

COYA 2012

The NORTH is the Future



CONFERENCE OF YOUNG ALASKANS (COYA)
OUR PLACE IN ALASKA; ALASKA'S PLACE IN THE WORLD
JANUARY 4-7, 2012 • JUNEAU, ALASKA – CENTENNIAL HALL

HOSTED BY THE INSTITUTE OF THE NORTH • BROADCAST PARTNER: 360 NORTH – DELIVERED LIVE, STATEWIDE ON GAVEL TO GAVEL



Welcome Delegates -

Along with the dedicated 2012 COYA Steering Committee, I enthusiastically welcome you to this unique event! We are excited to host the 2012 Conference of Young Alaskans in our state's capitol and hope that you are swept up in the energy and atmosphere of possibility here in Juneau.

Over the next few days, you'll be part of a conversation addressing the critical issues facing Alaska. Representing 28 communities from across the state, you each have a unique and valuable perspective. Adapting the lessons learned from others and sharing our experiences while building relationships along the way is an integral part of leadership. I hope that you will keep this in mind as you tackle these challenging issues. It is up to each of you to embrace the opportunity to lead by integrating new ideas and best practices and by strengthening partnerships.

Governor Hickel spoke often of the "obligations of ownership." Though I know that by the phrase he was referring to the responsibilities that come with citizenship to manage our resources for the maximum benefit of all, I like to think it has a broader meaning of ambassadorship. Ambassadorship is an obligation Alaskans have both in how we engage with one another and how we represent our communities and our state on a national and international stage.

As you work together to develop a vision and to propose actions for the state and its people, we thank you for your commitment to this Great Land, where each of us acts as an Alaska ambassador. We hope you return home to your communities and your places of work and education better informed, more energized and more committed to Alaska than ever before.

Sincerely,

*Nils Andreassen,
Managing Director
Institute of the North*





COYA BACKGROUND

In 2006, the first Conference of Young Alaskans (COYA) took place in Fairbanks to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Constitutional Convention. The 55 young delegates at that conference came away feeling like they had been part of something special, that they had created something unique and that they could make a difference in the future of their state. They insisted the experience be replicated and expanded. With that in mind, the second COYA was held in 2009 to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Alaska's Statehood.

COYA DESCRIPTION

Framed by historic and current lessons, young leaders ages 16-25 apply their knowledge and creativity to visions, goals, and proposed actions for the state and its people. Representing a diverse array of communities, delegates deliberate on five topic areas and produce a final document, which represents the consensus of the group. In addition to this report, the delegates develop respect for Alaska's past and present leaders, discover insights into the challenges facing the diverse regions of Alaska, and find inspiration for making a positive difference in our State's future.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Conference of Young Alaskans is to connect young Alaskans to a rich history, a vibrant present and a thriving future.

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2012

11am

Transportation to University of Alaska Southeast

11:30am

Welcome and Lunch - *Glacier View Room*

- Chancellor **John Pugh**, University of Alaska Southeast
 - **Terin Porter** and **Galen Pospisil**, 2012 COYA co-chairs
-

12:15pm

Alaska's Place in the World - *Library*

- Lieutenant Governor **Mead Treadwell**
-

1pm

Break

Delegates continue to arrive -- delegates will be met at airport and transported to UAS

1:15pm

Alaska Primer – introduction and agenda

Get Up to Speed – Speed Dating Subject Matter Experts

Learning stations: Delegates will have time to “interview” nine subject matter experts (SMEs) over the course of this session. No more than 4 delegates per subject matter expert per transition. Nine transitions will take place; you must spend a round with at least one SME in each category.

Economic Resilience and Fiscal Policy

- Alaska Permanent Fund - **Mike Burns**, Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation
- Diversification – **Rick Wolk**, University of Alaska Southeast
- Alaska Economy – **Jim Calvin**, McDowell Group

Education and Workforce Development

- Labor Statistics - **Caroline Schultz**, Economist, Research and Analysis Division, DOL&WD
- STEM - **Mary Hakala**, STEM Coordinator, Juneau Economic Development Council
- Local Hire – **Matt Carle**, Alyeska Pipeline Service Co.
- Education – **Joseph Reeves**, Associate Executive Director, Association of Alaska School Boards
- Workforce Development - **Todd Bergman**, Alaska Process Industry Career Consortium

Energy and Power

- Renewable Energy – **Chris Rose**, Renewable Energy Alaska Project
- Energy - **Meera Kohler**, Alaska Village Electric Cooperative
- Resource Development - **Deantha Crockett**, Resource Development Council of Alaska

Ilakuyulluta (Living Harmoniously)

- State Demographics - **Eddie Hunsinger**, State Demographer, DOL&WD
- Tribal Health - **Libby Watanabe**, SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium
- Transportation - **Jeff Ottesen**, Department of Transportation & Public Facilities and **Bruce Carr**, Alaska Railroad
- Language - **Lance Twitchell**, UAS Assistant Professor of Alaska Native Languages (*invited*)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2012 CONTINUED

☐ **Natural Resources and the Environment**

- Healthy Ecosystems - **Jon Waterhouse**, Yukon River Intertribal Watershed Council
- Alaska Economy - **Jonathan King**, Northern Economics
- Sustainable Fisheries - **Hannah Lindoff**, Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute
- Mining - **Jan Trigg**, Coeur Alaska; and **Mike Satre**, Council of Alaska Producers

3pm
Energizer

3:15pm
Panel presentation – **Alaska Governance Landscape**

☐ **Governance overview and relationships**

- Commissioner **Susan Bell**, DCCED, State of Alaska
- **Susanne Fleek**, Office of Senator Begich
- **Jesse Kiehl**, Assembly, City and Borough of Juneau
- **Edward Thomas**, President, Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (*invited*)

4:30pm
Transportation to hotel

5:30pm
Pick up from hotel, transportation to Old Territorial Hall

6pm
Ambassador Dinner at Old Territorial Hall

Welcome Address

- Senator **Lisa Murkowski** (video)

