CIRI creates IT career pathways

Program to help CIRI shareholders, Alaska Native people reach career goals through technology training

CIRI partnered with Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC) and Alaska Vocational Technical Center (AVTEC) to open career pathways for CIRI shareholders and Alaska Native people interested in entering the information technology (IT) field. CIRI’s IT Director, Keith Ziolkowski, helped coordinate the effort.

“This is a great opportunity for CIRI shareholders and Alaska Native people who want to work in IT,” said Ziolkowski. “Too often, people have potential and genuine interest but not enough skills and experience to get them in the door. This program is a way to help them reach their career goals.”

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, approximately 1.6 million IT jobs will be added between 2006 and 2016. This translates into opportunities for anyone interested in entering the IT industry, someone looking to change his or her current employment situation, or a person starting a second career.

CITC is the first point of contact for interested participants. CITC screens applicants and provides training if they are in need of additional social or educational preparation. Participants ready for technical training will join the 10-month AVTEC Information Technology Program. Upon completion of training, participants can gain real-world work experience through an internship at CIRI’s corporate office or a CIRI subsidiary.

To learn more or apply, contact:
Angela Peacock
Youth Development Specialist
907.793.3270
apeacock@citci.org

Eric Watson
Youth Programs Manager
907.793.3020
ewatson@citci.org

CIRI, CITC and AVTEC partner to help interested Alaska Native people gain IT skills and experience.

CIRI recognizes CIRI Shareholder, Elder Shareholder of the Year

Shareholders B. Agnes Brown and Ernie “Big Bear” Berestoff honored at potlatches

CIRI selected B. Agnes Brown as the 2012 Shareholder of the Year. CIRI President and Chief Executive Officer Margie Brown presented Brown with an award plaque and an Athabascan chief’s necklace at the CIRI and The CIRI Foundation’s friendship potlatch on Oct. 14 in Anchorage. Brown’s service to the Alaska Native community and rural Alaska stretches back more than 40 years.

“Agnes’ impact upon the statewide Alaska Native community cannot be overstated,” said Margie Brown. “She has dedicated her life to improving the lives and circumstances of Alaska Native people, and for that she deserves recognition.”

B. Agnes Brown
Ernie ‘Big Bear’ Berestoff

Economic summit hosted by CIRI

Southcentral Alaska region stakeholders network, identify growth opportunities

CIRI hosted an economic development summit on Sept. 24 at the BP Energy Center. The summit began a conversation among region stakeholders about collaboration and economic development opportunities. Participants included tribal entities, ANCSA village corporations and a variety of other Alaska Native participants interested in fostering economic development in the Southcentral Alaska region.

“Collectively, organizations in the Cook Inlet region have the ability to be a significant powerhouse through collaborative proposals,” said Greg Razo, CIRI vice president, government contracting. “The conference strengthened the network of Cook Inlet region stakeholders and identified opportunities for growth in the region.”

Presenters included Anchorage Economic Development Corp. President and CEO Bill Popp, Teya Technologies LLC President and CEO Ron Perry, UAA Center for Economic Development Executive Director Christi Bell and Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority Business Development Officer Michael Catsi.

Learn more by visiting www.cookinletforum.com.

CIRI is on Facebook! Get the latest CIRI news and updates at facebook.com/cirinews

October/November 2012 volume 37 • issue 7
A year ago, I wrote about the Alaska Federation of Natives' (AFN) progress toward becoming once again a vibrant, innovative organization that effectively represents the collective, yet broad interests of Alaska Native people. I wrote about how as a delegate in 2009, I was pleased to vote to approve AFN Resolution 09-05, which directed the AFN board to undertake a process to widen representation of its membership while streamlining its governance. Delegates to the 2009 convention believed this type of reorganization is necessary to increase AFN's effectiveness and to make the organization relevant once again to Alaska Native people and their institutions.

Progress of reorganization has been slow in spite of the concerted efforts by a small band of people dedicated to fulfilling the reorganization mandate. We should know shortly, however, whether all these efforts are for naught as the AFN board once again takes up reorganization at its December meeting.

