



## Open House

Please join us! The Gana-A'Yoo team is hosting a Shareholder/ Descendant Open House at our Anchorage office on Thursday, October 19, from 12 – 2 p.m. Come tour our new office space, spend time with fellow shareholders/descendants, and get to know your Gana-A'Yoo team. Lunch will be provided.

Office address: 3900 C Street, Suite 100, Anchorage, AK, 99503

#### CONTENTS

Scholarship Recipients2
CTE Scholarships2
Scholarship Committee2
Shareholder Relations
Committee3
Student Essay3
Calendar4
Where Are You?4





PAGE 2

SHARE YOUR STORY SCHOLARSHIP

SCHOLARSHIP DONORS
PAGE 3

CONDOLENCES PAGE 4

## CEO Message

Fall greetings, shareholders!

I hope this note finds you well and that you enjoyed a successful hunting season.

We are looking for your input regarding the newsletter. Do you know a shareholder or descendant that might be interested in leading the charge on the preparation of Gana-A'Yoo's quarterly shareholder newsletter? If you have a suggestion or would like to learn more about this opportunity, please call 907.569.9599 or email newsletter@ganaayoo.com.

Gana-A'Yoo is also working closely with our communities and partner agencies to address trespassing on our lands. Thank you to Tommy Kriska and Calvin McGinty for placing signs this fall and to all who may have helped report illegal hunting on our lands.

Last but certainly not least, please join me in congratulating our over 50 scholarship recipients. Have a great school year!

Wishing you a wonderful fall,

Dena Sommer-Pedebone Chief Executive Officer



1

# GANA-A'YOO Foundation News

The Gana-A'Yoo Foundation provides financial support to shareholders and descendants in the areas of post-secondary education, career and technical education (CTE) (formerly vocational training), and career development. Our Board of Directors and member owners have made it a strategic imperative to increase educational and training opportunities for shareholders and descendants. In the last year, the Foundation distributed approximately \$90,000 to students seeking higher education or career and technical training. The best of luck to all our students; we look forward to seeing where your journey takes you.

## Scholarships

**GENERAL SCHOLARSHIPS** The committee met in August and awarded general scholarships to the following students:

Josephine Ambridge Jodi Ambrose **Trevan Bailey** Gavin Bailey Jordanna David Hannah Ekada Elsie Erickson Jamie Generous **Bethany Grant** Pearle Green Elizabeth Green Sarah Gretzinger Jacob Hewett Sharon Hildebrand **Dewey Hoffman** Savannah Ivanoff **Danielle Johnson** 

2

Lisa Kangas Jaylein Kriska Kianna Kriska Maliyah Lefevour-Preston Kayla Leu-Clark Sonya Lord **Robyn Ludecker** Jolene Malamute Skye Malamute Darlene McAninch Nick Ostbloom **Tia Patrick Erin Patsy** Kaylyn Riley Chelsea Semaken

#### FALL 2023-SPRING 2024 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Jasmine Shank Elizabeth Shoemaker Lorraine Solomon-Henry Darlene Sommer Katie Sommer Ava Stoneman Tyler Stoneman Trevor Stoneman Hailee Tanner Rachel Thurmond Amanda Tom

#### 19 awards - Full-Time

General

Part-Time

General 23 awards

Undergraduate Competitive 7 awards

Graduate Competitive 2 awards

#### COMPETITIVE SCHOLARSHIPS

The committee met in August and awarded competitive scholarships to the following students:

Alyssa Esmailka Erin Gingrich Roderick Huntington Shaye Jensen Alexia Radman Alyssa Radman Tracy Ralston Kaylee Sommer Louise Thurmond

### CTE S*cholarships*

The board approved four travel and expense scholarships for CTE opportunities being offered through Alaska Works from fall 2023 to spring 2024. For more information, please email foundation@ganaayoo.com.

### SCHOLARSHIP Committee

Thank you to this year's scholarship committee: Shay Huntington McEwen, Betty Griffin, Vera Lestenkof and Alexis Sheeder. The committee was responsible for reviewing and ensuring the competitive scholarship applications met all requirements for this type of award.

## Share YOUR STORY

Past, present and future students, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! Shareholder Laura Ekada is scheduling video testimonials with former and current scholarship beneficiaries. If you would like to share your story, please let us know at foundation@ganaayoo.com. This project will help encourage others to apply, teach us what more we can do for student success, and inspire potential donors to contribute to the Foundation. Watch one of the student testimonial videos at youtu.be/Yj1DBF7t\_fQ.

Denadolale' "OUR VOICE"

### SHAREHOLDER RELATIONS Committee

The shareholder relations committee welcomes newly elected committee member, Jaylein Kriska of Koyukuk and Nulato! Kriska is currently a student at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, where she is studying for her bachelor's degree in business administration. She is also a Gana-A'Yoo scholarship recipient, and a class C and E shareholder. Kriska has past experience with Doyon, Limited, where she worked in the Shareholder Relations/Human Resources Department for roughly two years.

