

NSEDC Board of  
Directors elects new  
chairman, Oscar Takak Sr.

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# NSEDC *news*

## NSEDC Mission Statement

*"NSEDC will participate in the Bering Sea fisheries to provide economic development through education, employment, training and financial assistance to our member communities."*

## NSEDC Board Members & Member Communities

Lillian Olanna • *Brevig Mission*

Frances Ozenna • *Diomedea*

Oscar Takak, Sr. • *Elim*

Joel James • *Gambell*

Dean Peterson • *Golovin*

Leo Charles • *Koyuk*

Pat Johanson • *Nome*

Truman Kava • *Savoonga*

Milton Cheemuk • *St. Michael*

Harvey Sookiayak • *Shaktoolik*

Daphne Katcheak • *Stebbins*

Joe Garnie • *Teller*

Frank Katchatag • *Unalakleet*

Lucy Kitchen • *Wales*

Dan Harrelson • *White Mountain*



Above: Illustration of a commercial vessel delivering to the T/V King Island.

## NSEDC board chooses *T/V King Island* for new vessel name; to be christened in June

UNALAKLEET—NSEDC's newest commercial fishing tender vessel is currently under construction in Homer. Board Member Don Stiles made a motion at the third quarter board meeting to name the vessel, *T/V King Island*. "King Island would have been a CDQ community, but the closing of the school forced many families to leave their home," Stiles

said. "The King Island community has remained strong and vibrant despite relocating to Nome. Their resiliency and strength should be celebrated. Nome has not always been the most hospitable place for Alaska Natives. I'm glad things are changing, and I'm honored the community of King Island accepts and approves the naming of our newest vessel."

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The *T/V King Island* is scheduled to be complete in mid-June in time for the commercial fishing season. NSEDC Vessel Manager Karl Erickson says the *T/V King Island* will immediately enter the crab rotation with the *T/V Paul C. Johnson* and will transition to tendering salmon upon completion of the summer crabbing season.

“We’re honored this hard-working vessel will carry the name of our home island,” King Island Native Community Chief Ben Payenna said. “While we no longer live at Ukivok, we have maintained a strong sense of iden-

tity and continue to live and thrive in Nome through carrying traditions established on King Island. Thank you, NSEDC, for this recognition.”

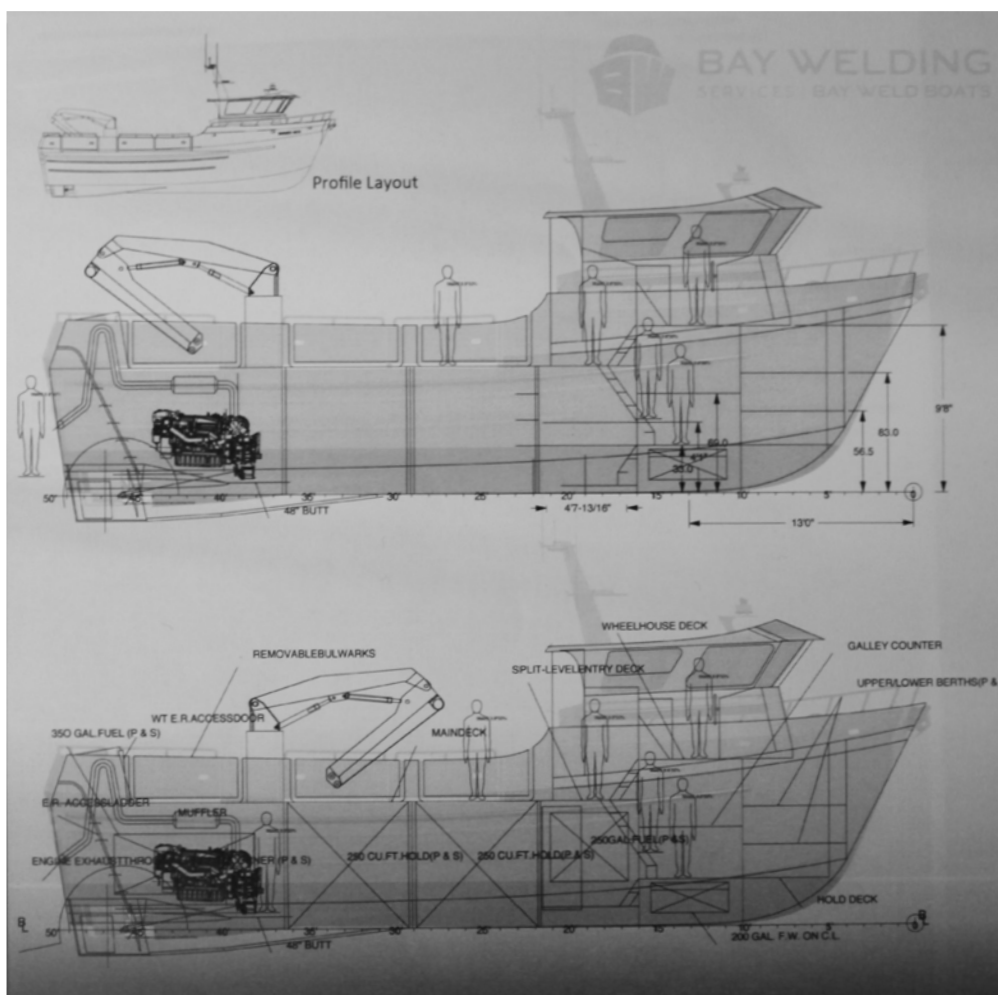
The *T/V King Island* is currently under construction by Bay Welding in Homer, Alaska. It is a 49.9-foot, shallow-draft tender vessel with twin diesel, 425 horsepower engines.