Responding to Resolution 09-05, for two years, a Leadership Committee represented by appointees from each of the twelve regions studied AFN, its mission and purpose, its current organization and membership. When the Leadership Committee presented a series of meaningful options on May 3, 2011, to the AFN board of directors, all of the options were rejected. Disappointingly, the AFN board did not provide any alternative solutions or identify next steps in answering the mandates of AFN Resolution 09-05.

This outcome was not acceptable to many of us who strongly feel AFN needs to be reorganized. The CIRI Board carefully discussed the matter and we made a request to the AFN co-chairs to address the situation. Some organizations, such as CITC, also gave notice that in order to justify continued funding, the AFN board needed to embrace reorganization. Faced with these demands, the AFN board met in special session and formed a new Executive Governance committee.

The Executive committee is tasked with once again bringing recommendations for reorganization and bylaw changes forward for the AFN board's consideration at the December 2012 AFN board meeting. CIRI's own Greg Razo was appointed by a unanimous vote to serve as board chair for this newly formed committee and he is working hard to bring this to some resolution. It is too early to tell whether Greg's hard work will be successful, but I am grateful that he is giving it his best effort.

There is little doubt that the emergence of strong regional Alaska Native organizations has impacted AFN. Since the passage of ANCSA, Alaska Native corporations have grown into Alaska's economic powerhouses, delivering statewide economic benefits, including jobs, revenue and resource development. Within each of our regions, strong nonprofit affiliates are also operating. All of our regional organizations have steadily enhanced the quality of life of tens of thousands of Alaska Native people.

With the development of strong regional organizations, one might wonder why AFN is needed. More than forty-five years ago, Alaska Native leaders realized that Alaska Native people needed to galvanize politically if they were to have a say in the resolution of land claims and the structure of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). They knew that a statewide organization was needed to take input from across the state and to bridge cultural and regional differences. Thus, AFN, the first Alaska Native statewide institution, was created to drive political change and, in the process, negotiate the provisions of ANCSA.

Today, AFN remains the only organization that has legitimate authority to call all Alaska Native people into a statewide convention. No regional organization has this authority. And meeting the needs of Alaska Native people statewide, expressed through the political process, remains a crucial role for AFN.

CIRI's desires for AFN are twofold. First, we would like to see broader representation at AFN, where tribal entities and other Alaska Native organizations feel that they have a stake in the viability of AFN. Second, bringing more entities into the fold cannot be done without tightening the governance mechanisms of AFN. We suggest a smaller governance board that would oversee the organization, its budgets, and its performance and outcomes so that more accountability to its members is achieved.

When the AFN delegates at the 2009 Convention left the floor of the convention, having passed the Resolution 09-05, those delegates wisely recognized hard work is needed to restore AFN's clout and relevancy. Now, with little to show that there has been any progress made in the intervening years, a sense of urgency hangs in the air.

Alaska Native people, through AFN, the very organization they created, were seated at the negotiating table when the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act was crafted. With this incredible legacy to protect and with political challenges in the future, I am both hopeful and fearful: hopeful that the AFN board finds a way to ensure that the AFN remains relevant to broader Alaska Native interests, and fearful that without embracing the change demanded by the AFN convention delegates, AFN's very existence is in jeopardy.

Margie Brown

CIRI Board of Directors

Thank you to potlatch contributors

CIRI and The CIRI Foundation are grateful to the organizations and individuals that contributed to the 2012 Friendship Potlatches held in October. Tyonek Native Corporation, Salamatoff Native Association, Eklutna Inc., Aleetan Pribilof Island Assoc., CIRI nonprofit organizations and many more helped to make the potlatches possible. Thanks to these organizations and the CIRI staff, Shareholder Participation Committee members and other volunteers, CIRI shareholders and their families enjoyed cultural entertainment, children's activities, Alaska Native arts and crafts booths, door prizes and a delicious meal that included traditional Alaska Native food.

CATC earns ATIA Alyeska Award

The Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA) awarded CIRI Alaska Tourism Corp. (CATC) the Alyeska Award on Oct. 11. The Alyeska Award recognizes a business or an organization for its outstanding leadership, professional excellence and contributions to the Alaska travel industry. CATC was recognized for its quality of tourism product, commitment to environmentally friendly practices and community engagement in Southcentral Alaska.

