
Preserving Native Families Program
jmcdonald@ccthita-nsn.gov
907.463.7197
Suicide Prevention & Awareness Month

Many of us have been touched by suicide in some way – a loss of life is a tragedy to our families, communities and culture. In recognition of Suicide Prevention and Awareness month, Tlingit & Haida would like to remind all of our tribal citizens that your life matters and we value each and every one of you.

Caring for your mental health now, more than ever before, is so important with the unique challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is not our way to be disconnected from each other and many of our people are feeling isolated, emotional distress and even financial hardship related to COVID-19. Worries and anxiety over COVID-19 and its impact can be overwhelming. Social distancing can make it even more challenging.

One of our most important Tribal Values we embrace is to “Hold Each Other Up”. Please take the time to reach out to your loved ones, check on them and lift them up. Suicide prevention is intervention, postvention, and prevention – we can all do our part to help friends and family know they are not alone if they are experiencing difficult times or feeling down.

For those who do not feel like they have a support system and are in crisis, please don’t be afraid to reach out for help. Call the Alaska Careline at 1.877.266.4357 (HELP) or National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1.800.273-TALK.

Artwork Description: Semicolons have become an international symbol of suicide prevention representing the point when an author could’ve chosen to end their sentence, but continued on. The author is you and the sentence is your life. We hope that you’ll continue to share your stories with us.

Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Advocacy Training Held

Submitted By: Tribal Court

The Tlingit & Haida Southeast Appellate Court Initiative in partnership with the Alaska Native Women’s Resource Center and Indian Law Resource Center, co-hosted a free, 13-week webinar series to provide domestic violence/sexual assault advocacy training to service providers.

The webinar topics covered how domestic and gender-based violence affects the victim, the need for offender accountability, and how domestic & gender-based violence impacts villages. There has been a range of 50-80 people participating each week including students, tribal leaders, tribal employees, school board members, caseworkers, domestic violence survivors, and advocates in Alaska, California, Montana, New Mexico and Washington. Feedback from participants has been positive!

“Thank you so much! This was a very interesting and informative discussion and I definitely learned a lot. Sending love from Southern California!” - Ivy Wilson (College Student)

“This was very powerful subject! thank you for teaching us this.” - Loretta Carl (OVW Coordinator)

“Thank you so much, very important information for our communities.” - ALSC Attorney

For more information on the DV/SA Advocacy Training, contact the Tribal Court at roundtables@ctthita-nsn.gov.
Due to the increase in Coronavirus cases in Alaska, Tlingit & Haida’s offices remain closed to the public. As a result, the Program Compliance department, which oversees the Tribal Enrollment program, encourages all tribal citizens who are in need of a new Tribal ID to utilize the Tribal ID affidavit available on Tlingit & Haida’s website.

**Tribal ID Affidavit:**
www.ccthita-nsn.gov/services/enrollment/overview

Submit Tribal ID Affidavit to:
Program Compliance - Tribal Enrollment
Email: depttbe@ccthita-nsn.gov OR
Mail: 320 W. Willoughby Avenue, Ste. 300
Juneau, Alaska 99801

For questions or more information, call 1.800.344.1432 ext. 7359 or email depttbe@ccthita-nsn.gov.

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Q: What is the preferred method to submit a Tribal ID affidavit?
A: Submitting via email is the preferred method.

Q: Do I need to submit an affidavit if I need a replacement Tribal ID?
A. Not necessarily. If you’ve received a Tribal ID in the last year and just need a replacement, you can request a reprint by sending an email to depttbe@ccthita-nsn.gov.

Q: Is there anything else that I need to include with the affidavit?
A. The affidavit will need to be notarized and have a recent photo attached.