“This is the first NSEDC vessel made in Alaska,” NSEDC Vessel Manager Karl Erickson said. “Bay Welding has been in business in Alaska for 40 years and will complete all the electrical, mechanical, hydraulic design and fabrication.

We, at NSEDC, are happy to support Alaska businesses with this new build.”

Bay Welding, like NSEDC, values supporting community. “We have significantly invested in community education programs to ensure there is a next generation of boat builders and fabricators that are skilled and able to find good jobs in Alaska,” Bay Welding General Manager Eric Engbretsen said. “And we take a ‘buy local’ approach to business and work very hard at supporting other local Homer businesses and Alaskan companies.”

**Below: The *T/V King Island* will be used to tender product in the Norton Sound commercial crab and salmon fisheries, built by Bay Welding in Homer, AK.**



## NSEDC Board decisions shows continued commitment to regional education and infrastructure; board reorganizes



Above: New NSEDC Board Chairman Oscar Takak, Sr. from Elim.

UNALAKLEET—At their third quarter board meeting in Unalakleet on November 4-6, 2015, the Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC) Board of Directors earmarked \$1 million toward “Growing Our Own Teachers,” named NSEDC’s newest tender vessel currently under construction the *T/V King Island*, approved more than \$2.4 million for large infrastructure projects in the region, and elected board and corporate officers.

### NSEDC Board earmarks \$1 million for Growing Our Own Teachers

After the successful Norton Sound Education Summit, NSEDC Board Member Don Stiles made a motion to commit \$1 million toward the “Growing Our Own Teachers” Initiative. Always a staunch advocate for youth and education in the

region, Stiles said the teaching jobs in our communities are some of the best jobs available, and a majority of those positions go to individuals from outside the state. “It would be healthy for our region, our communities and the students in our schools if more residents remained in the region as teachers in the schools they attended,” Stiles said.

While the \$1 million does not go toward a specific program or organization at this point, the NSEDC Board’s decision affirms the commitment toward education and the effort to cultivate teachers from the region.

### \$2,405,411 toward Large Infrastructure Outside Entity Funding projects

The NSEDC Board of Directors approved ten Large Infrastructure Outside Entity Funding (OEF) projects. Eight of the approved projects are for building construction with two approved for water infrastructure needs. Funding for Large Infrastructure OEF projects are currently capped at \$300,000 for communities and \$1 million for regional projects.

### Board and corporate officers

At the Annual Meeting of Directors, the NSEDC Board elected board and corporate officers. While corporate officers remained unchanged with CEO Janis Ivanoff again elected as President, Quota and Acquisitions Manager Simon Kinneen serving as Vice-President, Executive Assistant Kathy Wheelehan as Secretary and CFO Rick Walicki

as Treasurer, the board officers saw significant change. Since 2004, White Mountain’s Dan Harrelson had served as NSEDC Board Chairman. Following the reorganization process, Elim’s Oscar Takak, Sr. will now sit as Chairman of the board. Dan Harrelson now serves as Vice Chairman, Unalakleet’s Frank Katchatag as Sergeant-at-arms, and Golovin’s Dean Peterson and Koyuk’s Leo Charles also holding seats on the executive committee.