Learn more about CATC by visiting www.ciritourism.com.
In Touch with shareholders

Birth announcement
CIRI shareholder Justyna Pickering and her family announce the arrival of Braedyn Lee Messenger, born on May 30 to Jessica and Brian Messenger. He weighed 8 pounds, 6 ounces and was 19.5 inches long. He is Pickering’s third grandson.

Birth announcement
CIRI shareholder Myrtilda Morgan of Minnesota announces the birth of her second grandson, Oliver Dean Staab, born July 17 to Rob and Sarah Staab. Welcoming him includes great-grandparents Lorraine and Monte Dodd, grandparents Kim and Kathy Staab, great aunts Judy Lewis and Mae Sllook, and big sister, Jessa.

Shareholder promoted
CIRI is pleased to announce the promotion of CIRI shareholder Cheryl Bailey to CIRI corporate accountant, energy and resources. Bailey began her career with CIRI more than nine years ago when she started as a seasonal CIRI Alaska Tourism Corp. employee. She has also held positions at CIRI as an accounting clerk, executive assistant for the finance and accounting department and budget analyst with the real estate department. Bailey will graduate in December 2012 from Alaska Pacific University with a double-major bachelor’s degree in accounting and business administration and management with a nonprofit emphasis. She is a board member of Breast Cancer Focus Inc. and a member of the Sigma Delta Honor Society.

Shareholder earns second MBA
CIRI shareholder Dorothy Anagick received a master’s degree in Government Contracts from The George Washington University School of Business on May 4 in Washington, D.C. Anagick holds an MBA from San Francisco State University and a bachelor of science degree from Menlo College.

Shareholder celebrates graduation, promotion, anniversary
CIRI shareholder Marina Haynes graduated from the University of Alaska Anchorage Dental Hygiene Program in May. She was promoted from dental assistant to dental hygienist at Southcentral Foundation Dental Clinic in July. Haynes and her husband, CIRI shareholder William Arnold Nielsen, celebrated their second wedding anniversary on July 31.

Descendant graduates
CIRI descendant and The CIRI Foundation recipient Joel Isaak graduated from the University of Alaska Fairbanks with a bachelor of fine arts in sculpture on May 13. Isaak is the son of CIRI shareholder Sharon Isaak and her husband, David Isaak, of Soldotna. The Isaaks thank The CIRI Foundation for supporting Joel Isaak’s educational goals.

Shareholder accepts position with subsidiary
CIRI shareholder Jack Razo was hired as an assistant property manager with Pacific Tower Properties Management Inc., a CIRI company. He is the acting lead property manager for several CIRI-owned buildings in Anchorage. His father, Gregory Razo, is CIRI shareholder and vice president of government contracting, and his grandfather Aileen Razo, and great-grandmother Matrona FitzHugh, were original CIRI shareholders.

Shareholder dedicates life to public service
Charles G. Anderson

Charles G. Anderson, CIRI president and chief executive officer, said the health and well-being of Alaska Native and American Indian people caught the attention of the National Indian Health Board, which recently honored him with an award of appreciation. (See story, page 5.)

It’s all about making life better for people,” he said.

Anderson has never been afraid of hard work, which seems to be a family trait. His father, Charles Gustav Anderson, left Sweden in the early 1900s and found his way to Seward, where he built a boat and sailed to Kodiak. There, he met and married Nellie Simeonoff, a Russian Aleut. As what passed for a honeymoon in those days, the newlyweds were dropped off by a cannonry tender in Chininita Bay in the fall, and made arrangements for a pickup in the spring. They built a cabin, then spent the winter trapping. Spring came, but with the bay still frozen, no boat. They were close to starving until the ice began to thaw and a hooligan run came along to sustain them.

Anderson was their second child, born on a mink ranch on Long Island sound of Kodiak, and was raised in Kodiak.

“A lot of what we did back then was fishing, hunting and cutting wood in support of our subsistence lifestyle,” he said. “My father passed away when I was 16. Then I began working to help support our family. We ate from nature’s grocery store. Whatever health I have today, I attribute to that.”

