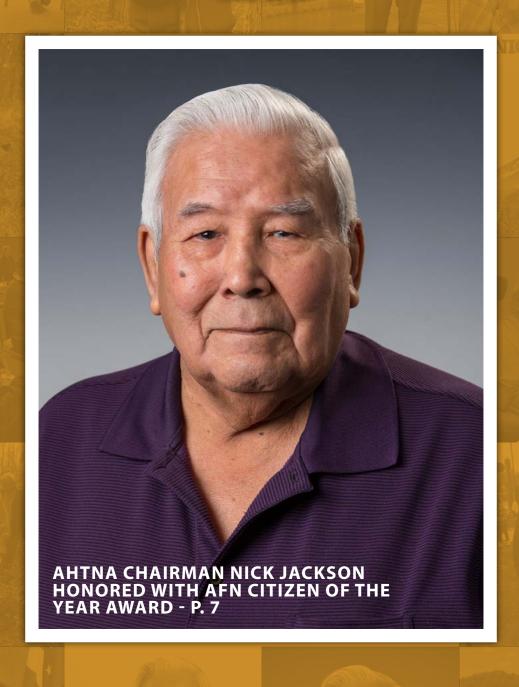
# Ahtna Kanas

- FALL 2024-



# Ahtna Kanas

# Fall 2024

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## Ahtna, Inc. Senior Management Team



Michelle Anderson
President



Kathryn Martin Senior VP



Matt Tisher CFO & VP of Finance



VP of Land &



VP of Human Resources



Brian Robbins



Nicholas Ostrovsky

#### Ahtna Netiye' Senior Management Team



Roy J. Tansy Jr. CEO



Robert Harris COO & Interim President, ADH



Pamela Finnesand VP SBA Compliance, ITPSC)

#### Ahtna Subsidiary Presidents



Craig O'Rourke President, AFH, ADB, AGSC, AMCC & AUSA



Brenda Rebne President, AISH, AFSI, APSI, AKHI, ATSI, & AISL



David O'Donnell President, AC&PPC & AAA Valley Gravel



Jason McCart President, ASG, AhtnaSTS, ALL and AIL



**Ali Tabatabai** President, Link & AIMI



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CELEBRATING CHAIRMAN JACKSON'S AFN HONOR, LANDMARK BLM AGREEMENT, AND LAND REACQUISITION

Dear fellow shareholders,

This year's AFN Convention served as a vital platform for the Alaska Native community, focusing on critical issues such as customary and traditional hunting and fishing, state and federal legislative matters, and education. During the Convention, delegates engaged in discussions about strategic opportunities and challenges, while enjoying inspiring keynote speeches and insightful reports from political leaders. Expert panels presented valuable information, and participants shared experiences, strengths, knowledge, stories of resilience, and aspirations for the future. It was wonderful to see so many Ahtna shareholders at AFN, sharing in the discussions and participating in this important event. The Ahtna shareholder reception was a great success as well, providing a warm and welcoming space to connect and visit with one another. Thank you to all our shareholders who make our shareholder reception a "must attend" event each year. To those for whom this may have been your first time attending, we hope you enjoyed the experience and look forward to seeing you at future receptions! It is truly heartwarming to come together to discuss AFN Convention business as well as to share information that is important to our shareholders.



We are proud to congratulate Ahtna, Inc. Chairman Nicholas Jackson on receiving the prestigious Citizen of the Year award from AFN at this year's Convention. This well-deserved honor recognizes Chairman Jackson's lifetime of service to the Ahtna people, Alaska Native communities, and the State of Alaska. He has been a vocal advocate for customary and traditional hunting and fishing rights, actively protecting the subsistence lifestyle of the Ahtna people. His traditional knowledge, combined with a modern understanding of environmental changes, has made him a trusted leader and mentor for Ahtna shareholders and Alaska Natives, Chairman Jackson's life has been defined by his service to others, from his military service to his advocacy for the protection of Ahtna lands and resources. Today, as Chairman of Ahtna, Inc., he continues to be a guiding force, always with an eye on the future while honoring the past. It was a powerful and emotional moment to witness the Ahtna people standing alongside Chairman Jackson as he received this richly deserved award. Seeing so many of our shareholders on stage in support of our Chairman was a testament to the strength of our people and the deep respect we hold for Chairman Jackson's lifelong dedication and service. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated and selfless leader, and we extend our heartfelt congratulations to him for this remarkable achievement. You can read more about the award and our Chairman on page 7.

Also in October, I had the honor of signing a historic agreement between Ahtna, Inc. and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to manage 17(b) easements, marking the first-ever compact between an Alaska Native Corporation and the BLM. Before embarking on this path, we consulted closely with our Tribes and gained their full support, ensuring that this agreement aligns with the values and priorities of our people.

(Continued on page 2)

These easements provide public access through Ahtna's privately owned land to public lands, and the agreement gives Ahtna the authority to directly oversee their upkeep and protection. By managing the 17(b) easements, Ahtna can ensure sustainable public access while safeguarding our lands from environmental damage and unauthorized use. These efforts will including improving trail maintenance, enhancing signage, and reducing trespassing, creating benefits for both Ahtna shareholders and the public. This partnership exemplifies Ahtna's ongoing commitment to responsible land stewardship and preserving our lands for future generations. Read more about the agreement on page 6.