Evening Keynote

- Chancellor **Brian Rogers**, University of Alaska Fairbanks
- **Ian-Michael Hebert**, founder, Conference of Young Alaskans

Introducing yourself/sharing of individual goals with established Alaska leaders

- Admiral **Thomas Barrett**, President and CEO, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company
- **Joseph Beedle**, President and CEO, Northrim Bank
- Mayor **Bruce Botelho**, City and Borough of Juneau
- Senator **Dennis Egan**, Alaska State Legislature
- **Brian Holst**, Executive Director, Juneau Economic Development Council
- **Katie Hurley** 1955 Constitutional Convention Chief Clerk
- Representative **Cathy Munoz**, Alaska State Legislature
- Chancellor **John Pugh**, University of Alaska Southeast
- Chancellor **Brian Rogers**, University of Alaska Fairbanks
- **Dr. Rosita Worl**, President, Sealaska Heritage Institute
- **Shelly Wright**, Executive Director, Southeast Conference

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2012 CONTINUED

8pm

Vision Statements

Break into five working groups; draft vision statement for official content areas

Working Groups Draft Vision Statements

- Economic Resilience and Fiscal Policy**
 - Education and Workforce Development**
 - Energy and Power**
 - Ilakuyulluta (Living Harmoniously)**
 - Natural Resources and the Environment**
-

9:30pm

Reconvene and Present Vision Statements

10pm

Adjourn

Midnight

Curfew

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2012

7am

Breakfast

8am

Opening Ceremonies

- Elder Blessing
- Alaska Flag Song and National Anthem
 - **Megan Wright**, freshman, Juneau-Douglas High School
- Keynote Address
 - **Joseph Beedle**, President and CEO, Northrim Bank

Process and Housekeeping

9am

Goal-Setting

Break into assigned priority group. Brainstorm as many goals for your topic as you can think of. Reflect on duplication/synergy and combine goals where possible.

9:45am

Rotate to 2nd priority - your choice

Contribute to existing goals; add new goal if you see something missing; vote with allocation of dots to show support for priorities

10:15am

Break

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2012 CONTINUED

10:30am

Rotate to 3rd priority - your choice

Contribute to existing goals; add new goal if you see something missing; vote with allocation of dots to show support for priorities

11am

Finalization of Priorities - return to assigned priority group

Selection of priority goals and presenters

11:30am

Lunch

12:15pm

Our Place in Alaska

- Admiral **Thomas Barrett**, President, Alyeska Pipeline Service Co.
-

12:45pm

How to Use Consensor

1pm

Goal Selection

Explanation of process: Presentation, Discussion, Voting

- Topic representatives present goals
 - Discussion of goals, time for advocating goals
 - Consensor session: selecting/prioritize 5 goals and topical question
-

1:15pm

Working Group One Goals

Topic group presentation, full group discussion and Consensor session

2pm

Working Group Two Goals

Topic group presentation, full group discussion and Consensor session

2:45pm

Break and Energizer

3pm

Working Group Three Goals

Topic group presentation, full group discussion and Consensor session

3:45pm

Working Group Four Goals

Topic group presentation, full group discussion and Consensor session

4:30pm

Break

AGENDA

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2012 CONTINUED

4:45pm

Working Group Five Goals

Topic group presentation, full group discussion and Consensor session

5:30pm

Wrap up and Announcements

5:45pm

Transportation to dinner

6pm

Dinner at Hanger Ballroom

- **Bernie Karl**, Chena Hot Springs
 - **Marian Call**, singer/songwriter
-

8pm

Return to Centennial Hall

8:30pm

Alaska Media: The Basics, and How to Navigate the Media and Public Opinion

- **David Shurtleff**, Strategies 360
-

10pm

Adjourn

Midnight

Curfew

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 2012

7am

Breakfast

8am

Inspiration and Iñupiat Ilitqusiat

- **Liz Moore**, Community and Government Affairs Manager, NANA
-

8:30am

Action Items

Break into assigned priority group. Brainstorm as many action items for your topic as you can think of. Reflect on duplication/synergy and combine actions where possible.

9:15am

Rotate to 2nd priority - your choice

Contribute to existing actions; add new items if you see something missing; vote with allocation of dots to show support for priorities

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 2012

9:45am
Break

10am
Rotate to 3rd priority - your choice
Contribute to existing actions; add new items if you see something missing; vote with allocation of dots to show support for priorities

10:30am
Finalization of Priorities - return to assigned priority group
Selection of priority action items and presenters

11am
Alaska at 100 - Brave New Alaskan Voices
○ **Kima Hamilton** and **Trey “Free Thought” Josey**, Different by Design

Noon
Lunch

12:30pm
Young ‘Treds (Percha Kuchu)
Rapid fire presentation format that allows big ideas to be shared easily, concisely, and efficiently. Five discussion leaders shape a compelling dialogue by presenting 20 slides - no text, only pictures - for 20 seconds apiece. When the leaders have concluded their presentations, delegates move into smaller groups for an in-depth exchange. Groups will report out in plenary.
○ **Patrick Race**, Partner, Lucid Reverie
○ **Marian Call**, social media entrepreneur
○ **Tyler Arnold**, Co-Founder, SimplySocial

1:30pm
Action Item Selection – Presentation, Discussion, Voting
○ Topic representatives present goals
○ Discussion of goals, time for advocating goals
○ Consensor session: selecting/prioritize 5 goals and topical question

1:45pm
Working Group One Actions
Topic group presentation, full group discussion and Consensor session

2:30pm
Working Group Two Actions
Topic group presentation, full group discussion and Consensor session

3:15pm
Break and Energizer

AGENDA

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 2012 CONTINUED

3:30pm

Working Group Three Actions

Topic group presentation, full group discussion and Consensor session

4:15pm

Working Group Four Actions

Topic group presentation, full group discussion and Consensor session

5pm

Break

5:15pm

Working Group Five Actions

Topic group presentation, full group discussion and Consensor session

6pm

Wrap up and Announcements

6:15pm

Transportation to dinner

6:30pm

Dinner at Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall

Poetry Slam

8:15pm

Transportation to Centennial Hall

8:30pm

Unanimous Consent and Challenge Items

Review action items. Delegates can cross off any action item that they don't support. Any action items that are remaining, have unanimous support and will be put into a letter or resolution. This letter or resolution will be sent to policy makers, shapers and administrators across the state.