Anderson joined the APD in 1953. His second day out of the gate was a scene right out of a movie when, pursuing a gunman inside the old federal building, he and the suspect ran smack into each other, the suspect went down and the gun went scooting across the floor. After working his way through the ranks, he became chief of police just in time for Anchorage’s rowdy Pipeline days.

He and his wife, Georgia, have been married 60 years. Their daughter, Patti Julussen, lives in Eagle River. They lost their son, “Charlie,” to a brain tumor in April 2011. ‘Told he had six months to live, Charlie lived six years. It was a rough six years, but he made the most of them and inspired many along the way.

“He was an absolutely great guy,” said Anderson, who was best man at his son’s wedding. “He and I were like best friends.”

Anderson is a graduate of the FBI Academy and the Keeler Polygraph Institute. He has served on numerous boards and commissions, including the Alaska Criminal Justice Commission, the Juvenile Justice Commission, the State Legislative Ethics Committee, the University of Alaska Criminal Justice Advisory Board, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and others.

CIRI Spotlight:
Charles G. Anderson
Shareholder dedicates life to public service

After working as a commercial fisherman beginning at 13, after being drafted into the Army during the Korean War, after working his way from Anchorage Police Department rookie to chief of police, after winning a seat in the Alaska State House of Representatives, after launching a public-safety consulting firm, most would have called it good and retired two decades ago. But Charles G. Anderson is not like most. Since he still has the energy and desire, to stop using it to benefit others would not feel right.

Anderson, 83, has served on CIRI’s Board of Directors since 1987 and as chair since 2005. He has also served as vice chair of Southcentral Foundation’s Board for the past seven years. His devotion to improving the health and well-being of Alaska Native and American Indian people caught the attention of the National Indian Health Board, which recently honored him with an award of appreciation. (See story, page 5.)

By: Margie Brown, CIRI president and chief executive officer

Visit CIRI.COM
CIRI Golf Classic is a hole-in-one for local nonprofits
Fundraising event benefits The Children’s Lunchbox and YWCA Youth Program

Continuing its tradition of commitment to the community, CIRI hosted the 29th annual CIRI Golf Classic in August. With net proceeds of $100,000, this year’s beneficiaries were the YWCA’s Youth Empowerment program and The Children’s Lunchbox “Just a Little Extra” program.

The YWCA Youth Empowerment program will use the funds to help youth in Title I schools develop healthy solutions to conflict in a safe, structured environment. The program helps youth become powerful, courageous and critical thinkers.

The Children’s Lunchbox is a Bean’s Cafe program that directly assists children by giving them food for the weekend, which allows many children a better opportunity to come to school on Mondays focused and ready to learn. Lynette Ortolano, director of the program, said, “The CIRI donation will provide students at Muldoon Elementary School, CIRI’s partner school, with four healthy, easy-to-prepare meals on weekends throughout the school year.” The program also provides meals to students during summer break.

Employees of Peak Oilfield Service Co. launched the golf tournament in 1983 to raise funds for The CIRI Foundation, a CIRI nonprofit. More recently, proceeds have gone to other charitable organizations dedicated to youth and education. Through the years, the tournament has raised about $1.8 million toward this common goal. The 30th annual Golf Classic will be held Aug. 2, 2013.

CIRI is grateful to the many generous sponsors and recognizes the dedicated efforts of the many volunteers. For more information, visit www.cirigolf.com.

Dividend, Elders’ payment news
CIRI will mail or directly deposit the fourth quarter 2012 dividend of $9.93 per share on Dec. 7. Shareholders who own 100 shares of stock will receive $993. Payments from the CIRI Elders’ Settlement Trust will be mailed or directly deposited on Dec. 14 in the amount of $450.

The deadline for signing up for direct deposit or changing an existing direct deposit instruction for the fourth quarter distributions is 3 p.m., Nov. 26. To cancel direct deposit, please submit your signed request in writing no later than 3 p.m., Nov. 26. The deadline for shareholder address changes for the fourth quarter distributions is 3 p.m., Nov. 29. Address change forms can be downloaded from CIRI’s website and mailed to P.O. Box 93330, Anchorage, Alaska 99509-3330, or faxed to (907) 263-5186. Please call the Shareholder Relations Department at (907) 263-5191 or toll-free at (800) 764-2474 to confirm receipt of the fax.

