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ARCTIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES THE 2026 IVALU SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNER

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The Arctic Education Foundation (AEF) is proud to announce the 2026 Ivalu Scholarship Award winner, **Jenessa Ağnauraq Oviok** of Utqiagvik, Alaska. This award supports college and training expenses, including tuition, fees, books, and room and board. Students may receive up to \$15,000 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.

Jenessa is the daughter of Roberta Sigvun Oviok, and the granddaughter of Samantha Palanja Leavitt and Morris Tigluk Oviok. She is also the proud mother of Saanjiaq Bailey Oviok, her son.

Jenessa spent about four years working as a Patient Care Technician at Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital where her passion for patient care has grown. Her dream is to become a nurse practitioner or doctor and return to the North Slope to provide culturally safe healthcare services. This fall, Jenessa plans to pursue her Associate's degree in Nursing at Alaska Pacific University. One step closer to achieving her dream career.

Jenessa shared, “I want to use my background in healthcare to provide consistent and culturally safe education about mental health and substance abuse, helping communities build a healthier and resilient future.”

We congratulate Jenessa, and wish her success in her academic journey. Aarigaa!

About the Ivalu Award

The Ivalu Scholarship was established to honor applicants who make noteworthy and influential contributions to their community through cultural service, dedicating their personal time to projects and activities that strongly reflect Iñupiaq values. Only one scholarship is awarded each year, and recipients may receive the award only once in their lifetime.

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 on their website at www.arcticed.com