Remaining action items can be considered for challenge. Challenges must be submitted by midnight and require 12 signatures and suggested amendment (using challenge/amendment form).

10pm

Adjourn and return to hotel

Midnight

Challenge Items and Nominations for Legislative Delegation due and Curfew

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 2012

Remember to pack and be out of your room by 7:00am (no need to check out individually). Unless your departure is not until Sunday, please have your luggage packed and stored by this time. All luggage will be stored at the hotel's front desk during today's events and loaded on bus for transport to airport.

7am
Breakfast

7:30am

Thinking Politically

- **Clive Thomas**, Washington State University, formerly of University of Alaska Southeast
-

8am

Plenary Session

Challenge items raised, discussion, and voting

*In order to address controversial issues in a way that will note differences of opinion, **delegates will decide whether Challenge items should require majority, 2/3 or 3/4 vote to adopt.***

9:30am

Final document approval with Consensor

Selections for Legislative Delegation - March 14-16

Signatures of delegates on report and letter/resolution.

10am

Final reflections

Evaluation

11am

Adjourn

Delegates depart -- ground transportation to airport will be provided

DIRECTORY OF DELEGATES



Hannah Atkinson
Lewis & Clark College

Home has been Kotzebue, AK for the last six years. I graduated from Kotzebue High School in 2010 while my father managed the AC store and my mother did budgeting for the National Parks Service. I now attend Lewis and Clark College in Portland, OR, seeking a degree in anthropology. I look forward to returning to Alaska for the summer of 2012 to do archaeological fieldwork in the sub arctic and arctic regions.



Jean Bennett
Craig H.S.

I have lived in Alaska for my entire life. I was born in Juneau, Alaska and lived in Hoonah for about five years. I then moved to Craig on Prince of Wales Island where I currently reside. I am a junior attending Craig High School and I enjoy working with kids and in the community. I am involved in many activities such as guitar, basketball, a volunteer group, and supporting our service men and women. I hope by attending COYA this year that I will be able to bring back new ideas to my own community.



Paige Bowen
Barrow H.S.

I am the daughter of Sue and Guy Bowen. I was born and have lived all my life in Barrow Alaska. Currently I am a junior and attend Barrow High School (BHS). I enjoy playing the Piano. I played at various events in town as well as our church. I took my first lesson in 2003. I enjoy all kinds of music, love movie themes, classical music, pop and a little jazz. I like to bake, and enjoy sleeping, eating, running and shooting baskets with friends. I have developed some computer skills and enjoy video and picture editing and texting and sharing photos with friends. I read a lot, watch special news programs and try to participate in programs that involve Domestic Violence and Suicide prevention. Both of these issues are a big problem in Alaska and especially in rural Alaska. I am also interested in disaster relief programs; especially ways to mitigate or reduce effects of the devastation. I am also interested in learning more about and ways that I could help with those that suffer from Cancer and Diabetes. Living in the Arctic has made me more aware that we need to develop some means to save and protect our environment. I believe that each of us is not on this planet alone but we are part of a bigger effort to bring dignity to our lives and help others.



Wendi Castellon
Kodiak H.S.

I am seventeen years old and I was born and raised on Kodiak, Alaska also known as, "The Emerald Isle." I have lived here my whole life and love every minute of it because of its gorgeous summers and outdoor sports. During my childhood, I developed an interest in the medical field while still dealing with the ordinary problems faced by any kid growing up in a small town. In August 2010 I decided to attend the Alaska Military Youth Academy. There I flourished and gained focus while taking a multitude of classes. In February 2011, I graduated from the academy with my certifications in hand. Now back in Kodiak, I decided that I wanted to continue the progress I made and return to high school and achieve my diploma. Ever since then, I have been diligently working on my courses and my employability skills. Once completed with these large steps in life, I intend to take yet another one by attending college in Kodiak and completing the CAN course. Finally, my goal is to give back to my community as a successful professional in the medical field.

DIRECTORY OF DELEGATES



Jennifer Chaudhary

University of Alaska Anchorage

Jennifer Dianne Chaudhary was born on May 25, 1993 and grew up in Ketchikan, Alaska. She graduated in the class of 2011 at Ketchikan High School, where she was the Senior Vice-President and Varsity Soccer Captain. Jennifer is currently a freshman at the University of Alaska, Anchorage, where she is studying Political Science. She is also a member of the Forty-Ninth State Fellows, a program within the Honors College. Jennifer has worked several interesting jobs; she has been a florist, a rainforest tour guide, and an intern for Senator Lisa Murkowski. She has an interest in government and politics, and enjoys soccer, swimming, hiking, reading, playing piano, and taking long walks on the beach.



Sonia Christensen

State of Alaska, Office of the Governor

Sonia Christensen was born and raised in Ketchikan and is proud to call it home. She received her high school diploma from Ketchikan High School, her Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Alaska Anchorage, and she is writing her thesis to complete her Master's in Public Administration from the University of Alaska Southeast. Sonia was a delegate for the Conference of Young Alaskans in 2010 and is looking forward to building upon her experience and learning from her fellow young Alaskans. Sonia is currently Governor Sean Parnell's Deputy Legislative Director.



Jon Derman Harris

Stanford University

Jon Derman Harris was born and raised in Anchorage, and is now a sophomore studying product design at Stanford University. At home, Jon was active with West High School's recycling team and he still loves dumpster diving. At school, he tinkers around a machine shop and makes lots of coffee. Jon spent his summers at home commercial fishing in Prince William Sound and playing in his compost pile. He loves to travel, especially with his family, and plans on studying abroad in Italy and China. He spent this past summer working in China and will try to go back again next summer.