After decades of work, we are happy to announce that Ahtna has achieved a historic milestone by successfully reacquiring 5,408 acres of land near Gakona that was once home to the infamous High-frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP). This land, of great cultural and traditional significance, was originally sold to the U.S. Air Force in 1989. After nearly four decades of dedication and strategic planning, including the establishment of the Ahtna Land Fund, Ahtna was able to repurchase the land. The reacquisition represents a meaningful return of ancestral lands, fulfilling a long-held goal of the corporation and exemplifying Ahtna's ongoing commitment to protecting our lands for future generations. You can read more about this effort on page 5.

Early this September, I visited the Denali National Park (DNP) Headquarters for a productive meeting with Park Superintendent Brooke Merrill, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve (WRST) Superintendent Ben Bobowski, and their teams. For our Glennallen headquarters team, our goal was to establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the DNP like the one we have with WRST, which has facilitated collaboration on various projects such as the reopening of the Ahtna Cultural Center. We also met with Denali Borough Mayor Chris Noel, who shared updates about the local school in Cantwell, and Tribal Ligison Danielle Stickman. who is working on incorporating traditional place names into the DNP's 20-year interpretive plan. We also discussed various land planning efforts underway, DNP projects & priorities, and WRST updates. Our visit concluded with a short hike alongside Superintendent Merrill and her team, further fostering our collaboration. This hike was my first real hike inside the park, and to say I was astonished by the natural beauty and peaks of Denali would be an understatement. Meetings like these are vital in furthering Ahtna's priorities by building relationships with key federal entities and opening doors for ongoing discussions on how best to serve the Ahtna people. These partnerships help ensure that Ahtna's cultural and environmental interests are protected while creating opportunities for collaboration on important projects that benefit our shareholders.

Tsin'aen,

Michelle Anderson, President

Inhelle Anderson

Ahtna, Incorporated

# **AHTNA NETIYE' CEO'S MESSAGE**

## LEADERSHIP CHANGES, STRATEGIC ACQUISITIONS, AND OPERATIONAL RESILIENCE

Dear fellow shareholders,

As we move into the final months of the year, I want to take a moment to

reflect on what has been a particularly busy fall for Ahtna. Here in Alaska, we're often spared the direct impacts of hurricanes, but as a company with a global footprint, we have operations in areas more prone to natural disasters. This was the case recently when Hurricane Milton struck the southeastern United States, affecting some of our operations in Florida.

I am relieved to share that all of our employees in Florida are safe and accounted for following this devastating storm. Despite the severity of Hurricane Milton, we were fortunate not to suffer any injuries among our staff. Several of our subsidiary groups were impacted by Hurricane Milton. Ahtna Marine and Construction Company's team, working on the Estero Beach project in Fort Myers, had to evacuate due to safety concerns, but fortunately the project site and equipment were not severely affected. Ahtna Professional Services, based in Clearwater, experienced disruptions but is working closely with the Coast Guard, which is reopening its base, allowing operations to continue. Ahtna Support Services' contract operations were unaffected, and our CTC and ITAS customers and facilities remained safe, though some employees experienced minor power outages and debris at home. Although the storm primarily affected Florida's west coast, tornadoes across the state added to the complexity of the disaster. Our leadership team in Florida recognizes that we were lucky under the circumstances, and our thoughts and prayers are with those who were less fortunate.

Despite the challenges posed by Hurricane Milton, we are moving forward with the Estero Island dredging and beach renourishment project, which is essential for repairing the severe erosion caused by past hurricanes. The area has faced extensive damage from previous storms, making this restoration effort critical to the long-term health and stability of the shoreline. The project is still on track, and Ahtna was the only company able to meet all the necessary criteria while staying under budget—a true testament to the expertise and efficiency of our team. With the frequency of hurricanes in the area, this project not only addresses past damage but also positions Ahtna to be able to help in future recovery efforts. As we complete this renourishment work, our experience and readiness will allow us to respond quickly to similar projects that may arise due to the recent storms. Ahtna's proven ability to deliver high-quality results under difficult conditions strengthens our standing in this industry, opening doors for further opportunities in hurricane recovery and coastal restoration.

In other exciting news, Ahtna Integrated Services, LLC has been awarded a prestigious contract to provide custodial and recycling services at NASA's Ames Research Center in California. This long-term contract marks a significant achievement for Ahtna, reinforcing our commitment to expanding our service offerings across diverse industries and sectors. The scope of this contract includes essential services such as sanitation, waste management, and recycling, all crucial for maintaining the health, safety, and sustainability of NASA's facilities. This opportunity not only highlights our growing expertise in facility management but also strengthens our relationship with a key federal agency. Winning this contract showcases Ahtna's ability to compete and succeed in highly specialized markets, and we look forward to the positive impact it will have on our company's growth.