For information on dividend amounts, address changes, direct deposit or lost and missing dividends, visit CIRI’s website. Shareholders can also call CIRI’s dividend hotline at (907) 263-5100 or toll-free at (800) 764-2435.

Annual check distribution
Shareholders who own five or less shares of CIRI stock that are not currently signed up for direct deposit are enrolled in CIRI’s annual check program. Although the amount of these checks is not large, the administrative costs involved in reissuing and accounting for checks not cashed by shareholders is substantial. For this reason, shareholders are urged to cash their annual checks promptly. CIRI will mail the 2012 annual check distribution to annual check program participants on Monday, Dec. 17, 2012. If you receive an annual check, please ensure that the address on your CIRI records is up to date by 3 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 29, 2012.

Fire Island photo contest winner
Lee Hamerski of Anchorage submitted a winning entry to CIRI and the Renewable Energy Alaska Project’s Fire Island Photo Contest, and won a trip for two to Fire Island.

Andrew Sandefur, Chet Bennett, Leverette Hoover and Dana Curtis of the Siemens team pose for a team photo at the 2012 CIRI Golf Classic.
CITC redesigns website Features easy navigability, greater emphasis on fundraising

Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC) is pleased to announce the launch of their newly redesigned website, developed to serve its participants, employees, community partners and the general public. The site is easily navigable and includes up-to-date news and pertinent information about its programs, services and opportunities for community support.

“ar the goal was to have an intuitive, useful and well-organized web experience that improves our organization’s communication and fundraising efforts, while promoting CITC’s mission within the community,” said Tim Blum, CITC external communication officer. “We think we’ve achieved that.”

Highlights of the redesigned site include:

- Information about programs and eligibility details – all presented clearly with next-step instructions
- Links to partner organizations, community resources and information on CITC’s tribal affiliations
- Stakeholders and community partners can view CITC’s impact through a variety of timely news features, announcements, statistics and achievements
- Potential donors and sponsors can be a part of CITC’s mission by straightforwardly accessing information about how to get involved with CITC programs, services and events.

CITC’s mission is to “work in partnership with our people to develop opportunities that fulfill our endless potential.” Established in 1983, CITC serves more than 12,000 people each year through an array of integrated programs that include educational, employment and training services, child and family services and recovery and re-entry services.

To learn more, visit www.citci.org.

CIRI Board chair and vice chair of Southcentral Foundation’s board of directors Charles G. Anderson was recognized with the 2012 National Indian Health Board Area/Regional Award on Sept. 26. The award pays tribute to Anderson for his dedication to improving Alaska Native and American Indian health care.

The award was presented during the National Indian Health Board’s (NIHB) 29th Annual Consumer Conference in Denver, Colo. The annual NIHB conference brings together tribal leaders, tribal health administrators, area health boards, health care professionals and individuals to discuss successes, challenges, opportunities and the future of health care for American Indian and Alaska Native people.
Mark your calendar!
TCF December deadline

The CIRI Foundation’s (TCF) General Scholarship Mid-Year award and Vocational Training Grant award deadline is Dec. 1. The awards are offered to degree-seeking students and students enrolled in a vocational training program or a certificate program. Applications must be submitted online by Dec. 1 to receive consideration.

Please note that students awarded a General Scholarship Mid-Year award at the Dec. 1 deadline must reapply at the June 1 deadline to receive consideration for funding toward the 2013-2014 academic year.

You must have an online user account with TCF in order to apply. Approval for an account may take up to 48 hours, so please apply early. Applicants may complete their applications online at www.thecirifoundation.org. For more information, contact TCF by phone at (800) 764-3382 or (907) 793-3575, or by email at tcf@thecirifoundation.org.

Visit www.thecirifoundation.org to apply now

ANHC receives Governor’s Award
Honored for distinguished service to the humanities

The Alaska Native Heritage Center (ANHC) was selected as a 2012 recipient of the Governor’s Awards for the Arts and Humanities for its distinguished service to the humanities. The Awards for the Humanities is an annual series of awards honoring the contribution of individuals and groups that enrich the civic, intellectual and cultural life of all Alaskans through the wisdom and techniques of the humanities. Once a year, citizens and organizations from around the state are honored as the recipients of the Governor’s Awards.

