

Have a jig stick? Take part in NSSP's through-the-ice hook-and-line fishery

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Gambell Qughsatkut take 1st at regional volleyball tournament; attend state

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NACTEC develops NACTEC/AVTEC transitions program

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NSEDC welcomes new staff - Teresa Krier, Dawson Kauer & Marcus Pedro

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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

Sara Seetot • *Brevig Mission*  
Frances Ozenna • *Diomed*  
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 • *Shaktolik*  
Daphne Katcheak • *Stebbins*  
Joe Garnie • *Teller*  
Frank Katchatag • *Unalakleet*  
Sean Komonaseak Jr. • *Wales*  
Dan Harrelson • *White Mountain*

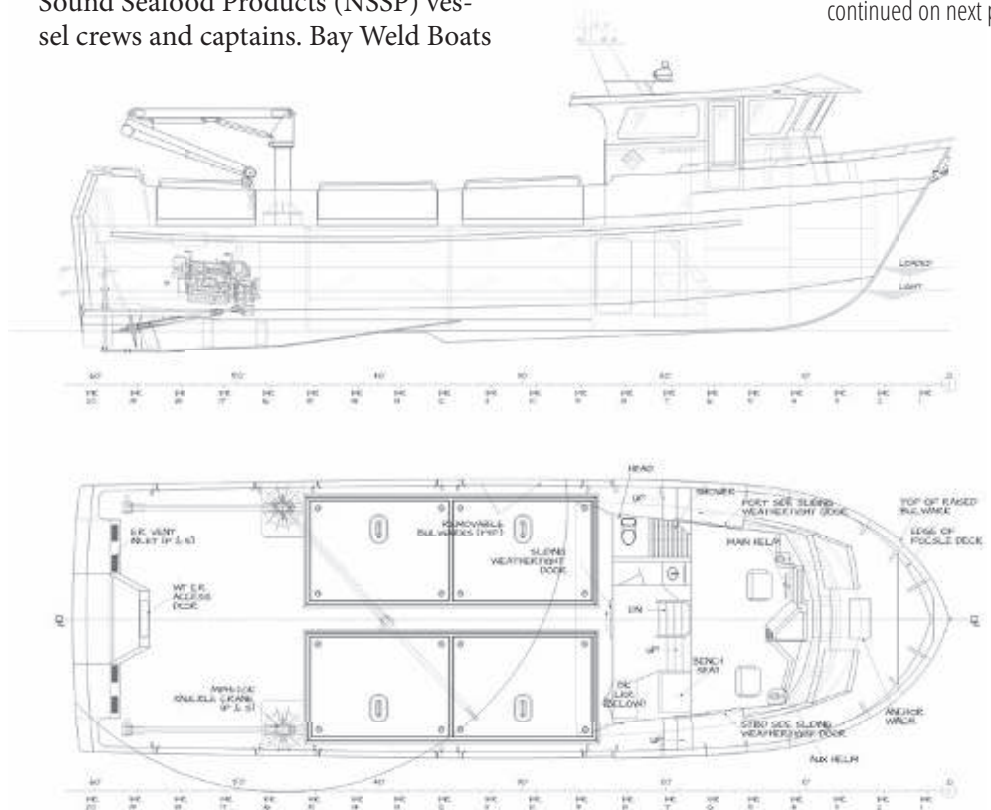
## NSEDC again partners with Bay Weld Boats, LLC for new vessel, the *T/V St. Lawrence*

UNALAKLEET - After the successful and expedient building of the *T/V King Island*, the Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC) Board of Directors (board) approved the construction of a vessel of similar make and size. Bay Weld Boats, LLC (Bay Weld Boats) in Homer constructed the *T/V King Island*, the vessel that quickly became the favorite of Norton Sound Seafood Products (NSSP) vessel crews and captains. Bay Weld Boats

is contracted and currently building NSEDC's newest vessel that will join the fleet in the summer of 2017.

"Bay Weld Boats did a fantastic job in the construction of the *T/V King Island*," NSEDC Vessel Manager Karl Erickson said. "The boat handles beautifully in the waters of the Norton Sound and handled well in the

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shallow waters near Unalakleet.”