Our new joint venture, Ahtna USA – CDM JV, has been awarded a significant contract by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for hurricane relief efforts in Asheville, North Carolina. This important project will focus on installing and operating a water pre-treatment plant designed to address the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. The plant will help treat water impacted by hurricane runoff, ensuring it is safe for use in the area's existing drinking water system. This contract further showcases Ahtna's ability to rapidly mobilize and respond to emergency situations, utilizing our expertise in environmental management and infrastructure support. By partnering with CDM, a leader in water and wastewater treatment, we are able to bring technical knowledge and experience to this critical project. This venture is a strong demonstration of Ahtna's growing capabilities in disaster recovery and environmental solutions, reinforcing our reputation as a trusted partner for large-scale emergency response efforts.

As we approach the end of the year, I want to thank each of you for your continued support. Ahtna's success is built on the strength of our people and our community, and we remain dedicated to growing and protecting our business for the benefit of our shareholders.

Thank you for your continued support,

Roy Tansy Jr., Chief Executive Officer Ahtna Netiye', LLC

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# AHTNA ENVIRONMENTAL WINS PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL PROJECT **EXCELLENCE AWARD**

We are thrilled to announce that Ahtna Environmental's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Western Ecology Division Laboratory Modernization Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) \$70 million contract has been honored with the 2024 Project Excellence Award in the Institutional category. This esteemed recognition was presented at the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) conference held this month in Houston, Texas. Ahtna has successfully completed work on Phases 1A, 2, 2A, 3, and 4, encompassing nearly 50,000 square feet of hightech renovated space. All Interim and Final Contractor Performance Assessment Reporting System (CPARS) have received "Exceptional" ratings in all categories scored, adding to the competitiveness of our award submission.

The award celebrates outstanding construction projects and the exceptional contractors and design teams behind them. Mark Lamberty, the project's superintendent, proudly accepted the award on behalf of Ahtna Environmental, joined by colleagues and NAWIC members Dana Sherman, Lori Kropidlowski, and Laura Reishus. We are incredibly proud to be nationally recognized for our commitment and excellence in working with the EPA. This award is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our entire team, further highlighted by the EPA granting Ahtna a follow-on five-year contract for Operations & Maintenance (O&M) services.



Dana Sherman, Laura Reishus, Lori Kropidlowski, and Mark Lamberty accept the 2024 NAWIC award for project excellence during NAWIC's 2024 Annual Conference.

# AHTNA RANKS #18 ON ALASKA BUSINESS MAGAZINE'S TOP 49

Ahtna, Inc. is proud to announce its ranking as #18 on Alaska Business Magazine's prestigious 2024 list of Top 49 Alaska-owned businesses. This annual ranking recognizes leading businesses across the state for their economic impact and growth. The Top 49ers list highlights Ahtna's continued success and commitment to delivering value to its shareholders and the broader community.

You can read more about this year's Top 49ers in the October issue of Alaska Business here: <a href="https://digital.akbizmag.com/issue/">https://digital.akbizmag.com/issue/</a> october-2024/.



# LANDS SPOTLIGHT



# AHTNA, INC. SUCCESSFULLY REACQUIRES HAARP LAND AFTER DECADES-LONG EFFORT

In a historic moment for Ahtna, Inc. and its shareholders, the corporation has successfully reacquired the land that was once home to the High-frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP) near Gakona. This achievement, which took place on October 23, 2024, marks the culmination of nearly four decades of dedication and perseverance by Ahtna's leadership and staff.

#### Forced to Sell Ancestral Lands Under Threat of Eminent Domain

TThe story began in 1986, when Ahtna, Inc. entered into discussions with the U.S. Air Force regarding a proposed Over-the-Horizon Backscatter (OTH-B) radar site north of Gakona. Although the radar site was never developed, the focus shifted to the establishment of HAARP, a research facility designed to study the Earth's ionosphere.

Despite objections from Ahtna and the Gakona Tribe, the U.S. Government invoked the threat of eminent domain, compelling Ahtna to sell 5,408 acres of culturally and traditionally significant land to the Air Force in 1989. This land, deeply valued by the Gakona Tribe and Ahtna shareholders, became the site of the HAARP facility.

#### **Establishing the Ahtna Land Fund**

Following the HAARP land sale, Ahtna, Inc. made a strategic decision to use the proceeds to establish the Ahtna Land Fund. The purpose of this fund was clear: to eventually reacquire the HAARP land and purchase other private properties within the Ahtna region that held cultural, environmental, or economic value.

#### A Path to Reacquisition

In 2016, a significant milestone was reached when President Obama signed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). This Act contained a provision that allowed Ahtna, Inc. to repurchase the HAARP land. Under this agreement, Ahtna regained ownership of the original lands sold to the government, while the developed infrastructure was transferred to the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) for ongoing research work. This includes the HAARP facility which is used for "campaigns" or research.

For eight years, Ahtna staff worked tirelessly to reacquire the former Gakona Village Corporation lands surrounding HAARP. Their efforts finally paid off in October 2024, securing the land's return to Ahtna ownership and fulfilling a long-held goal of the corporation. Ahtna paid fair market value for the property in the amount of \$1.2 million.

#### **What This Means for Shareholders**

The reacquisition of the HAARP land represents more than just a land deal; it is a return of a culturally and historically important area to Ahtna ownership. The land's traditional and cultural significance to the Gakona Tribe and shareholders cannot be overstated, and its return opens doors for future stewardship that aligns with Ahtna's values and vision for the region.