The awards are sponsored by the Alaska Humanities Forum, the Alaska State Council on the Arts, and the Office of the Governor with generous support from ConocoPhillips Alaska and BP. The award was presented during a dinner at the Hotel Captain Cook on Oct. 18.

CIHA celebrates grand opening of Loussac Place
New development revives neighborhood

Cook Inlet Housing Authority (CIHA) celebrated the official grand opening of Loussac Place on Oct. 3. CIHA’s latest development, located in mid-town Anchorage. Loussac Place was developed in partnership with the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) to convert 62 units of outdated public housing formerly known as Loussac Manor into 120 units of quality, affordable housing.

“Loussac Place brought a lot of thoughtful and talented people together,” said Carol Gore, CIHA president and CEO. “To us, it is a clear demonstration that working together at the local level doesn’t just work – it matters. We know building quality, affordable housing matters to everyone – especially to the residents of Loussac Place who are so grateful to be home.”

Loussac Place offers a variety of housing sizes from one- to four-bedroom units, including nine fully accessible apartments. As of the grand opening date, CIHA had received 578 applications, nearly five applicants for every apartment. Ninety applications have been approved, and 63 families have moved into their new homes. Construction on the final buildings of Loussac Place will be completed in early December and all of the new residents will be moved into their new homes by Christmas. Learn more about Loussac Place and CIHA by visiting www.cookinlethousing.org.

ANHC President and CEO Annette Evans Smith accepts a 2012 Governor’s Award with supporters. From left, Alutiiq Museum Executive Director Sven Haakanson, The CIRI Foundation President and CEO Susan Anderson, ANHC Vice President of Cultural and Educational Services Ethan Petticrew, ANHC Cultural Program Coordinator Marge Nakak, ANHC Board Chair Jeff Kinnerevaak, ANHC Director of Sales and Marketing Melissa Saunders and ANHC Development Manager Dewey Hoffman.

Learn more about Stock Wills at CIRI.com
Shareholders of the Year
Continued from page 1

Agnes was an activist for the passage of ANCSA and a founding AFN board member. She served as president and chair of Tyonek Native Corp. from its inception in 1973 until 1986.

Agnes holds the distinction of being the longest serving woman on CIRI’s Board, having served from 1974 to 2011. At the first CIRI board meeting, she was appointed assistant secretary, and to both the Executive Committee and Land Negotiating Committee. She played a critical role as a member of the Land Negotiating Committee, working diligently to ensure that CIRI obtained resource-rich lands in the Southcentral region that retained similar characteristics to lands traditionally used. These efforts eventually led to the Cook Inlet Land Exchange, a deal pivotal to CIRI’s success, and because of ANCSA’s 7(i) provision, a stabilizing factor for other Alaska Native corporations that were struggling at the time.

Today, Brown serves as president of Kaloa and Co., a family-owned fishing business. She is a trustee of the CIRI Elders’ Settlement Trust, a director of Cook Inlet Tribal Council and serves on the Southcentral Foundation Traditional Healing Advisory Council.

Elder Shareholder of the Year

The 2012 CIRI Elder of the Year is Ernie ‘Big Bear’ Berestoff of Spokane, Wash. Berestoff was born hard of hearing and overcame life obstacles to succeed. His accomplishments continue to benefit his community.

Berestoff was born Dec. 21, 1931, to Olga Berestoff during the Great Depression. Hardship forced his mother to place him in the Jesse Lee Home, a boarding school and orphanage, where he lived until he was four years old, when a Seattle family with a deaf son took him into their home. He remained with that family and attended regular day school until April 1947, when he enrolled in the Washington School for the Deaf.

There, Berestoff became known for his athletic talents in basketball and boxing, and was honored as an All Star and All American Athlete. He fell in love with the school and with a green-eyed classmate, Adele Hurst, whom he married on Dec. 20, 1952. He and Adele had three children.

Berestoff went on to make a career as a linotype printing machine operator. He helped establish the Hearing Loss Center in Spokane, Wash., where he served on the board of directors. In 2011, Ernie was inducted into the Washington School for the Deaf Alumni Association Hall of Fame for his athletic accomplishments and community activities.