Molly Dischner

Peninsula Clarion

Molly Dischner moved to Alaska in August 2006, and has lived in Fairbanks, Skagway and Kenai. A journalist, she has written for more than half a dozen Alaska publications, and loves human-interest and policy stories alike. Resource development, agriculture, education and energy fascinate her. With all respect to Mr. Muir, she finds that rivers and tundra call as strongly as the mountains.



Tiana Elkins

University of Alaska Fairbanks

I am 18 years old, and originally from Molalla, Oregon. I have lived in Barrow, Alaska, for ten years, and graduated from Barrow High School in 2011. Currently, I am attending the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and am majoring in Elementary Education. I'm a runner, wrestler, reader, and writer; once I finish my degree requirements, I will return to Barrow and become a third grade teacher. While there, I will also coach Battle of the Books and cross country running.



Michelle Fernandez

Anchorage Christian School

Filipino born, Alaska grown. I lived in Dutch Harbor for 17 years and had just recently moved to Anchorage. I love my family, friends, school, dancing and traveling, especially on mission trips. I play the piano, bassoon, I swim, and cheer. I enjoy meeting people and just having a great time. I have a passion for helping people, especially kids. I hope someday that I will help make a great impact to change the world for the better.

DIRECTORY OF DELEGATES



Shelby Fisher-Salmon

Cruikshank School

Neekhwanjit doonch'yaa shalak naii? Shoozhrii Ch'indee ghoo oozhii, Dranjik Gwich'in ihl'ii ts'a'Tsee duu gwats'an ihl'ii. Sheyaghan naii Charleen Fisher ts'a' Darryl Salmon goozhii. Shitsuu naii Margaret Ann Fisher ts'a' Minnie Salmon goozhii, Shitsii naii Ginkhii Scott Fisher ts'a' William Salmon goozhii. My name is Shelby Fisher-Salmon and I'm from Beaver, Alaska. I'm Gwich'in Athabascan and I really want to learn my language and continue to practice my culture. I want to get an education and come back to my village and work as a teacher for my community. Mahsi' choh.



Sharayah Foster

The University of Arizona

Sharayah Foster is currently a graduate student studying Public Health with a concentration in Public Health Policy and Management at the University of Arizona's Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health. Currently she is interning at Eastern Aleutian Tribes in Anchorage, AK while working on her thesis with an expected graduation date of December 2011. In 2009 she completed her Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Washington State University. Sharayah was raised in Sand Point, AK where most of her family currently resides and is passionate about Alaskan issues, particularly those pertaining to the health of Alaska's people and communities. Upon completion of her MPH she plans to seek employment in Anchorage at one of the many health organizations serving Alaska Natives.



Penny Gage

Rasmuson Foundation

Penny Gage was raised in southeast Alaska in the communities of Pelican and Sitka. She is a Sealaska shareholder. Penny earned bachelor's degrees in Spanish and communication from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, graduating in 2008. She interned with the Rasmuson Foundation and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Office of External Affairs in Washington, D.C. in 2008, before serving as Community Health volunteer in the U.S. Peace Corps in Nicaragua from 2009-2011. She currently works as a Program Associate at the Rasmuson Foundation and plans to earn her graduate degree in International Relations. Penny is an avid traveler, having studied abroad in Spain and traveled throughout Central and South America during her Peace Corps service. She enjoys speaking Spanish whenever she can, exploring Southeast Alaska's beautiful scenery through hiking and boating, and spending time with her family in Kotzebue and Sitka, including two talkative young nieces.



Jodie Gatti

Ketchikan Charter Boats, Inc.

Jodie Gatti was born and raised in Ketchikan, Alaska by her parents Mark and Jiji Gatti alongside her three sisters and one brother. She graduated in the year 2010 from Ketchikan High School then began attending Scottsdale Community College in Arizona. She plans to get a degree in both Agriculture and Economics in order to help the state earn a more reliable source of income.



Drake Goodson

Ketchikan H.S.

Hello! My name is Drake Goodson; I live in Ketchikan, Alaska and I'm sixteen years old. At the moment I am a junior at Ketchikan High School, a member of the AcDc team, an avid lover of all things academic. I am also an admirer of the banalities, complexities, and idiosyncrasies that make up people! In summation I'm really interested in people and how they tick both in the psychological and biological sense; a passion that I suppose has recently come to my attention. I have a real thirst for knowledge, but not just knowing facts but also knowing why, and how come this and that came about, or what events previously led to this now. I'd like to think I have a sound head on my shoulders and that I'm at least a decent guy. I also would like to think I am a respectful and empathetic human being, who admittedly has a lot of wisdom to gain.

DIRECTORY OF DELEGATES



Samuel Gottstein

Sen. Wielechowski's Office

Sam is a third-generation Alaskan, born and raised in Anchorage. After graduating from Service High School in 2006, Sam attended Yale University, graduating with a BA in History in 2010. His senior essay examined the historical influence of Alaska Natives on military decisions in the 19th century, and the resulting political impacts for Alaska. Sam returned to Alaska to work as a Legislative Aide, which he will continue until he attends law school in the fall of 2012. In his down time, Sam enjoys dancing, hiking, and weather permitting, piloting a small plane.



Glenn Gregoroff

North Pole H.S./FFA

Hello my name is Glenn Gregoroff. I mostly go by Glenn but I also go by glg(My initials pronounced G L G) and Bludgett (Pronounced like budget except you have an L after the B). I have been in Alaska for over ten years through two military pcs's. I have a heavy involvement in leadership and agriculture. I am a high functioning Autism and am proud to have it. I am very friendly so do not be afraid to approach me. I am different than most Aspie's (Term we high functioning autistic individuals call ourselves.) in that I am very social and love to talk. Loud noises such as balloons and loud unexpected noises do startle me so please keep that in mind.



Brad Gusty

Gusty Michael

My name is Brad Gusty and I currently live in Anchorage, Alaska. I was born here but raised in my hometown Stony River almost my whole life. I'm a senior attending East High school where I am finishing my last year. I love to play sports and go snowmachining in the winter and take boat rides in the summer. After high school I have plans to attend the University Santa Barbara, California. But as of now I have no idea in what I want to major in. If I will be doing something my whole life, it's going to be something I love doing.