Erickson also said it was fantastic working with Alaskan company Bay Weld Boats in Homer. “From beginning negotiations to christening the *T/V King Island*, working with owner Brad Conley and his team was an entirely smooth process. So to have the opportunity to build a similar vessel with an excellent company that supports the Alaska economy just makes sense.”

NSEDC's newest vessel name follows the tradition of naming the boat after areas or people in the Norton Sound. At their December special meeting,

the NSEDC board decided on the name *T/V St. Lawrence*. St. The board also wanted to recognize the island's Siberian Yupik name and asked that "Sivuqaq" be printed underneath the English name on the vessel.

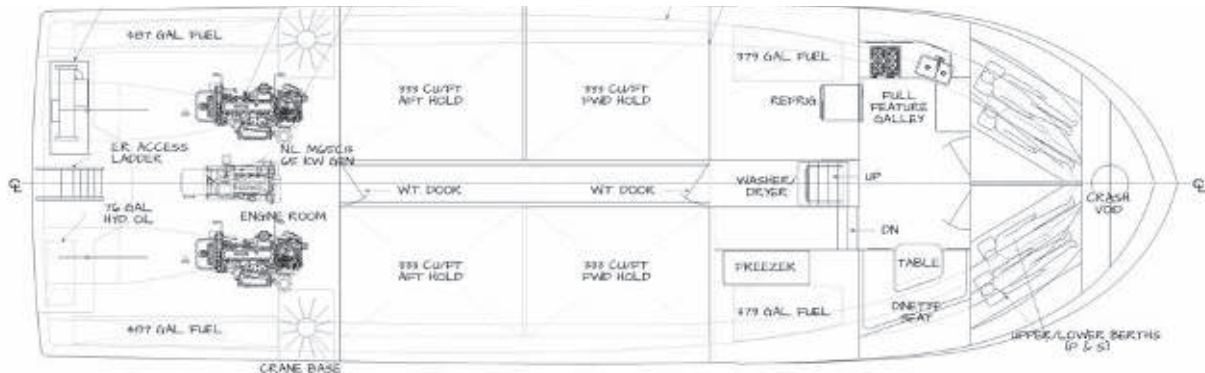
St. Lawrence Island is not only where NSEDC's commercial halibut fishery takes place, but is seen as an important and strategic location for upcoming economic activity in the Arctic.

“We know the world is changing,” NSEDC Board Member Joel James said. “While economic development is necessary and is a large part of our mission at NSEDC, it will be important

for us to also continue and protect our way of life on the land and sea. Naming NSEDC's newest vessel *T/V St. Lawrence* unites the two communities on St. Lawrence Island with our sister communities in the Norton Sound. We all must work and move together for a bright and prosperous future."

The *T/V St. Lawrence* will be used to tender NSSP crab and salmon from Norton Sound buying stations to processing plants located in Nome and Unalakleet. The new vessel will measure 62 feet and will be able to transport 25,000 pounds of crab and 70,000 pounds of salmon.

Rendering of the *T/V St. Lawrence*, currently under construction by Bay Weld Boats, LLC in Homer.



## NSEDC expands its Large Vessel Loan Program

**Are you interested in making upgrades to your commercial fishing vessel? You may finance your vessel upgrade through the large vessel loan program. Here are the requirements:**

- Maximum loan up to \$100,000 for applicants who own a Limited License Permit (LLP)
- Maximum loan up to \$75,000 for applicants who do not own an LLP
- A minimum down payment equal to 10% of the loan is required
- Applicant must submit a business plan

**If you own your fishing vessel and are in need of upgrades, contact Virginia Nashalook at (800) 650-2248 or [virginia@nsedc.com](mailto:virginia@nsedc.com).**

## Have a jigstick? NSSP buys tomcod and trout for baitfish

Head outdoors and take part in the region's unique commercial fishery

Norton Sound Seafood Products (NSSP) is purchasing hook-and-line-caught fish, including tomcod and trout. This fishery is a great opportunity to earn income while enjoying the outdoors.

