Every Student Succeeds Act (Essa) Summit

The purpose of the ESSA Summit is to educate each other about key elements of the recently enacted and implemented, federal education law and engage participants in active dialogue about how the federally mandated requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act can promote and achieve a closer working relationship and collaborative partnership between Alaska’s Tribes and the school districts which serve their tribal members.

The ESSA Summit will include informative speaker and panel presentations and interactive discussion with participants focusing on:

- What the State and local school districts are required to do to comply with the Act.
- What new program and funding options and opportunities are specifically available to Tribes?
- How the new federal law promotes increased engagement between local school districts and their community stakeholders/ partners/Tribes.
- Updates by the State of Alaska and Interior school districts regarding their preliminary planning efforts to provide meaningful consultation with Tribes (as required under the new law).

Come prepared to participate, to voice your opinions, to share your ideas and to learn!

There is no cost to attend. Continental breakfast, snacks and lunch will be provided both days.

ESSA SUMMIT

A SPECIAL MID-YEAR INTERIOR EDUCATION SUMMIT TO DISCUSS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA)

JANUARY 26-27, 2017
CHIEF DAVID SALMON TRIBAL HALL • FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

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Dear Tribes and Tribal Members,

I hope everyone had a happy and safe holiday season. Now that the New Year has begun TCC staff is busy preparing for our 2017 Annual Convention in March. This year’s convention is exciting because there will be elections for three seats on our Executive Board of Directors: the Upper Tanana Representative, the Yukon Koyukuk Representative, and the TCC Chief/Chairman position. For more information on TCC’s election process see page 6-7.

This year’s convention theme is “Preserving Our Way of Life”. This theme was selected because right now is the time we must stand up to the challenges we face and grab a hold of the opportunities in front of us. A great example of facing challenges and taking advantage of opportunities can be found in education and the enactment of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The ESSA provides tribes with an opportunity to consult with school districts to incorporate Alaska Native languages and culture in the educational system for our children.

TCC has collaborated with the Alaska Department of Education and others to host the first ever ESSA Summit, where participants will have the opportunity to learn more about the ESSA and what it means for our rural schools and communities. The summit is being led by TCC’s new Education Program Manager Edward Alexander who I would like to welcome aboard! You can learn more about Ed and the ESSA Summit in this edition of the Council.

This month I will be traveling to Washington D.C. with other Alaska Native and American Indian leaders to participate in NCAI’s presidential transition meetings and to attend President-Elect Trump’s inauguration. The purpose of this trip is to establish a working relationship with the new cabinet and leadership appointees so that TCC can engage in and be part of the transition planning process. The relationships that we need to build now are essential to TCC’s ability to achieve our vision of Healthy, Strong, Unified Tribes.

I look forward to updating you on these meetings in the next newsletter.

Ana Bassee,
Victor Joseph
TCC Chief/Chairman

Winter Safety Tips

WINTER IS UPON US AND WITH CHANGING WEATHER COMES HAZARDS

There are safety tips to keep in mind before you venture out in rural Alaska.

- Be Prepared - make sure you have a plan.
- Tell someone where you’re going and the route you plan to take.
- Always check weather conditions, try to bring a partner for long travel.
- Slow down and avoid traveling across bodies of water when uncertain of the ice thickness.
- With warmer temperatures it’s getting harder to predict the thickness and relative safety over rivers and lakes.
- Finally, don’t drive impaired! We want you to get to your destination safely.

To see our Winter Safety PSA from Chief Victor Joseph, be sure to visit our YouTube Page!
In recent years, deaths, overdoses and medical costs related to heroin use has increased in Alaska. According to a recent report from the state Division of Public Health, the number of hospitalizations for heroin-related caused nearly doubled in the state from 2008 to 2012.

**WHAT IS HEROIN?**
Heroin is a highly addictive, illegal drug. Heroin is produced from morphine, a naturally occurring substance that comes from the seepod of poppy plants. Heroin is abused by injecting, snorting or smoking it, and all three can cause the same level of addiction, as well as serious health problems.