Kayleen Hansen

Willamette University

I enjoy being involved in my community. During high school, I was Junior Class and Student Body President, Junior Market Livestock President, my local 4H club President, Nikiski Middle/High School Dance Troupe Principal Dancer and Assistant Choreographer, a National Honors Society member, Girls State Delegate, American Legion Orator, ELKS Most Valuable Student, Kenai Peninsula Youth Court attorney, Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee ad hoc member, and participant in both school and community musicals. Right now, I am focusing on my studies as an (undeclared) biology major. I am very excited to attend COYA, and to meet so many fantastic Alaskans. Career Goals: Specialize in cardiothoracic surgery and work with Doctors Without Borders as well as serving in rural Alaska.



Jalene Herron

Gonzaga University

Jalene Herron was raised along the banks of the Kuskokwim River in Bethel with her supportive and loving family. She is the daughter of Bob and Margaret Herron and is nineteen years old. Jalene graduated from Bethel Regional High School in May of 2011. She is currently attending Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington pursuing a degree in Chemistry with a Catholic Studies minor. When she isn't studying, Jalene enjoys a good cup of coffee, singing, watching and cheering on Gonzaga basketball, and exploring Spokane. She also misses her mother's cooking while she is at college as well as her hometown and is always excited to come back to Alaska.

DIRECTORY OF DELEGATES



Lauren Heyano

Polaris K-12

I grew up in South Naknek, Alaska and now live in Anchorage. As such, I am dedicated to improving both rural and urban areas of Alaska. My passions include advocating for public libraries, writing, and playing music. I am looking forward to taking part in COYA this year!



Lila Hobbs

Alaska State Legislature, Legislative Aide

I was born and raised in Anchorage, AK. My greatest passions in life are travel and politics, both of which I discovered in high school. I attended the University of St. Andrews in Scotland and received a bachelor's degree in International Relations. I currently work for Senator French as a Legislative Aide. One of my goals in life is to start my own non-profit organization dealing with refugee relief abroad.



Bryant Hopkins

University of Alaska Fairbanks

Bryant Hopkins is a senior at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He is working to complete a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics along with minors in Physics, Economics, Music and Spanish. Throughout high school, Bryant was extremely active in student government and held the positions of Freshman Class President, Student Body Vice President, and Student Body President at West Valley High School. Along with his responsibilities at school, Bryant served as the student representative to the Fairbanks North Star Borough School Board, the State Board of Education and Early Development, the Alaska Commemorative Coin Commission, and the Alaska History and Cultural Studies Curriculum Project. Bryant also spent two summers in Washington D.C., under the tutelage of the late Senator Ted Stevens, serving as a Senate Page and a Summer Intern. In his spare time, Bryant continues to hone his skills as a cellist. He currently participates in student chamber ensembles at UAF as well as the Northern Lights String Orchestra, the Arctic Chamber Orchestra, and Fairbanks Symphony Orchestra.



Mylinda Johnson

University of Alaska Fairbanks

Mylinda Sue Johnson was born in Fairbanks, Alaska in 1993. She attended high school in Healy, Alaska and is now going to college at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She plans on getting her bachelors of science in nursing and hopes to one day work in the emergency room. Her biggest passions in life are her family and God.



Alissa Joseph

ASDF&G

Alissa Nadine "Anguksuar Qiuran" Joseph is the eldest daughter of Allen Joseph of Hooper Bay and Mardy Hanson of Alakanuk; Granddaughter of Alla & Qiuran Joseph of Hooper Bay and John & Alice Hanson of Alakanuk. She grew up on the Yukon- Kuskokwim Delta living a traditional and modern subsistence lifestyle and traveled Alaska to learn social and environmental sciences. She graduated from Bethel Regional High School before graduating from the Alaska Native Science Engineering Bridging Program, before attending University of Alaska Anchorage, University of Alaska Fairbanks and Kuskokwim University Campus UAF for her Environmental Engineering Degree, which she will graduate with a Masters from Harvard or MIT of her choice in the next few years to come.

Alissa is currently working for Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Boards Support Section for the Western and South Western Regions of the State. Growing her experience to be the first female native as the Commissioner for the State of Alaska and continue advancing higher down the road. She also is working for Orutsararmiut Native Council under the Director for the Department of Natural Resources, under the Fisheries Program to keep close to her first love in the fisheries field. Alissa would like to thank her parents for their support, family (Colton, Taylor & Boss), friends, Yukon-Kuskokwim communities and everyone who has helped through the stepping stones to achieve her goals!

DIRECTORY OF DELEGATES



Iva Karoly-Lister
Cornell University

Iva grew up in Fairbanks and Anchorage, and plans to live in Alaska after college. Her hobbies and interests include hiking, fishing, contact sports, playing violin, women's rights, laughing and spending time with her friends and family. She is in her first year studying chemistry and Spanish at Cornell University. Iva is very excited to participate in the conference and hear the opinions of her fellow young Alaskans.



Reid Magdanz
Yale University

Reid grew up a true resident of the Bush, spending his formative years playing in the mud, learning to drive boats and sno-gos, hunting ducks, eating caribou, and visiting his family's cabin on the Kobuk River. He went east after graduating from Kotzebue High School and is currently a senior at Yale University, studying natural resource management. Though sad to see college coming to a close, Reid looks forward to returning to the wild mountains, free-flowing rivers, and wonderful people of Alaska.