### Stiles attends final meeting

The NSEDC third quarter board meeting was the last for 19-year board member Don Stiles of Nome. NSEDC staff and board thanked Stiles for his commitment to the organization and to Norton Sound communities. Pat Johanson of Nome was sworn in at the Annual Meeting of Directors.



Above: 19-year NSEDC Board Member Don Stiles at his final meeting in Unalakleet.



## Crabbing? Here's proper throwback technique

For commercial and subsistence crab fishers, Norton Sound Fisheries Research and Development (NSFR&D) biologists remind Norton Sound residents that there is proper technique for crab placed back in the water. "Improperly handling crab in cold temperatures results in deadloss, and any subsistence and commercial fisher should want to prevent that in our fisheries," NSFR&D Coordinator Charlie Lean said. "Remembering simple things keep young crabs alive when thrown back into the crabbing hole."

Anyone that's ever held a crab in their hand can see the face of the crab is composed of little tiny parts. The antennae, eyes and mouth parts all freeze very quickly. "Crabs freeze at 28 degrees Fahrenheit. Anything colder than that

can easily frostbite the eyes and mouth parts of crab," Lean said. "And windchill accelerates that problem."

Lean says that some of those small parts have dual function. "The eye stocks are where the hormone is produced that allows the crab to grow," Lean said. "If you freeze the eyes and eye stocks off a crab, you've killed the crab. It can no longer grow or see."

The little antennae give crabs their sense of smell and taste. If those parts freeze, a crab cannot evaluate whether or not something is edible. Obviously, if the mouth parts freeze or if they're frostbitten, the crab doesn't eat. All these little parts on crabs freeze easily, Lean stresses.

Lean also emphasizes the importance of putting small or female crab immediately back into the water. "If you wait until you're done putting the keepers in your cooler, you might as well leave the unwanted on the ice. Those crab die if left in the cold air too long."

Finally, do not frisbee crabs back into the water, but place them in. Lean explains there is a delicate, yellow organ (hepatopancreas) inside a crab's stomach. "If you drop or slam a crab, the hepatopancreas can rupture. That crab would then bleed to death."

Thousands of crab are returned to the Norton Sound every season. Adhering to these rules will help ensure the Norton Sound red king crab population remains healthy and strong.

Left: The face of a Norton Sound red king crab.



Below: Fred Jay Ivanoff and Senator Lisa Murkowski visit in the senator's office in Washington, D.C.



## Chinook eggs planted in Fish & UNK Rivers



Above: NSFR&D Fisheries Technicians Clayton Mixsooke and John Ivanoff plant eyed Chinook eggs into South River, a tributary of the Unalakleet River.

For the second year in a row, the NSFR&D team planted Chinook eggs as part of their mist incubation program. NSFR&D Director Wes Jones says the team has planted chum and coho eggs in rivers in the Nome area since 2007. With Chinook escapement met in 2015 in the Unalakleet River, the department was able to collect eggs and milt from 18 female and male pairs.

The eggs are collected in a stainless steel bowl, put in gallon Ziploc bags and placed in cooler. The males' milt is collected in a wirl pac, which is a water-tight plastic bag. Oxygen is added to the wirl pac and then placed in a cooler.

Eggs and milt are then brought to town to be fertilized and placed in the incubators, where they are tended to for 10 weeks. "Incubating Chinook eggs is a lot like babysitting," Senior Crew Leader Fred Jay Ivanoff said. "During the weeks the eggs are incubating, we must daily monitor the temperature and water levels of the incubators to ensure the eggs' health and survival." The eggs are ready for planting in the river once they reach the eyed-egg stage.

NSFR&D has conducted egg planting projects in the Unalakleet and Nome area rivers, and has assisted with White Mountain's Chinook Mist Incubation program.

Chinook salmon smolt from this year's egg planting efforts will head to the ocean starting in the spring of 2017, and adults could start returning to the South River in 2019.