Often times additives are used to dilute it such as sugar, caffeine or other substances. The various additives do not fully dissolve, and when they are injected into the body, can clog the blood vessels that lead to the lungs, kidneys or brain. This itself can lead to infection or destruction of vital organs.

The user buying heroin on the street never knows the actual strength of the drug in that particular packet. Thus, users are constantly at risk of an overdose.

**HOW CAN I IDENTIFY IT?**
In its purest form, heroin is a fine white powder. But more often, it is found to be rose gray, brown or black in color. The coloring comes from additives, which have been used to dilute it.

**IS IT ADDICTIVE?**
YES. Heroin enters the brain very quickly, making it particularly addictive. Even a single dose of heroin can start a person on the road to addiction. It’s estimated that almost one-fourth of the people who try heroin become addicted. And over time, heroin users develop a tolerance, meaning that more and more of the drug is needed to achieve the same results.

**HOW CAN I TELL SOMEONE IS ABUSING HEROIN?**
Heroin users build tolerance to heroin, leading to increases in the frequency and quantity of heroin consumption. With growing tolerance, more definitive physical symptoms of heroin abuse and addiction emerge, including weight loss, runny nose, needle track marks visible on arms, infections or abscesses at injection site, and cuts, bruises or scabs from picking.

**WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS ON ONES HEALTH?**
Heroin abuse and dependence produce serious medical side effects, which may directly or indirectly result in death:
- Heart problems, including infection of heart lining and valves
- Infectious diseases spread by shared needles (HIV and hepatitis B and C)
- Chronic pneumonia or other pulmonary diseases
- Blood clots or tissue death resulting from collapsed veins or impurities
- Bacterial infections
- Liver disease
- Arthritis and other rheumatologic problems
- Seizures

Heroin abuse and addiction are extremely serious medical diseases. They require care from chemical dependency specialists experienced in opiate detox and withdrawal.

**SOURCES:** Foundation for a Drug-Free World; AboveTheInfluence.com; National Institute on Drug Abuse; Department of Health and Social Services

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**Fairbanks Four: One Year Later**

On December 18th, 2016, Fairbanks residents gathered at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church to recognize a milestone in history; the one year anniversary of the release of the Fairbanks Four. George Frese and Eugene Vent spoke to attendees about both the struggles and blessings they have experienced since their release. The service ended with a prayer lead by Reverend Shirley Lee.
TCC opens the only Community Health Aide Training Center in Interior Alaska as part of TCC’s 2015-2020 Strategic Plan. To date, 24 students have completed the training. TCC hopes to have all students graduate towards becoming practitioners by the end of next year.

In 2016, Tanacross completed the construction of its multi-purpose building and opened their new Health Clinic.

Floyd Green was selected as TCC’s 2016 Keynote Speaker after successfully re-opening the Rampart School after 12 years of closure. As chief of Rampart, Floyd continues to help revive his community.

Indigenous leaders representing over 20 tribal governments came together for the 3rd Annual Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission meeting.

Reverend Shirley Lee and Father Scott Fisher helped lead the Walk of Remembrance in Fairbanks. This annual event serves as a way to honor all of the victims of unsolved homicides in Fairbanks to ensure that they are never forgotten.

In 2016, TCC, in coordination with other organizations, participated in the Get Out The Native Vote Initiative in an effort to increase the number of native voters at the polls.

In August, Tanana Chiefs Conference, in partnership with the National Judicial College and the University of Alaska, hosted the 33rd annual Tribal Court Development Conference. The theme this year was “Fairness in Justice.”

One of the biggest topics of conversation throughout our native communities was the Standing Rock Protests to stop the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline in North Dakota. In September, Alaskans gathered at the Golden Heart Plaza in Fairbanks to show their support of the protests.
Indigenous leaders representing over 20 tribal governments came together for the 3rd Annual Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission meeting.

Two interior elders were awarded honorary degrees from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Trimble Gilbert of Arctic Village was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree and Elizabeth Fleagle was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Education Degree.

The 2016 Annual Denakkanaaga Elders & Youth Conference was held in Hughes with the theme ‘Building Strong Native Communities: Treating Each Other with Love and Respect’.