For help with getting the appropriate permit to deliver to NSSP or for information on the fishery, stop by an NSEDC office, call Sheri, Frank or Marcus at 624-3190 in Unalakleet, Josh, Justin or Rochelle in Nome at 443-2304, or visit [www.nsedc.com](http://www.nsedc.com).

### Details

#### What permits do I need?

Residents who wish to sell tomcod to NSSP need to obtain a commercial fishing permit from the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC). Permit application forms can be found online at CFEC's website ([www.cfec.state.ak.us](http://www.cfec.state.ak.us)), on the applications page on NSEDC's website ([www.nsedc.com](http://www.nsedc.com)), or by stopping in person in Nome at ADF&G office, the Norton Sound Seafood Center or NSEDC's administrative

offices. Residents under 16 years of age will need to have their parents sign an affidavit to obtain a permit to fish for tomcod.

Fishermen will need to have both a 2016 and 2017 permit if they plan to commercially fish before and after the new year. Permits for 2017 should be available on the internet by mid-November.

The necessary permit to fish for tomcod in Norton Sound is a Miscellaneous Saltwater Finfish Hand Troll permit. In addition to personal information, the permit application will ask for: Fishery code, Permit number, Fishery description and Vessel ADF&G number. To commercial fish for tomcod, the following responses should be placed on the form:

Fishery code: **M05B**

Permit number: **"New" if you have never had a commercial permit, or your number if you have one**

Fishery description: **Through the ice, hook**

Vessel ADF&G number: **Snowmachine**

#### Inform ADF&G

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game wants all fishers to register. Call Jim Menard at the Nome ADF&G office at (907) 443-5167 or 1-800-560-2271.

#### What fish will NSSP buy?

Fish will be bought from holders of a Miscellaneous Saltwater Finfish license. The only gear allowed to harvest tomcod for sale will be hook and line. NSSP will buy tomcod, smelt, or pretty much any fish you can hook through the ice. NSSP will not buy net-caught, trapped fish or grayling.

#### Can I sell fish I catch to others in my home town?

Yes. You will need a catcher-seller license. An application for this free license can be obtained in person at the Nome ADF&G office or from the ADF&G Commercial Fishing Division website. The application must be filled out and sent to Juneau for processing before a license is granted.





# Education, Employment & Training

## Gambell Qughsatkut volleyball team takes 1st at regionals

Mixed Six team is first Gambell team to attend a state tournament in 32 years



ANCHORAGE - After winning the 2016 Western Conference Mixed Six Volleyball Tournament in front of a home crowd on St. Lawrence Island, 12 Gambell athletes traveled to Anchorage on December 6th for the 2016 ASAA/ First National Bank of Alaska 2A Mixed Six Volleyball State Championships. The last time a Gambell team participated in a state tournament event was in 1984 when the boys basketball team took first in the regional tournament to compete in the 1A State Conference Basketball Tournament.

“The kids have worked so hard and had such an impressive season,” Gambell Volleyball Coach Suzanne Bell said. “We’re pretty thrilled to be here.”

The Gambell Qughsatkut took first in the Western Conference tournament defeating teams from Stebbins, Unalakleet, Golovin and White Mountain in front of a home crowd.

The Gambell Qughsatkut volleyball team not only took first in the regional tournament, but also earned the Sportsmanship Award. “Not only were the athletes tremendous on the court, but

the fans were enthusiastic and supportive of all the athletes,” BSSD Activities Director Jeff Erickson said. “The whole community deserves that award.”