## NSEDC staff member invited to nation's capitol

NSEDC's Marine Debris Coordinator Fred Jay Ivanoff travelled to Washington, D.C., for a marine debris briefing hosted by Senator Lisa Murkowski, co-chair of the Senate Oceans Caucus. The briefing aimed to highlight the massive amount of debris washing up on Alaska's shores. Other panelists included Sitka Sound Science Center Research Director Victoria O'Connell, NOAA Office of Response and Restoration Marine Debris Program Director Nancy Wallace, Gulf of Alaska Keeper Co-founder Chris Pallister, and Port Heiden Environmental Director Scott Anderson.

Fred Jay reported on the work done

through NSEDC's Clean Waters program. In 2015, Fred Jay coordinated cleanup projects in Gambell, Little Diomed, St. Michael and Stebbins where 59,449 pounds of debris were cleaned from beaches. So far, 889,505 pounds of debris has been removed since the inception of the Norton Sound Clean Waters program in 2006.

Norton Sound Fisheries Research & Development acquires federal funding for the Norton Sound Clean Waters program. All funding goes directly to Norton Sound communities with hiring clean up crews and purchasing or renting equipment. ■

## Norton Sound Education Summit a success

NSEDC teams with Norton Sound entities to host regional education summit

It was a discussion a long time in the making, and one that residents of the region were ready for. Aiming to improve regional educational opportunities and outcomes for students from Early Head Start through postsecondary education, the 2015 Norton Sound Education Summit was held in Nome, October 9-11. Nearly 300 participants met to discuss ideas and strategies to improve our regional education systems and programs. The overall theme of the summit was “Our Education, Our Cultures, Our Time.” Sessions centered on the initiatives of: Cultural Relevancy, Early Childhood and Elementary Education, Growing Our Own Teachers, and Postsecondary Preparation and Transitioning Success. Summit participation greatly surpassed initial expectations, with a wide representation from state and federal groups, nonprofit organizations, universities, teachers, and youth. Most importantly, however, the summit served as an opportunity for community members and youth

from throughout the region to have their voices heard in regard to what they wanted to see in their educational systems. This was echoed by Elizabeth Medicine-Crow from the First Alaskans Institute during her Saturday address. She applauded the region by saying, “It’s not easy to have these conversations, but you are asking the questions. You’re not afraid. If we can be real about the challenges, we can be real about the solutions. The interests of our young people are important to us.”

The idea for a regional education event was originally introduced to the NSEDC Board of Directors in 2011 by Nome’s board member at the time, Don Stiles. It was envisioned to be an avenue to foster the necessary regional collaboration to effectively change and improve our education system. Funding for the event was set aside, however planning efforts had little traction until the forming of the Norton Sound Education Work Group (NSEWG) in April of 2014. The NSEWG is a collec-

tion of entities and individuals with a hand in the region’s educational framework. Summit planning and organization quickly became a primary goal of the group. The summit developed not through outside pressures or initiatives, but through a homegrown energy and desire to advance and support education in our region.

**“If we can be real about the challenges, we can be real about the solutions. The interests of our young people are important to us.” - Liz Medicine-Crow**

The summit kicked off Friday evening with a delicious Norton Sound halibut dinner followed by welcome addresses, overviews of each of the summit initiatives, and a cultures and education panel with local educators Josie and Esther Bourdon, Annie Conger and Phyllis Walluk. The evening ended





with a keynote address by Mary Huntington titled “Homegrown Teacher”. Mary, originally from Shishmaref and current principal at the Koyuk Malimiut School, spoke about her experience juggling education, culture, and family in the Norton Sound region.

Day two of the summit began with a keynote address by Dr. Barb Amarok and Sylvester Ayek, titled “Cultural Lifeways and Indigenous Education”. Participants then spent the morning in group sessions focused on the four summit initiatives. A hosted luncheon provided guests with an opportunity to listen to addresses by Commissioner Mike Hanley with the State of Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, Liz Medicine-Crow, President/CEO of First Alaskans Institute, and Dr. Larry Kaplan from the Alaska Native Language Center. Following lunch, participants wrapped up the day by returning to smaller group sessions centered on the four summit initiatives. Saturday evening was dedicated to the region’s youth, with cultural games, pizza, and a keynote address by Evon Peter, Vice Chancellor for Rural, Community and Native Education at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

The summit closed Sunday morning with a recognition of attendees and funders, followed by reports on the discussions that took place Saturday during the focus area breakout sessions. These reports outlined the key objectives and action items to begin making necessary improvements.