One of Ernie’s favorite pastimes is fishing with his sons, grandchildren and friends.

Gov. Parnell names ANHC’s Annette Evans Smith to Alaska Native Language Council

Council advises governor, legislature on Native language programs, policies, projects

Gov. Sean Parnell appointed Stephen Walkie Charles, Delores Churchill, April Gale Laktanon Councillor, Bernadette Yaasuk Alvanna-Stimpfle and Alaska Native Heritage Center (ANHC) President and CEO Annette Evans Smith to the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council. The Council advises both the governor and the Alaska State Legislature on programs, policies and projects to provide for the preservation, restoration and revitalization of Alaska Native languages in the state. All of the appointments to the council represent professional language experts.

Under Evans Smith’s leadership, ANHC has initiated a study to identify Alaska Native language learners, and plans to connect Alaska Native residents in Anchorage to the language programs that exist across Alaska. Evans Smith is actively learning the Yup’ik language through her grandmother.

In Memory

Axel J. Beltz, 51
Axel J. Beltz passed away July 31 at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage. Mr. Beltz was born Aug. 18, 1960, in Anchorage. He is survived by his wife, Donna Beltz; daughter, Bee Avellaneda; mother, Arne Beltz; and brother, William Beltz.

Walter G. Buretz, 82
Walter G. Buretz passed away April 10 at the Washington County Health Center in Washington, Pa. Mr. Buretz was born in Feb. 1930, in Brownsville, Pa. He is survived by his son, Daniel W. Buretz, and friend, Emma Colborn.

Douglas B. Coven, 61
Douglas B. Coven passed away Aug. 15 in Eustis, Fla. Mr. Coven was born June 29, 1951, in Anchorage. He is survived by his sisters, Cheryl Coven Hyde and Janis Boyd, and brother, Ronald Coven.

John Charles Eads, 66
John Charles Eads passed away July 29 at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage. Mr. Eads was born in Seward, Alaska. He is survived by his daughter, Deanne Moore; granddaughter, Bree Avellaneda; mother, John “Mac” Eads; and sister, Ava Eads.

Vyola M. Jacobs, 63
Vyola M. Jacobs passed away July 3 in Anchorage. Ms. Jacobs was born March 28, 1949, in Bethel, Alaska. She is survived by her daughter, Mossa Nema Taylor.
In Memory

Douglas Joseph LaBarge, 55
Douglas Joseph LaBarge passed away July 13, 2011, at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Marshfield, Wis. Mr. LaBarge is survived by his sons, Kory and Brett LaBarge; grandchildren, Katie, Brett Jr., Sevren, Raymond, Alyson, Gavin and Kory Jr.; brothers, Edward “Rocky” LaBarge Jr. and Bill Kalmakoff; and sisters, Carol Ann Pehlke, Charlene Bickford, Arlene “Tina” Skavland and Michelle Kalmakoff.

Matushka Lubov Osokolkoff, 71
Matushka Lubov Osokolkoff passed away March 15 at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage. Matushka Osokolkoff was born June 29, 1940, in Ellamar, Alaska. She is survived by her daughter, Ann-Marie Osokolkoff; son, Gregory Osokolkoff; and sisters, Sylvia Allen and Devona Jensen. Her husband, Father Simeon Osokolkoff, passed away in June 2011.

Rev. Father Simeon Osokolkoff, 81
Rev. Father Simeon Osokolkoff passed away June 22, 2011, at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage. Father Osokolkoff was born on Jan. 16, 1930, in Anchorage. He is survived by his daughter, Ann-Marie Osokolkoff; son, Gregory Osokolkoff; and sisters, Louise Sambo and Selma Leman; and brother, Paul Osokolkoff. His wife, Matushka Lubov Osokolkoff, preceded him in death in March.

Lena Penelope Roe, 85
Lena Penelope Roe passed away Aug. 9, 2011, at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage. Ms. Roe was born Jan. 28, 1926, in Kaltag, Alaska. She is survived by her daughter, Karen Stevens; grandchildren, Jason Greatreaks, Jeremy Greatreaks, Gerald Maska, Veronica Williamson, Ronald C. Williamson Jr., Sergei and Sara; great-grandchildren, Antoine and Navach; and sisters, Olga Solomon and Lina Edwin.

