



Press Release

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Contact:

Monica Wiehl, Director

Arctic Education Foundation

P.O. Box 129

Barrow, AK 99723

Phone: 907-852-9432/1-800-770-2772

Fax: 907-852-2774

www.arcticed.com

Arctic Education Foundation Announces the 2023 Aveogan Leadership Award Winner

Arctic Education Foundation newly created competitive scholarship the Aveogan Leadership Award in 2023. The Aveogan Leadership Award was created to acknowledge and honor the leadership of Arctic Slope Regional Corporation's former board member who also held an executive management position with ASRC since 1972.

Dr. Leavitt was a whaling captain, a fierce champion for the rights of the North Slope Iñupiat, a devoted public servant, an avid Barrow Whalers fan, a massively influential force in the growth of ASRC, and a perpetual advocate for the rights of the people of the North Slope. Aveogan grew up in camps and villages along Alaska's Arctic coast, leaving to serve in the United States Army in Vietnam. Dr. Leavitt's return to the North Slope coincided with the Alaska Native land claims fight and the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA)—and his impact was monumental.

This award covers tuition, fees, books, room, and board, and shall be used for college or training expenses. The maximum amount for this award is up to \$28,000 per school year (fall, spring, spring quarter, and summer terms) and is based on the student's financial need. The scholarship will be awarded for four (4) consecutive school years for full or part-time status or enrollment.

The Arctic Education Foundation (AEF) is proud to announce the first 2023 Aveogan Leadership Award winner,

Tenna Qaġġuna Judkins of Utqiagvik, Alaska

Tenna is the daughter of the late Teresa (Brower) Judkins, and granddaughter of the late Harry Brower, Sr. and Annie (Hopson) Brower.

Tenna graduated from Barrow High School in 2007, from Alaska Pacific University with her Bachelor of Arts in Alaska Native Governance, and the University of Alaska Southeast with her Master of Arts in Teaching. She is currently studying for the Master's in Educational Leadership at the University of Alaska Southeast, where once complete, she will have a Master's in Education and her Type B Professional License (Principal's Certification).

Qaġġuna's passion lies in education, and she plays a vital leadership role in her position as the Director of Iñupiaq Education for the NSBSD. She is committed to uplifting her community, supporting, and enhancing Iñupiaq education, and leading efforts in education that center community and foster success for students.

Tenna stated, "These next steps in my educational journey are something I never imagined myself doing, but because of the support of the community, my family, and the Arctic Education Foundation, I am able to set and work towards these goals in my educational leadership journey."

We wish Qaġġuna the best of luck in her education! Aarigaa! Kiita!

About AEF

AEF was established in 1977 as a non-profit private foundation committed to supporting Iñupiat students pursuing either a degree or certificates. The goal of the Foundation is an educated, trained professional workforce ready to take on any job, especially within the North Slope region. Last year the foundation granted over \$2.4 million to approximately 550 students. More information on AEF can be found on their website at www.arcticed.com.