Katie Marquette
Strategies 360

Born and raised in Fairbanks, Katie Marquette is a fourth generation Alaskan who takes great pride in her family's roots. Beginning in the Territorial Legislature and on through Statehood, Katie's ancestors were heavily involved in public service; including her great grandmother, Katherine Nordale, who was one of five female delegates to the Alaska Constitutional Convention. This dedication has inspired Katie to help ensure a bright future for our state and give back to the communities that helped her grow. A 2006 graduate of Lathrop High School and a 2010 graduate of the University of Alaska Anchorage, Katie has gained a great deal of knowledge in Alaska public policy as well as rural communities in the Arctic. In 2009 she was one of 50 international student recipients of a National Science Foundation travel grant to attend the BOREAS final conference on the development of Arctic rural communities and indigenous cultures in Rovaniemi, Finland. Additionally, Katie worked as a Policy Research Intern at the Institute of Social and Economic Research studying employment protections for the LGBT community in Alaska's private sector. In April 2010, Katie presented her findings at the Pacific Sociological Association annual conference in Oakland, California. In 2010 she was the Deputy Campaign Manager on the Ethan Berkowitz for Governor Campaign. Currently, Katie is an Associate at Strategies 360 in Anchorage where she helps clients develop communications plans around a variety of issues including education, energy development, and fishery policies in Alaska. Outside of work, Katie loves going cross country skiing and fishing with her family – and she always catches the biggest fish!



Samuel McElwee
University of Alaska Southeast

I was born on a working farm in rural Texas, but my family moved to White Mountain when I was fourteen. I enrolled for the first time in public school, graduated in the class of 2011, and am currently attending college in Juneau. I plan on becoming a Physician's Assistant and working in rural Alaska. When I'm not studying, you can often find me doing something musical, cooking, or playing sports.



Chaylene Mills
Valdez H.S.

I am 16 years old, a junior at Valdez High School, in Valdez, Alaska. I enjoy sports such as volleyball, basketball and NYO and have participated in these activities for the last 5 years. My passion is culinary and I am pursuing this avenue in high school as well as looking forward to this in college and beyond. I have 2 younger brothers, ages 6 and 2. I was born and raised in Valdez and love all this state has to offer and its heritage. I am looking forward to working on issues that revolve around the land and its environment and preserving this wonderful state of Alaska.

DIRECTORY OF DELEGATES



Kate O'Brien

Spirit of Youth

Kate spends her time searching for amazing teens across the state of Alaska to recognize for the Spirit of Youth Awards. She has used her Secondary Education degree from the University of Saint Thomas in St Paul, MN to teach Social Studies in Ecuador, sail the Puget Sound as an Educator on a historic schooner, and teach youth about the importance of estuaries at a National Wildlife Refuge in Olympia, Washington. She loves to backpack, cross country ski, and play with her chocolate lab 'Muddy'.



Rachael Peltola

Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council

Rachael Peltola grew up in Bethel and Scammon Bay. She was raised into a rich Yupik cultural lifestyle in rural Alaska. She has been working for the Non-Profit Organization: The Yukon river Inter-Tribal Watershed Council for seven years, starting at age 16. She started at a young age supporting the Backhaul Department's removal of village hazardous waste for the first few years and now serving as an executive assistance and administrative coordinator. She has helped contribute to the successful removal of 15 Million Pounds of solid hazardous waste from the Yukon River Watershed. She is proud to serve the communities and Alaskan rivers that mean so much to her, and only wishes more youth would step up to the plate—each one of us makes' such a difference! She encourages other youth, community members, Tribes and First Nations across the watershed in Alaska and Canada to help clean up their Environment by working together as Indigenous People, engaging youth, Tribal leaders, and using the wisdom of our elders. Rachael speaks at Leadership Conferences across the Nation, encouraging other youth to take pride in who they are and how they can locally make a difference in their communities.



Beau Poppen-Abajian

Alaska State Legislature

Born and raised in Ketchikan, the first city of Alaska, Beau has lived most of his life surrounded by the Tongass National Forest. Competing widely around the 49th state, he ran cross country and played basketball and soccer for the mighty Kayhi Kings. Since graduating from Pacific Lutheran University with a B.A.C., concentration in Conflict Resolution and Peace building, with minors in Economics and Public Affairs, Beau has returned to Southeast Alaska and worked as a substitute teacher, as Senate Floor Staff for the Alaska Legislature and as a Capitol Tour Guide. Outside of work he enjoys recreating in the southeast Alaska wilderness, traveling and bragging about Alaska. Beau currently lives in Juneau.



Eiden Pospisil

West Anchorage H.S.

Eiden Pospisil was born and raised in Anchorage, Alaska. He is a senior at West Anchorage High School where he is an International Baccalaureate Diploma Candidate. He is both a classical and jazz percussionist that plays locally, nationally and internationally. He is the principal percussionist for the NAnchorage Youth Symphony, plays with the John Damberg Latin Quintet, the Divine Gig and has his own jazz band, Root 6 Jazz. Eiden participate in Anchorage Youth Court, Alaska State Model UN, National Honor Society and is working to reactivate the Tri M Music Honor Society at West Anchorage High School. He is also planning a volunteer project for the Malawi Children's Village in Africa for spring 2012. In his free time, Eiden runs and skis and enjoys time at his family's remote cabin. Eiden plans to pursue a five year dual degree program in music and liberal arts.

DIRECTORY OF DELEGATES



Joshua Proper

University of Arizona School of Law

I am an Ahtna Athabascan and my family comes from the Chitina. I grew up in Wasilla and graduated from Wasilla High school in 2006 and then went to Dartmouth College. I got my bachelors in 2010 with a double major in Environmental studies and Native American studies. Following graduation I accepted a fellowship at the Native Nations Institute at the Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy at the University of Arizona. During my fellowship I was deeply interested in finding ways to increase Alaska Natives control over their own lives and giving them the tools to determine their own futures. I just started my first year at the University of Arizona College of Law and plan on receiving my J.D. in 2014 at which point I will return to Alaska.



Matthew Robinson

University of Alaska Fairbanks/History Major

I was born and raised in Fairbanks, Alaska. I graduated from West Valley High School in 2008. During high school, I attended collegiate history programs at Georgetown University and the College of William and Mary. I am currently a senior at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, a member of Phi Alpha Theta and Golden Key International Honour Society, and will graduate May 2012 with a B.A. in History. I am an avid fly fisherman and enjoy traveling the state in search of the best fishing spots. My passion for fishing led me to a job with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game where I work as a Sport Fish Technician during the summers. After I graduate I hope to be selected to attend the Alaska State Trooper Academy and become an Alaska Wildlife Trooper; or, attend graduate school to earn a PhD in history with a focus on the significance of fly fishing in Alaska and the American West and its global impact on environmental consciousness starting in the 19th century.