In 2016, TCC leadership visited several rural communities including Allakaket (pictured above), Alatna, Ruby, Koyukuk, Huslia, Kaltag, Shageluk and Rampart. The conversation and input during these meetings ensures that TCC’s 2015-2020 Strategic Plan remains in alignment with our tribes and tribal leaders.

One of the biggest topics of conversation throughout our communities was the Standing Rock Protests to stop the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline in North Dakota. In September, Alaskans gathered at the Golden Heart Plaza in Fairbanks to show their support of the protests.

TCC along with the Fairbanks Native Association hosted the March for Hope Suicide Awareness March and BBQ in Fairbanks. The event was intended to raise awareness and prevent the spread of suicide in our communities.

9 months after being release from prison, the Fairbanks Four hosted a welcome potlatch during the week of the Alaska Federation of Natives Annual Convention as a way to thank their supporters statewide.

This year, TCC’s Executive Director of Tribal Client Services Will Mayo was elected as the new Co-Chair for the Alaska Federation of Natives, taking the place of former co-chair Jerry Isaac of Tanacross.
Election Criteria: 2017 TCC Full Board of Directors Meeting

SUBREGIONAL ADVISORY BOARD ELECTIONS

TCC Executive Board of Directors
Subregional Positions:
Upper Tanana Subregion .......................... 3 Year Term 2017-2020
  Currently William “Chaaky” Albert, Northway
Yukon Koyukuk Subregion ......................... 3 Year Term 2017-2020
  Currently Leo Lohnitz, Koyukuk

Eligibility Criteria:
• Must be a current village director, as authorized by tribal/village resolution. (Article 7, Section 4)
• Must be residents of the State of Alaska and Alaska Native Members of member villages of the corporation. (Article 4, Section 1)
• Employees of the corporation shall not be eligible to serve as Directors or officers of the corporation with exception of the President and temporary or seasonal E-Board Members and Full Board Members. (Article 4, Section 2)

TCC Advisory Boards
The three TCC Advisory Boards make recommendations to the TCC executive board and President. The President has the authority to appoint all individuals to the advisory boards, (Article 7, Section 3), but the President currently allows the subregions to democratically select representatives to each advisory board. All candidates must be Alaska Native.

TCC Regional Health Board
Yukon Flats Subregion.............................3 year term (2017-2020)
  Currently Christine Rifredi, Fort Yukon

TCC Education Council
Lower Yukon Subregion...........................3 year term (2017-2020)
  Currently Nathan Elswick, Anvik
Yukon Tanana Subregion..........................3 year term (2017-2020)
  Currently Phyllis Erhart, Tanana

Interior Athabascan Tribal College Board of Trustees
Seat B - Upper Kuskokwim Subregion.........3 year term (2017-2020)
  Currently Sharon Gurtler-Strick, McGrath
Seat C - Upper Tanana Subregion...............3 year term (2017-2020)
  Currently Gerald Albert, Northway

FULL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS

AFN Village Representative
1 Seat .................................................One year term (2017-2018)
  Currently Julie Roberts-Hyslog, Tanana
* The AFN Village Representative seat is not affected by the TCC Bylaws; however, we notify villages of AFN candidates who declare their written intent as a candidate, for informational purposes.

IRHA Board of Commissioners
Seat E.....................................................Three year term (2017-2020)
  Currently Marvin Deacon, Grayling
* Must be eligible to serve on TCC Board of Directors
* Employees of TCC or IRHA are not eligible to serve as IRHA Commissioners (Article 7, Section 7)
* The election of the IRHA seat is not affected by the TCC Bylaws pertaining to the declaration of candidacy requirements; however, we notify villages of IRHA candidates who declare their written intent as a candidate for informational purposes.

TCC PRESIDENT CANDIDATES FORUM QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION
MONDAY AFTERNOON MARCH 13, 2017
Background Checks and the 2017 TCC Presidential Elections

ICPA BACKGROUND CHECK INFORMATION:

The Indian Child Protection Act (ICPA), requires TCC employees to pass a federal background check, and the Alaska Barrier Crimes Act requires TCC employees to pass a state background check.

