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ARCTIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES THE 2026 ANAĠI LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNER

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The Arctic Education Foundation (AEF) is proud to announce the 2026 Anaġi Leadership Award winner, **Aiga Unutoa** of Utqiaġvik, Alaska**.** This award supports college and training expenses, including tuition, fees, books, and room and board. Students may receive up to $24,000 per school year—covering fall, spring, spring quarter, and summer terms—based on financial need. The scholarship is renewable for up to four (4) consecutive school years and is available to students enrolled full- or part-time.

Aiga Unutoa is the daughter of Andrea and Aniseko Unutoa. Her maternal grandparents are the late Ronald and Arlene Kanayurak, and paternal grandparents are Tauva'a and Ailepata Unutoa.

A 2026 graduate of Barrow High School, Aiga will be attending George Fox University starting this fall. She plans to pursue a Bachelors degree in kinesiology while playing for their women's basketball team. Her goal is to become an athletic trainer then return home to provide athletic and recovery healthcare for local athletes.

Aiga shared, "*As I continue to chase my dreams and further my education I am constantly reminded to be grateful of where I come from because we are truly blessed. The health and well being of our people and young athletes is important for our future, as well as theirs.*"

Congratulations, Aiga! We wish you success through your higher education journey!
Aarigaa!

About the Anaġi Award

The Anaġi Leadership Award is named in honor of the late Dr. Jacob Anaġi Adams, former President and CEO of Arctic Slope Regional Corporation. This prestigious award is presented to an exemplary candidate whose leadership is reflected in their commitment to promoting healthy communities, embracing the spirit of volunteerism, fostering the cross-generational transmission of values, and demonstrating strong organizational leadership.

Dr. Jacob Anaġi Adams established a solid corporate foundation upon which the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation could grow and thrive. Guided by Iñupiaq values, he demonstrated unwavering leadership and a deep commitment to the North Slope community. His dedication to public service improved the lives of Arctic Slope residents and brought lasting benefits to communities across the State of Alaska.

About AEF

AEF was established in 1977 as a private non-profit foundation committed to supporting Iñupiat students pursuing a degree or certificate. The goal of the Foundation is to produce an educated, trained professional workforce, especially within the North Slope region. More information on AEF can be found at www.arcticed.com