Erick Edland Simpson, 55
Erick Edland Simpson passed away Nov. 22, 2011, at Harborview in Valdez, Alaska. Mr. Simpson was born Feb. 29, 1956, in Ketchikan, Alaska. He is survived by his parents, James L. and Gloria Simpson; brothers, Ronald N. Simpson and Terry L. Simpson; and nephew, James G. Simpson.

Larry Southard, 62
Larry Southard passed away June 28 in Las Vegas, Nev. Mr. Southard was born in Sitka, Alaska. He is survived by his son, Trevor Southward; mother, Martha Southard; and brother, Daniel Southard.

Carl Erick Steik, 64
Carl Erick Steik passed away June 20 at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage. Mr. Steik was born June 23, 1947, to Christopher and Julia (Crawford) Steik. He was a U.S. Navy veteran and worked as a plumber for Plumbers Local 367 and Alaska United Food Local 1496. He enjoyed going for walks, photographing Alaska scenery, sharing his homemade smoked fish and growing flowers and giving them away. He is survived by his daughters, Kimberly Meriweather, April Steik and Melissa Petty; son, Shawn Steik; sisters, Marian Hostetter, Doris Kelly and Shirley Warner; brothers, Alvin, John, Mike and Eugene Steik; and many nieces, nephews and grandchildren.

Myrtle Mae Strickler Seeber Stevens, 70
Myrtle Mae Strickler Seeber Stevens passed away July 22 at Renown Regional Medical Center in Reno, Nev. Ms. Stevens was born March 25, 1942, in Ketchikan, Alaska. She is survived by her daughter, Ann-Marie Oskolkoff; son, Gregory Oskolkoff; and sisters, Carol Ann Pehlke, Charlene Bickford, Almar, Allyson, Gavin and Kory Jr.; brothers, Melvin, Allyson LaBarge; grandchildren, Katie, Brett Jr., Sevren, Raymond, Alyson, Gavin and Kory Jr.; brothers, Edward “Rocky” LaBarge Jr. and Bill Kalmakoff; and sisters, Carol Ann Pehlke, Charlene Bickford, Arlene “Tina” Skavland and Michelle Kalmakoff.

Carl Erick Steik passed away June 20 at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage. Mr. Steik was born June 23, 1947, to Christopher and Julia (Crawford) Steik. He was a U.S. Navy veteran and worked as a plumber for Plumbers Local 367 and Alaska United Food Local 1496. He enjoyed going for walks, photographing Alaska scenery, sharing his homemade smoked fish and growing flowers and giving them away. He is survived by his daughters, Kimberly Meriweather, April Steik and Melissa Petty; son, Shawn Steik; sisters, Marian Hostetter, Doris Kelly and Shirley Warner; brothers, Alvin, John, Mike and Eugene Steik; and many nieces, nephews and grandchildren.

Erick Edland Simpson passed away Nov. 22, 2011, at Harborview in Valdez, Alaska. Mr. Simpson was born Feb. 29, 1956, in Ketchikan, Alaska. He is survived by his parents, James L. and Gloria Simpson; brothers, Ronald N. Simpson and Terry L. Simpson; and nephew, James G. Simpson.

Larry Southard passed away June 28 in Las Vegas, Nev. Mr. Southard was born in Sitka, Alaska. He is survived by his son, Trevor Southward; mother, Martha Southard; and brother, Daniel Southard.

Carl Erick Steik, 64
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Myrtle Mae Strickler Seeber Stevens, 70
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CIRI shareholder Susan Canipe owns Full Circle Haida Tlingit Creations in Anchorage. The shareholder-owned business sells Southeast Alaska-themed lanyards and jewelry. Canipe was born in Anchorage and is Tlingit of the Eagle Moiety, belonging to the Taasgaweedani Clan. For more information and to view photo galleries of the handmade creations visit the Full Circle Haida Tlingit Creations Facebook page at www.facebook.com/FullCircleHaidaTlingitCreations.