Kirk Rose

Anchorage Community Land Trust

Kirk Rose is a proud partner in revitalizing the Mountain View neighborhood in Anchorage. He is the Vice President of the Mountain View Community Council, someone who loves adventure and a proud father of his chocolate lab, Muddy.



Nathaniel Rubin

Yale University

Nathaniel Rubin is a freshman at Yale University. Born and raised in Anchorage, he attended West Anchorage High School. He was Chief Judge of the Anchorage Youth Court from 2010 to 2011, and served in various capacities with the organization starting in 2005. In high school, he was on the cross-country skiing and debate teams. He currently is a member of the Yale Debate Association and the Yale College Democrats Lobbying Committee.



Jenna Schmidt

University of Alaska Fairbanks

Hailing from Nome, Alaska, Jenna Schmidt is finishing her 5th year of school at UAF. Her degree of a BS in Biology minoring in Arctic Skills is preparing her for medical school applications in the upcoming year. She is passionate about rural healthcare and scientific outreach, assisting in teaching introductory genetics courses, independent study projects, lab work, and other activities.

DIRECTORY OF DELEGATES



Samuel Schmidt

University of Alaska Fairbanks

I grew up in Nome Alaska a town on the Seward Peninsula. I am the fourth of six children and now the fourth to be attending college. My siblings and I are all home schooled by our mother. We were enrolled in the Idea home schooling program in Galena, until my mother helped form one in Nome. I and my three older siblings all graduated through that program. I am now a first year college freshman at the University of Alaska Fairbanks working for my Bachelors degree in Elementary Education. In the summer I work for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as an Intern Fisheries Technician. Education and government are my primary interests. I am an avid outdoorsman, cross country skier and enjoy learning about and making traditional herbal medicines.



Jeremia Schrock

University of Alaska Fairbanks

Jeremia Schrock is an award-winning journalist based in Fairbanks. He has written extensively on numerous topics, including politics, economics, education, and the arctic. Schrock most recently worked (Fall 2011) as the photo editor for the UAF Sun Star. He graduated from UAF in December with a BA in History and a minor in Philosophy. He enjoys podcasting, the novels of Herman Hesse, and updating his Theodore Roosevelt-themed Tumblr.



Eli Shayer

West H.S.

Eli Shayer is in his sophomore year at West Anchorage High School. He is in the Highly Gifted program at West, and takes the most rigorous schedule available. He completed his freshman year with a 4.00 Grade Point Average. Eli received a varsity letter in each of the four sports he has participated in: two in Cross Country Running, one in Cross Country Skiing, and one in Track and Field. He qualified for the state competition in his freshman year of Cross Country Skiing and Track and Field, plus Cross Country Running in his sophomore year. At the state competitions for Cross Country Skiing and Cross Country Running, he was honored as a member of the "Good Sports Team," which celebrates sportsmanship. Eli helped lead his Cross Country Skiing team and his sophomore Cross Country Running team to winning the GPA awards at their region meets. He is a member of Alaska Winter Stars, a training group focused on cross country skiing. Eli has participated in many math competitions. He represented Alaska at the national MATHCOUNTS competition and was the state winner of the American Mathematic Contest 10B in both his freshman and sophomore year. One of Eli's activities outside of school is music. He is in his second year as a member of the Anchorage Youth Symphony, playing the French Horn. Additionally, Eli participates in Boy Scouts of America, and is on his way to earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Within Boy Scouts, he is a member of staff at the National Youth Leadership Training Conference, which teaches young men leadership skills. Eli is pleased to be accepted as a delegate at the Conference of Young Alaskans, and looks forward to discussing the most pressing issues facing Alaska!



Ashley Sockpick

KANA/Woody Island Tribal

Hello All! My name is Ashley Sockpick, Eskimo name, Panichuinaq. I was born in Nome, AK and grew up in the Bering Straits region, spending my school years in Nome, AK and my summers in Golovin, AK. I am a tribal member of Nome Eskimo Community and very proud to call myself Inupiaq. I live a very subsistence lifestyle and I am currently learning about the native plants and animals, here in Kodiak, AK, so that I may continue to preserve the lifestyle. I attended school in Durango, CO, where I worked on a degree in Biology and Chemistry. During that time I had the opportunity to learn about other native tribes around the United States. I have yet to finish my degree. I am attending online classes through University of Alaska, Fairbanks to work towards fulfilling my dream to have a biology degree with health/environment in mind. Throughout the years I have always worked in a position that has allowed helping other people, from kindergarteners to elders of our community. I care a lot about our native lands and I am happy to be in a position, as the Brownfield program manager for the Kodiak Archipelago, where I can actively restore and preserve them, while continuing to expand my knowledge about the issues we face in Alaska; not only environmental. I am very grateful to have this opportunity to have a 'voice' in the current issues and to see others who are as passionate about our state, as I am. Quyanna!

DIRECTORY OF DELEGATES



Krista Soderlund

Oregon State University

My name is Krista Soderlund and I am studying International Relations and pre-Physical therapy at Oregon State University. I was born and raised in Alaska with my two older brothers, my mom and dad, and graduated from West Anchorage High School. I love snowboarding, surfing, being on the crew team, hiking and scuba diving. I hope to pursue a career where I can combine the outdoors (an Alaskan-inspired love) with travel and fixing people who get broken so they can get back to their favorite activities too.



Adele (Helen) Solski

Lathrop H.S.

Adele Solski is currently a senior at Lathrop High School in Fairbanks, but her family is originally from Barrow. She is very involved in her community and also very involved within the Alaska Native community. Adele believes that they both should work along side each other towards the goals of education and healthy lifestyles. She serves as a Student Representative for Alaska Native Education and the Senior Class President of her school, and also the Chief Mediator of North Star Youth Mediation. She is very excited to be working with other peers from all across Alaska because she believes working together is the most effective way to find solutions and help prepare for the future.