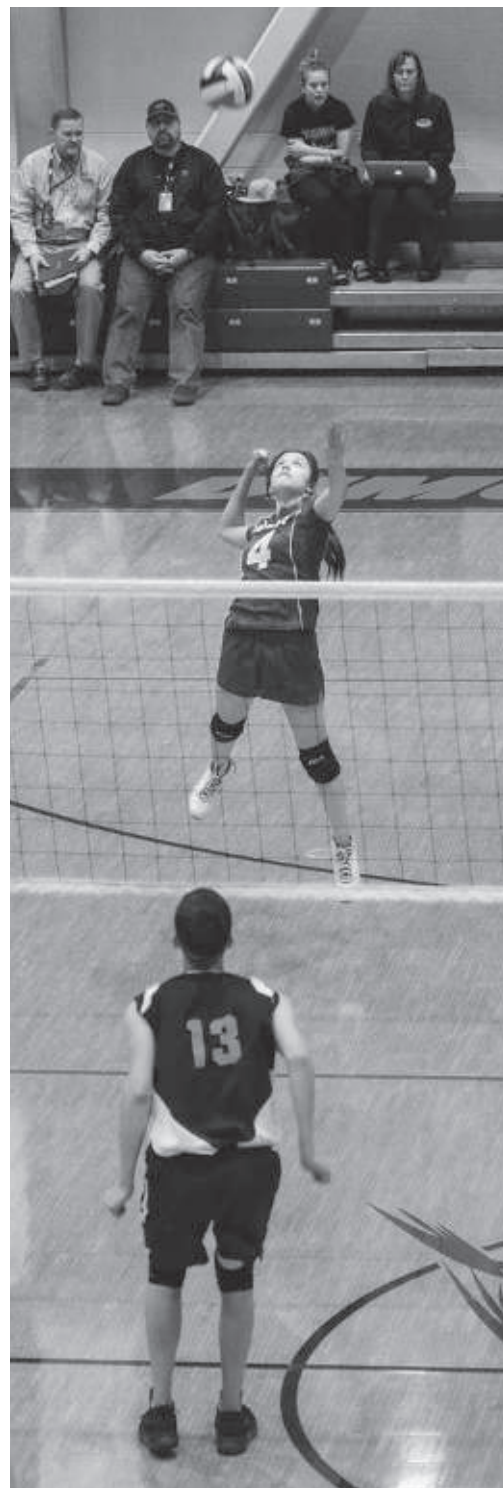
In Anchorage, the Gambell Qughsatkut defeated Alakanuk and Aniak in pool play to advance to the state conference bracket. In the final day in competition, the Qughsat went to the fifth set, narrowly missing fourth place by two points.

Defensive specialist and top hitter Wallace Ungwiluk was named to the All Tournament Team. The Noatak Lynx are the 2016 2A Mixed Six Volleyball State Champions, defeating the Unalakleet Wolfpack.

*NSEDC donates \$50 for each athlete from the Norton Sound region who competes in a state competition. Congratulations to the Gambell Qughsatkut and Unalakleet Wolfpack volleyball teams!*

**Top left:** Wallace Ungwiluk scores a point for the Gambell Qughsatkut against the Tikigaaq Harpooners.

**Right:** Nalu Apassingok prepares to hit the volleyball in their final game at the state conference tournament



## Environmental stewardship in the Norton Sound



Above: Many foreign objects are found on the coast of St. Lawrence Island. This Russian buoy was removed from the southwest side of the island during the Clean Waters project in Gambell.

Below: Debris removed from the south side of St. Lawrence Island. The island is an accumulation point for Pacific Ocean debris traveling with the Anadyr and Alaska Coastal currents.



Since 2006, NSEDC has conducted beach clean-up projects in the Norton Sound region. In 2016, as part of the Clean Waters program, clean-up projects took place in Gambell, Golovin and Teller. Six crew-members were hired in each community to remove debris from area beaches. Roughly 95,250 pounds of debris was removed, in total, in 2016 with a total of more than three-quarters of a million pounds of debris removed since the project's inception.

### 2016 Clean Waters Programs

Community	Pounds of Debris Removed
Golovin	25,000
Teller	69,000
Gambell	1,250 in 2016 14,836 in 2015

The Gambell Clean Waters project was a continuation from 2015 with a total of 16,086 pounds of debris removed.

Clean-up projects have taken place in each of NSEDC's 15 member communities. In some communities, clean-up projects have taken place twice.

"We rely heavily on ocean resources in our communities," Norton Sound Fisheries Research & Development Senior Crew Leader and Clean Waters Coordinator Fred Jay Ivanoff said. "As owners of resources in the Bering Sea, it's important for NSEDC to be committed to environmental stewardship in the Norton Sound. These aren't projects we have to do. These are projects we believe in for the betterment of the environment, communities and the future of our home."