Approximately 30 people from the region were able to attend the summit through travel assistance scholarships offered by NSEDC. For those selected, NSEDC provided transportation from communities, lodging, and food throughout the summit. Through the UAF - Northwest Campus, all summit participants were eligible to receive continuing education units (CEUs), and Alaska teachers and education para-professionals had the opportunity to earn professional development credits. Summit attendees left with comments such as “The voices of the people have been heard...let’s move courageously forward.”, “Excellent and powerful!”, “Very inspirational and motivational!”, “This was the perfect opportunity to have all stakeholders state wide present”, & “I left with hope for what is to come.” A comprehensive summit report covering the key discussions, takeaways, and objectives for each of the four initiatives is currently being compiled. Once complete, the report will be distributed throughout the region and will be available for viewing on NSEDC’s website. For summit attendees who would like to provide feedback on the summit please complete the evaluation form at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ed2015summit>

For further information about the 2015 Norton Sound Education Summit or for information on the Norton Sound Education Work Group please contact Jesse Blandford at [jesse@nsedc.com](mailto:jesse@nsedc.com) available by phone at 888-650-2477 or 907-443-2477 or Kawerak Inc.’s Luisa Machuca at [eet.vp@kawerak.org](mailto:eet.vp@kawerak.org).



# Norton Sound Student Highlight

## Meet Renatta Olson

A college basketball player, Renatta Olson is studying Kinesiology and Exercise Science at the University of Hawaii Hilo. From Golovin, she enjoys exploring the outdoors of the Big Island of Hawaii, hiking, swimming and learning to surf. A top graduate from Mt. Edgecumbe High School, Renatta entered her first year of college knowing it was going to take hard work to earn her degree.



Renatta's interest in physical therapy began her freshman year in high school after knee surgery. A competitive athlete, Renatta could not play sports her first year in high school and was committed to her daily physical therapy sessions.

"The only thing that brought me back to playing basketball and volleyball was physical therapy, everyday," Renatta says. "I want to work with athletes to prevent injuries like mine, or help them recover the way I did."

Raised in Golovin and an NSEDC scholarship recipient, Renatta plans to practice sports medicine physical therapy upon completion of her degree. After experience as an athletic trainer, she pictures herself practicing physical therapy in Alaska.

"I wouldn't be where I am - going to school in Hawaii - without my parents, my friends and the support I've received from my family," Renatta says. "Those around me believe I can reach my goals."

## Scholarship Deadline

NSEDC provides \$2,500 scholarships to Norton Sound residents enrolled at an accredited college, university, or vocational school. Completed scholarship applications for the spring semester must be received or postmarked by December 31st. Applications can be mailed or emailed to NSEDC's Education, Employment & Training Director Jesse Blandford at [jesse@nsedc.com](mailto:jesse@nsedc.com) or Box 358, Nome, AK 99762.

More information and a scholarship application can be found on our website at [www.nsedc.com](http://www.nsedc.com). If you have any questions, call Jesse Blandford at (888) 650-2477.





## NSEDC welcomes homegrown EET Director

Former NSEDC scholarship recipient, Jesse Blandford, returns to Nome



A former recipient of NSEDC scholarships, Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC) is pleased that Jesse Blandford has now joined the team as the Education, Employment and Training Director. Blandford was most recently Project Manager for STG Incorporated and now manages the very program that helped get him where he is today. Jesse earned his Business Management degree from the University of Alaska Anchorage in May of 2013. A recipient of \$2,000 NSEDC scholarships every semester for four years,

Jesse received a total of \$16,000 from the scholarship program. "I relied on it every year, knowing it was an opportunity for every resident in the Norton Sound region," Jesse said.

It's opportunities like this that had Jesse return to the Norton Sound region in his new role. As the Education, Employment and Training Director, he not only manages the scholarship program, but also community-based training and industry-related training opportunities. "I've always wanted to figure out a way to be more connected to the region and this is something that hits every community on a meaningful level," Jesse said. "I like that it wasn't limited to just scholarships, but there were other programs that reach individuals and make a difference in our communities."

