



NORTON SOUND
EDUCATION SUMMIT

**OUR EDUCATION
OUR CULTURES
OUR TIME**



2015 Norton Sound Education Summit

Our Education, Our Cultures, Our Time

Introduction

With the goal of improving educational opportunities and outcomes for students from Early Head Start through postsecondary education in the Norton Sound region, a number of entities have come together to form the Norton Sound Education Work Group and organize this regional education summit in Nome on October 9-10-11, 2015.

The Norton Sound Education Work Group (NSEWG) was formed in April of 2014 by entities which make up the region's educational framework, and began meeting informally to address common goals and challenges. The NSEWG has grown to encompass many representatives from regional organizations that recognize widespread collaboration is needed for effective change and improvements.

Four educational focus areas have been identified as initiatives to improve outcomes:

- a) Cultural Relevancy*
- b) Early Childhood & Elementary Education*
- c) Growing Our Own Teachers*
- d) Post-secondary Preparation & Transitioning Success*



Summit

The summit is envisioned as an opportunity for community and regional stakeholders to network, discuss regional needs, partner, and lead the way in supporting educational success.

The summit will provide participants the chance to share ideas and strategies to improve our regional education systems and programs. The goal is to positively influence change and strengthen relationships for the educational success of our children.

This is an important regional opportunity to voice concerns and to create solutions that will (1) yield improvements in the cultural relevancy of education and schools, (2) boost growing our own teachers, (3) support early childhood education, and (4) increase graduation rates at the high school, college and vocational levels.

Partner organizations in the NSEWG & Summit include the following:

- Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC)
- Kawerak, Inc.
- Nome Eskimo Community
- Sitnasuak Native Corporation & Foundation
- Bering Straits Native Corporation & Foundation
- Norton Sound Health Corporation
- Bering Strait School District (BSSD)
- Nome Public Schools
- Northwestern Alaska Career and Technical Center (NACTEC)
- University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) – Northwest Campus

Our Agreements / Ground Rules

The following are our agreements to observe during the summit.

These were developed by *First Alaskans Institute*, for their “*Alaska Native Dialogues on Racial Equity*” project.

Permission has been granted for use during the Norton Sound Education Summit.



Our approach to hosting these conversations is born from our value of having meaningful and sometimes difficult conversations using indigenous principles and values.

Participants should agree to approach the conversation within the parameters of the agreements chosen by the facilitators.

- **In Every Chair, A Leader**
Each person engaging in this conversation has a unique and valuable experience that is their truth.
- **Speak with Care for Others**
We each hold the responsibility to choose our words and questions carefully with the intent to learn.
- **Value Each Other’s Time**
We all share the responsibility to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to speak and engage.
- **Listen Deeply**
This is a rare and valuable opportunity to connect with others through the sharing of life experience.
- **Safe Space for Meaningful Conversation**
All notes taken are non-attribution to ensure anonymity of all dialogue participants.
- **Our Value of Humor**
Laughing is also an important way to relate with one another.
- **Be Present and Engaged**
Cell phone ringers off; be mindful of being fully present and listening. If you need help with your cell phone, please ask a facilitator for assistance.
- **Take Care of Yourself, Take Care of Each Other**
Note restrooms, exits, other amenities. Ask that participants help one another when possible.
- **Concerns? Speak with a Facilitator**

Summit Information

College Credit

College credit is available for participants, thanks to a partnership with UAF Northwest Campus. Please complete a UAF enrollment form at the registration table. There are 3 choices: (a) 1.3 continuing education units (CEUs) for \$45 per person (public & high school students), (b) ED F593P (1 credit) for Alaska teachers for \$60, and (c) ED 293P (1 credit) for para-professionals in the education field for \$45.

Door Prizes

Door prizes are available for encouraging participation and are only for registered summit attendees. For the general sessions, white raffle tickets will be given for each session attended (Friday evening, Saturday morning, Saturday lunch & Sunday morning). Some tracks will also have door prizes that will be drawn on Saturday. Quyaana for all the door prize donations from our regional businesses and organizations. Must be present to win door prizes.

Show Us Your Education Summit Selfies & Photos

Participants are encouraged to share selfies & photos from the summit – please use **#edsummit2015**. Show your photo posted online at the registration table and you can receive an extra door prize ticket (one time only). Ideas for photos – selfies next to the conference banners, with Elders or mentors, etc.

Wi-Fi Internet Access & Summit Web Page

The Nome Public School has made available their Wi-Fi Internet to summit participants. Please select the “**NPS guest**” network & **password: 2015summit**. NSEDC is hosting the Education Summit web page at www.nsedc.com. The site will have post summit information available for sharing and downloading. Summit evaluations can also be completed online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ed2015summit>

Transportation

Kawerak is leading the transportation committee for the summit. Transportation to/from the Aurora Inn & Nome Elementary School will be available Friday evening beginning at 5:45 pm to 6:30 pm & 9:00 pm to 9:30 pm; Saturday morning 7:45 am to 8:30 am & 5:00 pm to 5:30 pm; and Sunday morning from 7:45 am to 8:30 am & 10:30 am to 11:30 am.

Exhibit Tables

Exhibit tables are located in the commons area. These are opportunities to learn and pick-up regional information supporting education and training.

Summit Funders & Sponsors

Quyaana tanii – thank you very much to our Funders & Sponsors: NSEDC, Sitnasuak Native Corporation, Bering Strait Native Corporation, Ravn Alaska, Nome AC, Subway/Gold Coast Cinema, Norton Sound Health Corp, Kawerak, Inc., Northwest Campus/UAF, Nome Public Schools, City of Nome.

Tracks and Break-Out Sessions

During Saturday, there will be four (4) concurrent tracks or break-out sessions. The tracks reflect the educational initiatives as developed by the Norton Sound Education Workgroup and are supported by subcommittees of the Workgroup. The following outlines the tracks:

Cultural Relevancy

Facilitators: Anna Ashenfelter & Hattie Keller

Room: 5th/6th Grade Pod

The overall premise is – Indigenous knowledge is of value to all, and in order for the deep knowledge of the Bering Strait communities to seamlessly flow from home through school, the expertise of educators must be applied within the context of the local community. When the identities of the students are represented, they become prepared for self-determination and local, state, and global leadership.

Contact person: Barb Amarok / (907) 443-5491 / bjamarok@alaska.edu

Early Childhood & Elementary Education

Facilitator: Roy Agloinga

3rd Grade Classroom

The initiative for early childhood & elementary education recognizes the inter-relationships of four key areas: Parents & Families; Child Skills, Education & Development; Connections between Home, Community & School-Teachers; and Maintaining Cultural Identity & Community.

Contact person: Marie Tozier / (907) 443-8403 / metozier@alaska.edu

Postsecondary Preparation & Transitioning Success

Facilitators: Gabrielle Russell & Jesse Blandford

Band Room

The initiative relates to preparing our regional high school students for postsecondary education and careers; focusing on the goal of increasing the number of students prepared, successfully transitioned, and supported in a career or educational training program after high school.

Contact person: Kacey Miller / (907) 443-8416 / kacey.miller@alaska.edu

Growing Our Own Teachers

Facilitators: Anahma Shannon & Luisa Machuca

Library

The commitment to building an effective, relevant and responsive educational system requires developing educators from within our region. Employing and supporting locally-grown educators is key to improving the quality of our schools and empowering our communities.

Contact person: Luisa Machuca / (907) 443-4354 / eet.vp@kawerak.org