For the 2017 Clean Waters season, clean-up projects are planned for Savoonga, White Mountain, Elim and Little Diomed.



## NACTEC develops new vocational transitions program

NACTEC/AVTEC Transitions program assists with post-secondary success



Above: Nathan Savetilik, Edgar Ningeulook and Sigfred Brown all took part in the NACTEC/AVTEC Transitions program and now study at AVTEC in Seward.

Below: Edgar Ningeulook is enrolled in the Construction Technology program, getting hands on experience to prepare himself for a career in the construction field.



As seniors in high school this past April, Nathan Savetilik, Edgar Ningeulook and Sigfred Brown traveled together with 12 other students from the Bering Strait School District (BSSD) and Nome-Beltz High School to the Alaska's Institute of Technology (AVTEC). As part of the Northwestern Alaska Career and Technical Center's (NACTEC) new AVTEC Transitions program, the three participated in a week-long training - a program similar to what their interests would be if enrolled at AVTEC full time. They met the instructors, worked alongside AVTEC students and explored their field before making the commitment to enroll.

"The entire intent is to take away all the fear of the unknown," NACTEC Director Doug Walrath said. "By putting the students in an immersive experience - sleeping in the dorms, eating in the cafeteria, riding the bus, taking tests to know their placement, going to the recreational center - the students know what to expect should they attend AVTEC after high school."

Already, the program has benefited three Norton Sound residents upon graduation from high school. Nathan, from Shaktoolik, is in a year-long Diesel/Heavy Equipment Technologies program. He said the NACTEC/AVTEC Transitions experience helped him gain confidence to leave home to study. He plans to return to the Norton Sound region to work as a mechanic.

Edgar, from Shishmaref, is enrolled in Construction Technology. He plans to continue learning construction techniques and put his skills to use in construction projects in Alaska.

Sigfred, from White Mountain, completed NACTEC training programs in high school and knew vocational training was his next step after graduation. He is enrolled in the Plumbing

# NSEDC Supports Communities

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and Heating program and he looks forward to returning to work in the Norton Sound region.

“One of the strengths in the NACTEC/AVTEC Transitions program is that these students come together, get to know one another, build relationships and provide support while training outside of the region,” Walrath said. “Nathan, Edgar and Sigfred have relationships that go back to the 8th grade when they attended NACTEC together.”

NACTEC plans to take another group of students to AVTEC for the transitions program in April. “What’s neat is Nathan will still be down there for training and will be able to speak with the kids about his experience,” Walrath said.

NSEDC is proud to support NACTEC, and has committed three years of funding to ensure the continuation of regional programs. In May of 2015, the NSEDC Board of Directors voted to commit \$150,000 each year to NACTEC for 2015, 2016 and 2017.

NACTEC is a joint venture regional vocational training center in Nome that serves students from BSSD and Nome Public Schools. Their vision is for students to “develop work ethics and employment skills to become capable of independent living while sustaining a healthy cultural identity.” NACTEC provides two-week sessions for Norton Sound students throughout the school year in the areas of art,

aviation, business communications, building trades, career exploration, entrepreneurship, field biology and many other offerings. Walrath says NACTEC has not only prepared students for life beyond high school, but has helped to lower dropout rates in the region.

“During a review of 1,727 BSSD graduates and dropouts between 2004 and 2016, 83% of BSSD’s graduates from 2014 to 2016 attended NACTEC training programs,” Walrath said. “Further, 80% of BSSD’s 640 dropouts dating back to 2004 did not attend a single NACTEC training program.”

Data indicates that students who attend NACTEC courses tend to have higher graduation rates than their counterparts who do not attend NACTEC:

- 1 course (72%)
- 2 courses (81%)
- 3 courses (79%)
- 4 courses (82%)
- 5 courses (94%)
- 6+ courses (100%)

“The data indicates the graduation rate for students attending two or more Career Training Education courses increases by 22%,” Walrath said.