Jesse returns to Nome with his wife Jessica, and their two young children, Lexie (3) and Ari (6 months). The couple looks forward to raising their

children in the town they were born and raised in. "In Anchorage we were missing a sense of community. And if we raised the kids in the city, we realized they would have missed out on opportunities we had that you can only find in rural Alaska," Jesse said. "It's so nice to be right here and establish our roots."

Jesse's focus this winter will be to expand outreach in the various EET programs and to increase the number of individuals and communities benefiting from the department and resources. Jesse was a significant contributing member of the team that facilitated the successful Norton Sound Education Summit.

"At the summit I realized I'm glad I left to experience different things, but ultimately there's something special about Nome and the region you can't duplicate elsewhere," Jesse said.

## Join a great team, NSEDC is now hiring!

NSEDC is a great place to work while doing good things for our region! NSEDC offers competitive wages and an excellent benefits package. To find out more, contact Shara English at **907-274-2248 (in Anchorage)** or **800-650-2248 (toll-free)** or by e-mail at [shara@nsedc.com](mailto:shara@nsedc.com). Job postings and applications are also available online at [www.nsedc.com/employment](http://www.nsedc.com/employment).

### Accountant (Anchorage)

The accountant is responsible for ensuring the accuracy of balance sheet accounts including accrued receivables and payables, fixed assets, trade receivables, and sales tax payable and all activities necessary to maintain accurate balances and must regularly perform reconciliations, send monthly statements, file tax returns and update other accounts. Assists CFO and Sr. Accountants where needed.

## Martin L. Olson School enjoys new playground

The NSEDC Board of Directors awarded the Chinik Eskimo Community \$59,997 this year to build a new playground for the Martin L. Olson School. Additional funding for the playground came from the Rasmuson Foundation.

“The previous playground was more than 13 years old, dated and falling apart,” Chinik Tribal Family Coordinator Kirstie Ione said. “Kids play at the playground all day long, and it’s my job to promote healthy families, children and a sense of community well being.”

The new playground in Golovin was funded from NSEDC’s Outside Entity Funding (OEF) program. The deadline for the next round of OEF applications is January 15, 2016. Upon receipt of applications, packets will be sent to each board member and their committee, for review of their community’s proposals. The committees’ recommendations then

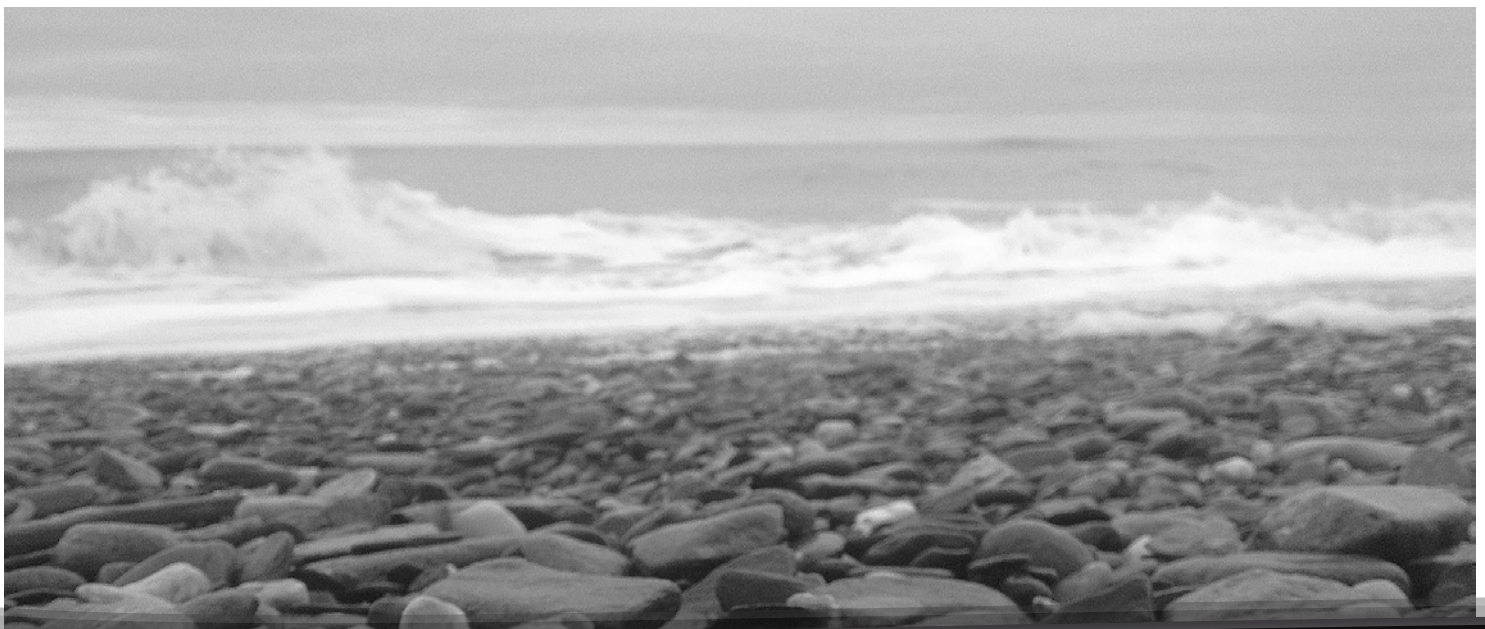
Below: Students at the Martin L. Olson School show excitement after installation of the new playground. *photo by Sonja Herrman*