Elise Sorum-Birk

University of Alaska Southeast / Juneau Montessori School

Elise Sorum-Birk grew up between the communities of Wrangell and Valdez and is proud to have been raised Alaskan. Elise currently lives in Douglas with her husband Tyler and her dog Beowolf. She works as an aide at Juneau Montessori School and is working towards her bachelors degree in Geography at UAS. She is excited to be a COYA delegate for the second time!



Desiree Strickland

Galena Interior Learning Academy

My full name is Desiree Donna (Anausuk) Strickland. Born on October 15th, 1993 to Marlene R. Smith and Henry W. Strickland Junior, raised in the town of Kotzebue, Alaska. Instead of attending pre-school and kindergarten like all the other four year olds, I went to Kotzebue's local tribal school Nikaitchuat. There I learned Inupiat Ilitqusait; the traditions and values of the Inupiaq people, I was there for three years. The fall I turned seven I had to assimilate to the first grade, real school where I had to learn to read and write in English. That summer my parents had split and so my mom decided to head back to college and get her degree to become a registered nurse, so we packed up our bags and moved to the city of Anchorage. We were there for three years, my mom finished and graduated, we packed our bags again and moved back home. Fifth through ninth grade flew by before I even got the chance to blink and before I knew it, I was packing my bags again. I was preparing myself for my sophomore year at the Galena Interior Learning Academy getting myself a higher education, a new environment, and my certification in cosmetology. I'm in my senior year now and everything is going better then I ever imagined.



Lauren Suiter

Brown University

Lauren Suiter was born and raised in Anchorage. She participated in the Japanese Immersion Program, starting in kindergarten through high school. During high school she participated in Key Club, Model United Nations, National Honor Society, Riflery, Spirit of Youth, and figure skated. Lauren is currently a freshman at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island with plans to concentrate in International Relations.

DIRECTORY OF DELEGATES



Timothy Treuer
Harvard University

I graduated in 2006 from West Anchorage High School, before moving on to Harvard College. While there, I studied in a department called Organismic and Evolutionary Biology and dedicated my summers and my sophomore spring to field-based coursework or research in the tropics. Since graduating college in 2010, I volunteered in Costa Rica for three months in El Area Conservacion, Guanacaste, and another ten working on a reforestation project in West Kalimantan, Indonesia. I'm currently applying to Ph.D programs in ecology with the hopes of studying the relationship between land disturbance in the tropics and incidence of infectious tropical diseases.



Emmie (Emelia) Van Wyhe
Kenny Lake School

My name is Emmie Van Wyhe, and I'm a junior at Kenny Lake School in the Copper River School District. As a high school student I am especially interested in youth leadership activities and opportunities. In the past few years, I have participated in the Copper River Stewardship Program, Idaho Youth Rally, HOBY (Hugh O'Bryan Youth Leadership Conference), AASG (Alaska Association of Student Governments), Alaska BioPrep-U in Barrow, Summer Leadership Institute at the Northern Leadership Center at UAF, and the Alaska Association of School Boards Youth Leadership Institute. I have served as student body president, class officer, youth representative to our community's recycling board, student rep to our local school board, and I was selected as Alaska's delegate to the National Cooperative Youth Leadership Tour. Along with taking upper level classes in school, I enjoy playing volleyball, participating in the National Ocean Science Bowl competition, and am a member of Future Educators of Alaska, National Honor Society, and Tri-M Music Honor Society. I enjoy photography and recreational activities such as camping, hiking, and fishing that allow me to explore the beautiful state in which I live.



Noah Warnock
West Anchorage H.S

Noah Warnock is 16 years old and a junior at West High School in Anchorage. He grew up in California, but traveled to Alaska and New Zealand to study arctic breeding birds before before moving permanently to Alaska. Noah is interested in international issues as well as hiking and mountain biking.



Brianna Webb
Administrative Assistant, Dental; UAF Community & Technical College

My name is Brianna Webb; I am originally from King Cove, Alaska. My grandparents are Lydia and Ernest Mack of King Cove, and my mother is Dorene Mack. I currently reside in Fairbanks where I am working on my BA in Rural Development. I received my A.A.S in Applied Business Management last year. I enjoy reading, crocheting, and dancing.



Leonty Williams
Sitka Tribe of Alaska

My name is Leonty Williams. My Lingit name is Koonwuhaan and my Inupiaq name is Aqqaluk. I am a full-blooded indigenous Alaska Native from Sitka, Alaska; I am half Lingit Indian and half Inupiaq Eskimo. I am currently pursuing a degree in Business Management and am in my second year of doing so. I grew up deeply involved with my native cultures and want to accomplish as much as I can for my native peoples here in Alaska. Gunalcheesh (Thank you).

DIRECTORY OF DELEGATES



William Willis

Steller Secondary School

I am a senior at Steller Secondary School. I currently maintain an A average. After graduation I plan to double major in Biology and Health physics. Upon completing my bachelors' degree, I plan to immediately go to graduate school to pursue my dream of becoming a Veterinarian. As a veterinarian I hope to benefit society by inspiring Alaska's youth to better understand Alaska great wild life. I also hope to continue doing community service to help our youth pursue their dreams, no matter what obstacles get in their way.



Clarissa Zeller

University of Alaska Fairbanks

Her hometown is Red Devil, Alaska, that lays on the Kuskokwim river. She is currently majoring in Biology and a freshman in college at UAA. She went to Mt. Edgecumbe high school, and enjoyed getting involved in school leadership positions. Because of this she is excited to be able to get involved in COYA to help Alaska in any way possible!

Katie Hurley Distinguished Chief Clerk:



Signe Englert

Thorne Bay H.S.

Signe Englert was raised in Southeast Alaska and the United Kingdom. She is currently a freshman at Walla Walla Community College and hopes to transfer to the University of Washington in two years. She enjoys creative writing, music, and the Alaskan outdoors. She is an amateur DJ, and performs at local schools and events. Signe is passionate about local and statewide issues, and is looking forward to being a contributing member of the 2012 Conference of Young Alaskans.

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