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**Above: Sigfred Brown gets experience in the Plumbing and Heating program at AVTEC.**

**Below: Nathan Savetilik is enrolled in the Diesel/Heavy Equipment Technologies program and plans to return to the Norton Sound to work as a mechanic.**





# Norton Sound Student Highlight

## Meet Sam Cross



Sam Cross isn't taking the conventional route in reaching his secondary educational goals. His plans for the remainder of his educational career and beyond won't remain conventional either. Currently, Sam is taking online classes through the University of Alaska Fairbanks in Nome. Next spring, Sam will attend the Alaska Christian College in Soldotna, Alaska, to study Christian Ministries.

"I'll leave Nome to gain the skills needed to return and hopefully make

a positive impact like others have done for me and my journey," Sam said of his plans. Sam's goal is to one day work for the Covenant Youth of Alaska (CYAK), a relational outreach, discipleship, and leadership ministry for Alaska youth and young adults.

"I really appreciate CYAK's work all over the region because their vision is to help build vibrant and healthy communities, which is what we all want," Sam said. "CYAK just happens to do it through values and beliefs that directly line up with my own."

Like his father, Sam grew up attending the Covenant Bible Camp located on the North River east of Unalakleet. The camp will soon be administered through CYAK, and Sam is excited at the thought of having a job where he can be directly involved with a camp that has been important to his family for generations.

"Through simply gathering in a safe place, removed from our daily lives with cell phones, X-Box and the internet, CYAK will continue to bring

good messages to the youth of Alaska, and I want to be a part of it," Sam said. "The place has impacted my life for the better and I want to be someone who ensures the impacts continue for generations to come."

Sam is a recipient of NSEDC's \$2,500 scholarship, available each semester. He works part time at the Carrie M McLain Memorial Museum in Nome and volunteers at Checkpoint, a youth center owned by the Nome Covenant Church. He plays lots of video games and enjoys eating lots of his mom's delicious food.

Sam with his mom Julie and grandma Maggie at his graduation from Nome-Beltz High School.



Campers at the 2016 High School Covenant Bible Camp on the North River east of Unalakleet.





## Dawson Kauer - Refrigeration Technician



Since 2011, Dawson worked in maintaining equipment at NSSP's northern processing plant in Nome. In the winter of 2012, he attended and completed refrigeration and electrical training at the Refrigeration School Institute in Phoenix.

Born and raised in Nome, Dawson enjoys fishing, hanging out with friends, and sports. He is a 2010 graduate from Nome-Beltz High School.

## Teresa Krier - Accountant



Born and raised in Nome, Teresa graduated from Nome-Beltz High School in 1991. She now makes her home in Anchorage where she enjoys crafting, hiking and spending time with family.

Teresa joins the Accounting Office in Anchorage and appreciates the work NSEDC does in the Norton Sound region and its member communities. Teresa received an Associates in Accounting from Bellevue Community College and a Bachelor's of Arts in Business with a concentration in Accounting from the University of Phoenix Online.

## Marcus Pedro - Southern NSSP Asst. Plant Manager



Marcus joins NSEDC's full-time staff after four seasons as a vessel deckhand on the *T/V Golovin Bay* and the *T/V Egavik*. This past spring, Marcus graduated from the University of Alaska Fairbanks majoring in Process Technology.

Marcus grew up in Anaheim, California.

He now calls Unalakleet home where he enjoys outdoor activities, the people in the community and the offerings of small town Alaska.

Marcus can be seen fishing up the Unalakleet River, along with his girlfriend, Renae Ivanoff, and their dog, Yukon.

## 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 or Zara Ivanoff at **907-274-2248 (in Anchorage)** or **800-650-2248 (toll-free)** or by e-mail at **hr@nsedc.com**. Job postings and applications are also available online at **[www.nsedc.com/employment](http://www.nsedc.com/employment)**.

### Community Liaison (Koyuk, Gambell & Teller)

This position gives NSEDC a presence in member communities that do not have an NSEDC office. Liaisons are responsible for the distribution of announcements, information and applications related to NSEDC programs and opportunities.