This accomplishment is a testament to the brilliant forethought, dedication and resilience of Ahtna's past leadership in establishing the Ahtna Land Fund. It also serves as a reminder of the corporation's ongoing commitment to protecting and enhancing our lands.

The reacquisition of the HAARP land is a victory not only for Ahtna, Inc. but for all shareholders who cherish the traditional lands and heritage of the Ahtna region. This achievement is one of many steps Ahtna has taken to preserve our traditional land base for the cultural, economic, and environmental benefit of future generations.



Ahtna President Michelle Anderson and Ahtna Board Member for Gakona Linda Pete proudly hold the quitclaim deed for the land transfer, marking a significant milestone for Ahtna as they celebrate this momentous occasion.



# AHTNA, INC. AND BLM SIGN AGREEMENT FOR 17(B) EASEMENT MANAGEMENT ON AHTNA LANDS

Ahtna, Inc. has signed a historic agreement with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to manage public access easements, known as 17(b) easements, that provide public access across Ahtna's privately owned lands to surrounding federal lands. Under this new agreement, Ahtna will take over the administration and upkeep of these easements from the BLM. This move is designed to improve the management of these access routes while protecting Ahtna lands and Ahtna's rights as a private landowner.

#### What Are 17(b) Easements?

Under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), 17(b) easements were created to allow public access through lands conveyed to Alaska Native Corporations. The primary purpose of these easements is to maintain access to public lands and waters across private Native-owned land. These easements provide vital routes for activities like recreation, subsistence, and travel.

The federal lands adjacent to Ahtna's lands, located in the southcentral interior of Alaska, are some of the most frequently used by the public due to their proximity to road systems. As a result, many of the 17(b) easements experience heavy use, leading to environmental damage, trespass, and conflicts between landowners and the public.

# Ahtna's Role in Protecting and Maintaining 17(b) Easements

With this new agreement, Ahtna will take direct responsibility for maintaining and improving these easements. This includes developing a comprehensive dataset to track their locations, improving public signage, and repairing damage caused by excessive or improper trail use. One of the key goals is to ensure that the public can continue to access public lands through these easements, while protecting the integrity of Ahtna's lands.

By managing these routes, Ahtna will ensure that the easements remain functional and sustainable, preventing trail erosion and minimizing the impact on the surrounding environment. This management effort will also help reduce instances of trespass, where members of the public mistakenly or intentionally venture off the designated easements onto Ahtna's private lands.

Ahtna President Michelle Anderson and BLM Alaska State Director Steve Cohn sign the agreement, with Ahtna Land Department Special Projects Manager Bruce Cain observing. Bruce played a pivotal role in bringing the agreement to fruition.

#### Benefits for Ahtna Shareholders and the Public

This initiative directly benefits both Ahtna shareholders and the broader public. For shareholders, managing the 17(b) easements is a way to protect their lands from damage and encroachment, safeguarding important cultural and natural resources. Ahtna has long been committed to preserving its land for future generations, and taking on the responsibility of managing these easements is a natural extension of that mission.

For the public, this agreement ensures continued access to popular recreational areas while providing clearer information about land ownership and designated routes. Ahtna's management will result in better-maintained trails, improved signage, and a more organized system for accessing public lands. By keeping the public on designated easements, Ahtna also helps reduce conflicts and confusion over land ownership.

#### A Path Forward for Sustainable Access

Managing the 17(b) easements is part of Ahtna's broader effort to promote sustainable land use and protect its natural and cultural resources. By taking a proactive approach to maintaining these easements, Ahtna ensures that the public can continue to enjoy the land without negatively impacting our shareholders or the environment.

This agreement represents a positive step forward in balancing the needs of landowners and the public, providing a model for other Alaska Native Corporations and public agencies to follow. Through this effort, Ahtna reinforces its role as a responsible land steward, dedicated to protecting its lands while supporting public access in a way that is respectful and sustainable.





# AHTNA CHAIRMAN NICK JACKSON HONORED WITH AFN CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD



At this year's Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) Annual Convention, Ahtna Chairman Jackson was awarded the prestigious Citizen of the Year Award. This honor recognizes the incredible impact Chairman Jackson has made on the Alaska Native community, his dedication to preserving the Ahtna way of life, and his lifelong commitment to serving others. The AFN Citizen of the Year Award celebrates individuals who have demonstrated outstanding contributions to their families and the Native community, particularly those who have shown strong commitment, dedication, and service to rural Alaska.

Chairman Jackson was born in Copper Center in 1936 and raised in a family that instilled in him the values of the Ahtna culture. He is a proud member of the Udzisyu (Caribou) Clan, and his upbringing deeply influenced his life's work. After serving on active duty in the U.S. Army from 1958 to 1959, he transitioned to reserve duty, which included being called back to military service to train with the National Guard during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Honorably discharged in 1964, he returned home with a renewed sense of purpose.

Throughout his career, Chairman Jackson has held various leadership positions within Ahtna. He began his professional journey with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, where he worked as a technician for ten years in Cordova, Glennallen, and Valdez. This role bolstered his natural curiosity about environmental, wildlife, and landscape changes, laying the groundwork for his future advocacy in these areas. He later served two terms on the Alaska Board of Game and was a member of the Big Game Commercial Services Board, demonstrating his commitment to wildlife management and conservation.