go to the NSEDC Board of Directors at the second quarter meeting.

“We thank NSEDC for their assistance in giving our youth a great place to

play,” Kirstie said. “It’s so great to see our kids enjoying the outdoors on safe and updated equipment, thanks to the NSEDC OEF program.”



## \$127,628 awarded for 2015 SBI

UNALAKLEET—The Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation's (NSED) Small Business Initiative (SBI) program awarded a total of \$127,628 to four regional entrepreneurs at a ceremony on Friday, October 9, 2015. Following two days of presentations and interviews, grants went to a store in Brevig Mission, a pet care business in Nome, a Toyostove service and repair shop in Nome, and a barbershop in Nome. The recipients have two years to implement their business plans and utilize the available funding.

In its history, NSED has allocated a total of nearly \$900,000 to the SBI program, awarding 40 recipients throughout the Norton Sound region. In 2015, the NSED Board of Directors increased the overall funding

amount from \$105,000 to \$150,000. In 2015, 23 proposals were received and an independent panel of judges narrowed down the applicants to five finalists who gave live presentations during the final evaluation process. All five finalists received a new laptop with the software programs Quickbooks Pro and Microsoft Office.

"Having a knowledgeable and returning panel of judges, independent of NSED, is one of the keys to the success of the Small Business Initiative," said NSED's Community Benefits Director Paul Ivanoff III. The 2015 judges included Merle Apassingok of Gambell, Mark Vink and Annabelle Cunningham of Unalakleet, and David Olson and Donna James of Nome. The judges are responsible for narrow-

ing down the field of applicants to the finalists, and then allocating the available program funding among those chosen for grant awards.

"It's no easy task for residents to develop their business plans and pitch their ideas to a panel of five judges," Ivanoff said. "This program is successful because of individuals like Freida Tocktoo and Terrence Southall of Brevig Mission that put a lot of time in establishing their business and hard work behind their idea."

NSED congratulates the 2015 Small Business Initiative recipients and encourages those who did not receive funding to further develop their applications for the 2016 competition.

### 2015 Small Business Initiative Recipients

Cool Cutz - Matthew Medlin	Mr. Medlin is opening a barbershop located in Nome, offering personal care services to the community and the region.
F&T Store - Freida Tocktoo & Terrence Southall	Freida Tocktoo and Terrence Southall will establish a general store in Brevig Mission, offering groceries and toiletries.
Nome Animal House - Sandra Rowe	The established pet care business located in Nome is expanding to include basic veterinary services, including emergency pet care, spaying, neutering, tumor removal, dental care, exams, vaccinations, euthanasia and health certificates.
Toyo Tech Center - Steve Smith	Steve Smith will establish a Toyo service and repair shop in Nome. Services will include Toyo laser heater, water heater and boiler heater maintenance and repair, and workshops and classroom instruction on Toyo products.





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