### Community Benefits Specialist (Anchorage)

This position will assist the Community Benefits Department with coordination and facilitation of all Community Benefits programs. The Community Benefits Specialist will maintain record keeping, assist in developing annual activity plans for the community outreach program and complete special projects as assigned. The position will coordinate with community liaisons to collect information regarding activity priorities and assist in facilitating community meetings, events, potlucks and receptions.

## Former scholarship recipient is now EET Director

Niaomi Brunette now heads NSEDC's Education, Employment & Training programs



Niaomi Brunette says her career is where it is thanks to support from friends, family and organizations from the Norton Sound region. As NSEDC's new Education, Employment & Training (EET) Director, Niaomi looks forward to providing support for those who are seeking vocational training or post-secondary education to further their careers.

"I look forward to doing outreach in our communities and talking with stu-

dents about their goals," Niaomi said. "I really look forward to assisting them in what they look forward to doing in the future. That's what motivates me."

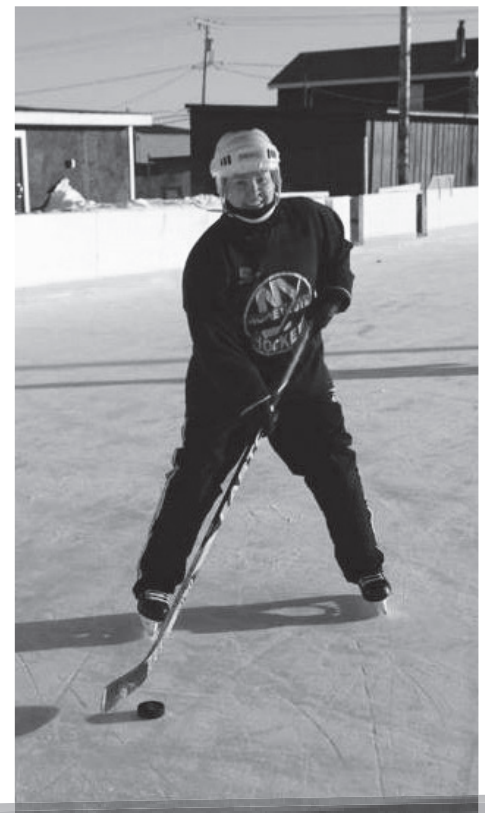
A graduate from Nome-Beltz High School, Niaomi herself received financial support from regional organizations such as NSEDC to complete a degree in U.S. History from Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado.

"It was a goal of mine from a very young age to earn a college degree," Niaomi said. "I knew education would open doors for me, and it has. I was very fortunate to attend school where I did. Fort Lewis allowed me to grow as an individual and return home with tools and skills to contribute to the region. I want to be sure that in this position I am able to provide that same support to students as they work to reach their own educational and vocational goals."

Niaomi will oversee NSEDC's scholarship program, which currently provides supplemental funds for higher education or vocational training in the amount of \$2,500 per semester or training session. She will also work directly with residents for employment opportunities with NSEDC's Bering Sea harvesting partners, and will oversee NSEDC's community-based training program in the Norton Sound region.

Niaomi lives in Anchorage with her partner, Hazel, and their three dogs, Missy, Dash and Rogue. She enjoys playing basketball, softball and hockey.

For more information on NSEDC's EET programs, visit [www.nsedc.com](http://www.nsedc.com).





## **Tomcod and smelt fishing in the Norton Sound**



Top Clockwise: Faith Ivanoff fishes for tomcod in the slough east of Unalakleet. Gavin Kinneen and Bodhi Leeper enjoy an afternoon fishing for tomcod in the Nome Harbor. On a nice day in Nome, multiple people auger out holes to enjoy the sun. The sun low to the east makes long shadows on the ice as fishers get tomcod for quaq (frozen) or soup. Bottom: All generations enjoy pulling fish out from the ice.



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# NSED C

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*Fax:* (907) 443-2478  
*Toll free in AK:* (888) 650-2477

## **Unalakleet Office**

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*Toll free in AK:* (800) 385-3190

## **Norton Sound**

### **Seafood Products (NSSP)**

#### **Nome Plant**

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