Chairman Jackson's tenure as the General Manager of Ahtna, Inc., and later as President of Ahtna Construction & Primary Products Corporation, showcased his ability to merge traditional Ahtna values with modern business practices.

Over his tenure, Chairman Jackson has served on various Ahtna committees and has held other board officer positions. His leadership has been pivotal in ensuring that Ahtna shareholders have access to opportunities while maintaining a strong connection to their cultural roots.

In addition to his contributions to Ahtna, Chairman Jackson is a member of the Gulkana Village Council and the Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission. He has served on the Copper River Native Association board of directors and has been involved with the local Alaska Native Brotherhood (Camp 34) and numerous local fish and game advisory committees. His dedication to community service even led him to run for the State House in 1988.

Chairman Jackson's commitment to the Ahtna people is evident in his efforts to protect hunting and fishing rights. He has been an outspoken advocate for responsible management of Alaska's natural resources, ensuring that future generations can continue to enjoy a customary and traditional way of life. He emphasizes the importance of passing down Ahtna traditional knowledge, engaging leaders of all ages to recognize the environmental and political changes affecting their communities.

His respect for the land and its resources is reflected in his belief that, "We have something for today and something for the future too." Chairman Jackson is keenly aware of climate changes, land conditions, temperature fluctuations, and the migration patterns of animal populations. He actively monitors the health of fish in the Copper River and collaborates with other Ahtna leaders to promote sustainable practices that benefit both the environment and the community.

Throughout his life, Chairman Jackson has embodied the spirit of service. He shares his knowledge of the Ahtna culture, actively participates in community events, and remains a compassionate presence during traditional gatherings, always ready to support those in need. His unwavering dedication to the Ahtna people and all Alaska Natives has fostered a sense of unity and resilience within the community.

We congratulate Chairman Jackson on this well-deserved honor and thank him for his decades of dedication to the Ahtna community and all Alaska Native peoples. His legacy serves as an inspiration for future generations, reminding us all of the importance of commitment, service, and cultural preservation.

# **AFN CONVENTION AND SHAREHOLDER RECEPTION 2024**



# **PATH PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**



#### Diane Warren - Receptionist, Al

Please join us in welcoming Diane Pedro Warren to the Ahtna team as a participant in the PATH Program! Diane, granddaughter of Samuel Jerry Pedro and Olga Kanabec, and daughter of Carol Marie Pedro and Christopher David Joe, began her journey as a dog walker and has rapidly progressed to a full-time receptionist while training in HR systems. A graduate of Denali PEAK Correspondence/Homeschool, she was inspired to join Ahtna by her father and is grateful for the positive experiences she has had since starting. Diane looks forward to making a lasting impact within our family of companies as she pursues her goals of becoming a Medical Assistant or building a career in business. Outside of work, she loves hanging out with her 5-year-old German Shepherd, Serene, who goes everywhere with her—except the office!

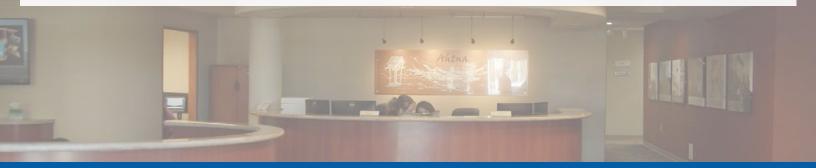


#### **Sydney Leonard - Receptionist, AI**

After successfully completing her summer internship, Sydney Leonard has joined Ahtna's PATH Program. Sydney is the daughter of Samantha Mujica and William Leonard, and the granddaughter of Raphael and Dorthy Mujica and Katherine and William Leonard. With a background in customer service and sales, she views the skills she is gaining in this program as essential for kickstarting her career and building valuable experience. A graduate of East High School, she has studied at UMass Boston and Fort Lewis College, and now plans to complete her education at the University of Alaska Anchorage. Inspired by PATH Program Coordinator Ve'dra Bechtol, Sydney aims to find a place within Ahtna, Inc. Eager to make a positive impact, she is excited to learn and be a part of the team!

#### **More About the PATH Program**

Ahtna's Career PATH (Partnership, Accountability, Training, Hope) participants support departments while learning new skills and gaining experience. This exposure and mentorship help shareholders determine a career plan within the Ahtna family of companies. Shareholders are encouraged to contact Shareholder Employee Career PATH Supervisor Ve'dra Bechtol at (907) 868-8204 or <a href="www.ahtna.com/path">www.ahtna.com/path</a> to learn more. The program is a wonderful introduction to the Ahtna family of companies and can lead to many different career path opportunities.



# YOUTH PATH PROGRAM PARTICIPANT HIGHLIGHT



## Mireya Gessells - Receptionist, Al

Mireya Gessells is our new Youth PATH Program participant! A member of the Naltsiine (Sky) Clan, Mireya is the granddaughter of Phyllis Yazzie and Virgil John, and the daughter of Natasha and Michael Gessells. She draws inspiration from her sister Natalia, whom she admires and considers an important role model, motivating her to join the Youth PATH Program. Currently enrolled in her final year of high school, Mireya looks forward to discovering her strengths and weaknesses through this experience. Outside of her professional pursuits, she enjoys spending time with family and friends as she navigates this journey.