" My background of working in shareholder relations gives me the benefit of knowing how to properly interact with shareholders, present ideas that would benefit shareholders, and finding opportunities out there for shareholders." - Jaylein Kriska

Kriska values education and creativity, which has led her to design Athabascan art for companies based off traditional values and respect for lands, waters, animals and peoples.

## Featured STUDENT ESSAY

by Louise Thurmond

It is with great excitement to relay that I have successfully finished my first semester in the Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program at Duke University School of Nursing (DUSON). I want to start by giving thanks and recognition to Gana-A'Yoo for awarding a general scholarship for this past semester (spring 2023) – the support is much appreciated.

As far as my academic goals, it may be obvious that I am continuing in my journey toward advancing my nursing practice as an FNP (graduation date anticipated August 2025). This year marks my 12th year as a Registered Nurse, with a majority of those years devoted to serving American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) communities through the inpatient and outpatient settings of Indian Health Services (IHS).

The reasons I chose to pursue higher education are multifaceted. The first reason is that I truly enjoy the field of nursing and would like to expand my knowledge and skill set. The second is that I enjoy a challenge. Nursing in itself has brought many challenges that taught me the value of being able to adapt and overcome in a humble and respectful manner. I intentionally chose a prestigious FNP program that was ranked #1 in the nation, and so far ... it is proving to be a worthy challenge. Finally, I want to give back to my Native community and family in multiple ways as an FNP. I not only want to provide high-quality healthcare but also inspire my children and community to pursue their dreams.

It is my intention to remain in Alaska as an FNP to continue serving AIAN communities, especially those in underserved areas. My areas of interest revolve around preventive care, women's health, substance use disorder, and behavioral health (BH). After gaining a foundation as an FNP, my long-term career goal is to obtain a post-master's degree as a Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP). This will allow me to provide healthcare in family medicine as well as BH.

Behavioral health is an area that I not only have an interest in but have noticed we have limited access to here in Alaska. It has been difficult seeing patients who are suffering and ready to address their mental health needs, yet not have any local resources available (i.e., wait times greater than six months). I am hoping to eventually help fill this gap in care.

At the end of my career, I want to retrospectively look back and feel I have done my part to make the world a better place for my family and community.



### SCHOLARSHIP Donors

The Gana-A'Yoo Foundation would like to thank this year's benefactors for your donations; your support helps contribute to our students' success and that is invaluable.

#### TIER I ≥ \$250 Multiple employees

Galena Hardware

#### TIER II ≥ \$500

Kimberly Bower Howard Darling Linda Fleury Shay Huntington McEwen Alaska Communications

TIER III ≥ \$750 Anonymous employees (2)

TIER IV ≥ \$1,250 BDO

TIER  $V \ge $2,500$ No current donors

TIER VI ≥ \$5,000 No current donors

TIER VII ≥ \$10,000 Alyeska Pipeline Service Company

#### ESS Support Services

A special thank you to our employees and volunteers who have contributed time and energy to the Foundation. In July, Gana-A'Yoo held the 5th annual PTO raffle amongst our employees nationwide. Employees offered a contribution to the Foundation and were entered to win a day of paid time off. This annual event has become quite popular!

If you would like to donate to the Foundation or get involved, contact the corporate office.

#### CONTACT US

Toll-Free | 1.888.656.1606 Anchorage | 907.569.9599 Galena | 907.656.1606 Web | ganaayoo.com





#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Kimberly Bower | Chair Melissa McGinty | President Sharon Hildebrand | Vice President and Secretary Joshua Peter | Treasurer Howard Darling | Director Linda Fleury | Director Frederick Huntington Sr. | Director Shay Huntington McEwen | Director **Thomas Neglaska** | Director

#### **EDITOR**

newsletter@ganaayoo.com

### GANA-A'YOO



3900 C Street, Suite 100 Anchorage, Alaska 99503

## MARK YOUR Calendar

Please visit our website for the most up-to-date information.

#### OCTOBER

**19** Gana-A'Yoo Shareholder/Descendant Open House

#### **NOVEMBER**

- 5 Stock Will Drive Prize Drawing Deadline
- **10** Veterans' Day Gana-A'Yoo offices closed
- Gana-A'Yoo Foundation Spring 2024 General Scholarship **Application Opens**
- 23 Thanksgiving Day Gana-A'Yoo offices closed
- 24 Observed Holiday Gana-A'Yoo offices closed

#### DECEMBER

- 15 Gana-A'Yoo Foundation Spring 2024 General Scholarship **Application Closes**
- **25** Christmas Day Gana-A'Yoo offices closed

## Where ARE YOU?

Visit our website or contact the office for the updated list of shareholders who we need current contact information for.

## **CONDOLENCES**

Scholarship applications will open at ganaayoo.awardspring.com.

Contact the office with

Our condolences to the family and friends of: Thomas T. Debo, 62, Galena Stock



any questions.