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ARCTIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES THE 2025 AVEOGAN LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNER

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The Arctic Education Foundation (AEF) is proud to announce the 2025 Aveogan Leadership Award winner, **Allana Mhay-Avaiyak Nageak** of Utqiagvik, Alaska. This award supports college and training expenses, including tuition, fees, books, and room and board. Students may receive up to \$28,000 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.

Allana is the daughter of Lilibeth Nageak and the late Vincent Pamiuq Nageak III, and Ruby Rexford and George Kaleak Jr. Her grandparents are Flossie and the late Roy Nageak Sr., Noreen and George Kaleak Sr., Fenton and Elizabeth Saaniaq Rexford, and Gloria Congdon.

Allana is starting her second year at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. She is pursuing a bachelor's degree in health science with a minor in Native American & Indigenous studies. She currently serves as the Vice President of the Alaska Native Club where she helps build a support community for students to connect.

She shared, "Coming from Utqiagvik, a place rich in tradition and resilience, I am proud to carry that strength forward as I pursue my education and work to create a brighter future for my community."

We congratulate Allana and wish her the very best as she continues her educational journey. Aarigaa!

About the Aveogan Award

Established in 2023, the Aveogan Leadership Award honors the legacy of Dr. Oliver Aveogan Leavitt, a former Arctic Slope Regional Corporation board member and longtime executive leader with the corporation since 1972.

Dr. Leavitt was a whaling captain, a steadfast champion of North Slope Iñupiat rights, a devoted public servant, an avid Barrow Whalers fan, and a driving force behind the growth of ASRC. A lifelong advocate for the people of the North Slope, Aveogan spent his childhood moving between camps and villages along Alaska's Arctic coast before serving in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. His return home coincided with the Alaska Native land claims movement and the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA)—a moment in history where his leadership and influence proved monumental.

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