## More About the Ahtna Youth PATH Program

The Ahtna Youth PATH Program is designed to provide Ahtna high school students with entry-level customer service and receptionist experience. Students are provided with a supportive work environment that emphasizes both soft and hard job skills — aiming to increase our youth's ability to pursue careers that pay well and are personally meaningful. Shareholders are encouraged to contact Shareholder Employee Career PATH Supervisor Ve'dra Bechtol at (907) 868-8204 or <a href="mailto:vbechtol@ahtna.net">vbechtol@ahtna.net</a> to learn more about the Ahtna Youth Pathway Program.

# 2024 AHTNA SHAREHOLDER INTERNSHIP RECAP

The Ahtna Summer Internship program for 2024 has officially concluded, and we would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Johnathon Duke, Illeana Debler, Sydney Leonard, and Braeden John for successfully completing their internships. Their journey culminated with capstone presentations in August, marking the end of an intensive study program designed to provide Ahtna shareholders with meaningful work experience within the Ahtna family of companies. The internship program offers participants valuable on-the-job training across various specialized fields, bridging classroom learning with real-world application, enabling participants to explore potential career paths.

The 2024 participants engaged in a wide range of activities designed to provide both professional and cultural experiences. They were involved in land management tasks, while also learning about the historical and cultural significance of the lands they were working on. Beyond technical assignments, interns had the opportunity to practice cultural traditions during a stay at fish camp. Interns cleaned, smoked, and stored their fishwheel catch before sharing the harvest with Elders.



#### Sydney Leonard, Ahtna Engineering Intern, Anchorage

Sydney Leonard was a college intern in the Ahtna Engineering program, where she worked in the procurement department, focusing on filing tasks. Growing up in Anchorage and later residing in Wasilla, Sydney valued her internship experience highly. She credited the Ahtna Intern Program for not only providing her with valuable work experience in an office setting, but also equipping her with essential life skills and deepening her understanding of Ahtna history and culture. Sydney was enthusiastic about the opportunities the program offered and highly recommends it to others seeking to gain meaningful experiences. She is the daughter of Samantha Mujica and William Leonard, and her grandparents are Katherine and William Leonard.



#### Illeana Debler, AI Administrative Intern, Glennallen

Illeana Debler served as an administrative intern with Ahtna's Shareholder Enrichment Department in the Glennallen office. Through her internship, she gained valuable insights into Ahtna culture, explored various job opportunities, and recognized the significance of the corporation. Illeana highly recommends the Ahtna Intern Program to other shareholders, emphasizing its capacity to provide learning opportunities and enhance workplace skills. Originally from Tetlin, she now resides in Copper Center. Illeana is the daughter of Stephanie and Nolan Debler, and her maternal grandparents are Ramona Nicolai and Stephan Pete, while her paternal grandparents are Joanne and Lawrence Debler.



#### Johnathon Duke, Land Department Intern, Glennallen

Johnathon Duke was a college intern in the Land Department at Ahtna Inc. He grew up in Anchorage, Alaska, where he currently resides. Johnathon is the son of Patrick Duke and Anita Moran, and his grandparents are Chris Duke and Clarence (Bud) Duke III. He enthusiastically recommends the Ahtna Intern Program to other shareholders, highlighting it as an excellent opportunity to gain job experience while learning about Ahtna culture and history, all while being compensated for his efforts.



#### Braeden John, Al Administrative Intern, Anchorage

Braeden John served as an administrative intern with Ahtna's Shareholder Enrichment Department at the Anchorage office. During his internship, he gained valuable insights into Ahtna culture, explored various job opportunities, and deepened his understanding of the corporation's significance. His main project involved consolidating the Walter Charley Memorial Scholarship archive files. His biggest takeaway was learning about Ahtna history and expanding his knowledge of Alaska Native Corporations. Braeden is currently attending the University of Alaska Anchorage, working toward an Associate of Applied Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography. He hails from the Cantwell and Copper Center areas and is a member of the Udzisyu (Caribou) clan.

# SHAREHOLDER SPOTLIGHT: AUTHOR MARY TONY (AURORA HARDY)



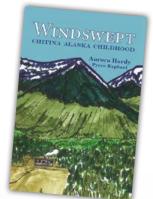
Ahtna shareholder Mary Tony, known by her pen name Aurora Hardy, has made an inspiring entrance into the literary world this year with the release of two powerful works: Windswept: A Chitina Childhood and Windswept: Tales for Children. Through these books, Mary weaves together vivid personal memories, cultural traditions, and timeless lessons that speak not only to her fellow shareholders but to readers everywhere.

Each tale draws readers into a world filled with adventure, nature, and important life lessons—whether it's learning to respect the animals that share the land, understanding the changing seasons, or discovering the power of friendship and community.

What sets Windswept: Tales for Children apart is Mary's ability to make these lessons accessible and entertaining, while staying true to the oral storytelling traditions of the Ahtna people. Her stories are infused with the magic of the Alaskan wilderness—where rivers speak, animals teach, and the wind carries the wisdom of the ancestors. Through these narratives, Mary hopes to inspire curiosity and a sense of wonder in young readers, while also imparting values such as respect for the environment, kindness, and the importance of family. For more details and to order, visit here: https://a.co/d/6ig1foS.