TCC leadership has made the commitment to both comply with current law and advocate for reasonable changes in background check requirements. As part of compliance, TCC presidential candidates must submit their complete background check application which includes fingerprints by February 10th submitted to Heather Rogers, Human Resources Director. This allows enough time for the check to be complete. Only those candidates that pass the background check will be eligible to continue as official candidates for the March 16, 2017 election. This process was mandated in the 2014 Presidential Election as well.

2017 TCC ELECTIONS: ELECTION RULES

RULE 10. MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED

To be elected to a position, nominees are required to receive a majority vote from the votes cast by the TCC Board. If no nominee receives a majority vote on a ballot, the Election Committee shall conduct a subsequent ballot provided by these Election Rules until a nominee receives a majority vote.

RULE 11. FAILURE TO ACHIEVE MAJORITY

1. In the event of a tie occurring for a Subregional seat, a coin toss will occur to determine the outcome of the election.

2. Ballots where there are four (4) nominees or more. If no nominee receives a majority vote on the first ballot the following rules will apply with the intent to eliminate candidates to achieve a majority:

   The Election Committee will eliminate all nominees except for the three (3) nominees receiving the highest number of votes and conduct a subsequent ballot.

   If there are three (3) or more candidates that receive the second highest number of votes, all those with the second highest number of votes will proceed to the next ballot including the candidate with the most votes. The remaining candidates will be eliminated.

   If there is a tie for candidates with the third highest vote and there are two (2) or more candidates that receive the first and/or second highest number of votes, only the two (2) or more candidates that receive the highest number of votes will proceed to the next ballot. The rest will be eliminated.

   If there are more than three (3) candidates tied for first highest vote, all of those receiving the first highest will proceed to the next ballot. The rest will be eliminated.

   If all but one candidate ties for second, the Election Committee will distribute an “elimination ballot” that includes only the nominees who tied for second. The Election Committee will eliminate the one nominee receiving the lowest number of votes on the “elimination ballot” and resume the balloting between all remaining nominees.

   *Majority is based on the number of Directors present for the 2017 Full Board of Director’s roll call.

LETTER OF INTENT

Tanana Chiefs Conference
ATTN: Norma Dahl, Executive Secretary
122 First Ave, Suite 600
Fairbanks, AK 99701 • Fax (907) 459-3884
1-800-478-6822 ext.3112

DATE (Must be between 8:00am February 2nd, 2017 and 5:00pm March 3rd, 2017)

I, _____________________ of ___________________________ declare my intent to run for the Tanana Chiefs Conference

position of ______________________________________________________________________________________________________________

(Insert seat you intend to run as a candidate for. Example: Chief/President, Subregional Executive Board, TCC Health Board, TCC Education Council or IATC)

Signature _____________________
City, State, Zip Code _____________________

Print Name _____________________
Phone Number _____________________

Address __________________________________________

Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act, 25 USC sec. 3207 provides that each tribal organization that receives funds under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act shall not employ individuals that have committed certain crimes when the position involves regular or foreseeable contact with Indian children. The TCC executive board has reviewed and passed procedures to implement the ICPA background checks and will require all TCC employees to pass ICPA background checks, including the TCC Chief/President.

Presidential candidates must fill-out the same background check application that TCC employees must fill out which includes fingerprinting. The background check application can be obtained from Heather Rogers, Human Resources Director at ext. 3095 and is due by February 10th because it takes 21 days for the results. Only those individuals that pass the background check will be official candidates for the 2017 TCC Presidential election.

*We recommend that you confirm the receipt of your letter of intent with the TCC Executive Secretary prior to 5:00 P.M. March 3rd, 2017; TCC may not know of your submission of your letter of intent, but we can confirm that it was received.
**Did You Know?**

**SUGAR IS ADDICTIVE.** Sugar releases an opiate-like substance that activates the brain’s reward system. The average American consumes 130 pounds of sugar each year. That equals to about 3,550 pounds in an average lifetime—approaching two tons of sugar.