# A Journey Through Time in Windswept: A Chitina Childhood

Windswept: A Chitina Childhood is a beautifully crafted memoir that offers a rare glimpse into life in Chitina, a remote Alaskan village where Mary spent her formative years. Through her eyes, readers are transported to the sweeping landscapes of the Copper River Basin, where towering mountains, glacial rivers, and wild tundra stretch as far as the eye can see. But it's not just the stunning environment that

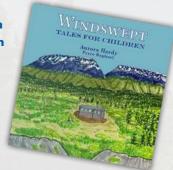


makes Mary's memoir so compelling; it's her ability to capture the spirit of her upbringing, grounded in the customs, stories, and wisdom of the Ahtna people.

In this book, Mary reflects on the teachings of her Elders, recounting the lessons she learned from the land, the animals, and her close-knit community. Readers are treated to rich narratives of subsistence living, hunting and fishing, gathering food for the long winter months, and the rituals that have sustained her family and community for generations. Mary also bravely explores the challenges of growing up in a rural, Indigenous community, discussing how she balanced traditional ways with the pressures of modernization. The memoir offers a heartfelt portrayal of the joys, hardships, and enduring strength of Alaska Native families, a powerful testament to resilience and cultural survival. For more details and to order, visit here: https://a.co/d/03QO4Ey.

# Storytelling with a Purpose in Windswept: Tales for Children

Mary's second book, Windswept: Tales for Children, demonstrates her extraordinary talent for connecting with younger audiences. This collection of stories blends the wonder of childhood with the values and knowledge passed down through her Ahtna heritage.



#### A Passion for Storytelling and Cultural Preservation

Mary Tony's journey as an author began with a simple yet powerful desire: to preserve the stories and experiences of her people for future generations. Writing under the name Aurora Hardy, Mary has taken on the role of cultural ambassador, using her voice to share the beauty of Ahtna traditions with the world. In both of her books, her love for the land, her people, and her heritage shine through, offering readers a deep sense of connection to Alaska's history and its Indigenous cultures.

In an era when many Indigenous stories risk being forgotten, Mary's work is a vital contribution to the preservation of Ahtna knowledge and values. Her books reflect a deep respect for the Elders who shaped her understanding of the world and a commitment to passing those teachings on to the next generation. By documenting her personal experiences and cultural insights, Mary is helping to ensure that the stories, language, and traditions of the Ahtna people continue to thrive in the modern world.

## **Encouraging Shareholders to Support Local Authors**

Mary Tony's literary contributions are not just an achievement for her personally but also for the entire Ahtna community. Her work reminds us of the importance of storytelling in preserving our cultural identity and educating others about the values that have guided us for generations. Her books, now available for purchase, provide an opportunity for shareholders and the broader public to connect with the rich history and stories of the Ahtna people. Her stories are not only a source of entertainment but also a vital link to our collective past and a celebration of the resilience, beauty, and wisdom of our culture. Through her writings, Mary has given us all a gift—a chance to experience Alaska through her eyes and to carry forward the lessons that have shaped her life.

Both Windswept: A Chitina Childhood and Windswept: Tales for Children are available for purchase now, and her latest book, The Ghost of the Kenai, will be released on January 14, 2025, by Epicenter Press. This historical fiction novel is now available for preorder on Amazon. For more details and a look at the cover, visit here: <a href="https://a.co/d/avSPzsa">https://a.co/d/avSPzsa</a>. We are proud to recognize and celebrate Mary Tony for her outstanding contributions to Alaska Native literature.



# SHAREHOLDER SPOTLIGHT: TONIA ROSE GOODLATAW - MY JOURNEY WITH EDISON CHOUEST



I'm Tonia Rose Goodlataw, and I'm excited to share my journey with you. My story begins with my parents, Toni Goodlataw and Wayne Bell. My paternal grandparents were Loyd and Mary Bell (John). Although my maternal grandparents, Miranda Billum and Alvin Goodlataw, passed away before I was born, their legacy continued through my mother's aunt, Frances Billum. My mom was adopted by Frances, and she was the grandma that I grew up with. She taught

me about tradition, inner strength, family and everything in between that I needed to know before becoming emancipated at age 16.

I am of the Tsedi Na' Tribe (originally Taral Village) and belong to the Taltsiine (Water) clan. Growing up in Tsedi Na', my life was deeply intertwined with traditional practices. I spent my afternoons after school checking traps, skinning animals, and preparing parts for future traps. Summers were a time for working alongside my family, cutting fish or moose, which ingrained in me a deep appreciation for our cultural heritage.

Today, I work for Alaska Ventures, LLC, the Alaska division of Edison Chouest Offshore (ECO), where we're contracted through Alyeska Pipeline Service Company and work closely with Ship Escort Response Vessel System (SERVS) team. My journey with Alaska Ventures began in a way I never anticipated. At the time, I was applying for a part-time janitorial job while raising three young children. During my interview, the hiring manager noted my resume and suggested I consider a role more suited to my experience.

Surprised, I explained that my main focus was to spend time with my kids, and it was more economical for us to live in Valdez while working fewer hours. To my surprise, he offered me a better position with the promise that I could still prioritize my family.

I started as a receptionist and have since moved into my current role, where I focus on training and the Alaska Native Utilization Agreement (ANUA) program. This role allows me to recruit Alaskan Natives and support them in their careers. Despite my busy schedule, I've managed to keep the promise of making my family a priority, and my team has become like a second family to me.

I feel incredibly fortunate to love what I do. My role allows me to travel across Alaska and meet Alaskan Natives from all over the state. I'm honored to have conversations about their individual stories, dreams, and goals. These interactions deepen my understanding of myself, Alaska Natives, and the many beautifully complex cultures we have that are all built on a sturdy foundation of love, tradition and faith.

For those interested in a career with Alaska Ventures, I'm here to guide you through the process. This includes applying for marine credentials, navigating the pre-employment phases, and completing a 90-day training program in Louisiana before starting work in Valdez, Alaska. It's a thorough process, but I encourage everyone not to give up—anything worth having requires effort.

Seeing new employees reach milestones like buying a vehicle, securing a mortgage, or taking vacations is incredibly rewarding. It reaffirms my commitment to helping others achieve their career goals and build a better future.

If working in the maritime field interests you, please contact Shareholder Enrichment about a future with Edison Chouest Offshore! No experience is necessary.

Ahtna's Shareholder Enrichment staff is available to assist in connecting you with this and other training opportunities: call Starr Knighten at 907-822-3476 (Glennallen) or Tracy Parent at 907-868-8250 (Anchorage) or email <a href="mailto:shenrichment@ahtna.net">shenrichment@ahtna.net</a>.



# **BECOME A MARINER AND WORK CLOSE TO HOME**

Edison Chouest Offshore (ECO) currently manages the marine operations of the Ship Escort Response Vessel System (SERVS) program in Valdez, Alaska. A division of Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, SERVS was created to prevent oil spills and provide oil spill response and preparedness capabilities for the Trans Alaska Pipeline System and Alaska crude oil shipping companies. Crews with ECO operate oil spill response barges and powerful tugs that ensure tankers transit safely through Prince William Sound. Two tugboats, loaded with oil spill response equipment such as booms, skimmers and smaller work boats, escort every tanker from the Valdez Marine Terminal through the Valdez Narrows and Hinchinbrook Entrance.

As part of the program, ECO has established an Alaska Native hire and development program to create career opportunities for Alaska Natives in Alaska. Whether an entry-level candidate or an experienced mariner, each Alaska Native will have an individual development plan aimed at achieving higher U.S. Coast Guard licenses and increased pay. Once hired, training consists of classroom training, followed by initial on-the-job training in the Gulf of Mexico.

#### **Initial ECO Training Includes:**

- STCW Basic Training
- Basic Marine Safety Training
- Environmental Awareness Training
- Vessel Security Training
- Marine Rigging Training
- On-the-job training onboard a vessel while acquiring sea time and working towards advancement

ECO's state-of-the-art training center is one of the most advanced in the world. Staffed by U.S. Coast Guard- Certified Instructors, the ECO training staff will provide Alaska Native hires with the training and qualifications needed to build a successful career in the maritime industry.

For more information on the ECO program, email anua@chouest.com.

#### Requirements:

- 18 years or older
- An Alaska Native wanting a long-term career in the marine industry
- Merchant Mariner Credential
- Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC)
- USCG Medical Certificate
- Ability to pass a drug screen and background check

Ahtna's Shareholder Enrichment staff is available to assist in connecting you with this and other training opportunities: call Starr Knighten at 907-822-3476 (Glennallen) or Tracy Parent at 907-868-8250 (Anchorage) or email <a href="mailto:shenrichment@ahtna.net">shenrichment@ahtna.net</a>.



# SHAREHOLDER SERVICES UPDATES

# **UNSETTLED SHAREHOLDER ESTATES**

Ahtna shareholders can create a legacy for future generations by having a valid, up-to-date Testamentary Disposition on file or giving a gift of their Ahtna stock. Except for Class L stock, all classes of stock may be gifted or inherited. A Testamentary Disposition does not dispose of all of your property; it only informs Shareholder Services of your wishes for your Ahtna shares. If you wish, you can make a formal last will and testament that provides for the inheritance of all of your property, including your Ahtna shares.

When a shareholder passes on and they do not have a Testamentary Disposition on file with Ahtna, the transfer of shares becomes more complicated and could take months, or even years, delaying what could be a relatively quick and simple process. We know it isn't easy thinking about these things, however a Testamentary Disposition protects you and your heirs. This form allows you to designate who inherits your shares, making the process much smoother and faster for your family.

Family members or executors should contact Shareholder Services at <a href="mailto:shareholder-shareho

#### **UNSETTLED SHAREHOLDER ESTATES:**

Agnes A Gaskins
Alberta Carol Voyles
Carey L Carew
Daniel Nicolai
Donald Lee Fancher
Dorothy Stickwan-Locke
Edna Charley
Eleanor Linda Emily
Elsie Lorraine Jackson
Erickson C Sanford Jr

Ernest B Craig
Genevieve M Jacobson
Glenn Ellsworth Tibbits
Hank A Kochendorfer
Harry W Henry
John Wesley Smithart
Judy Gene
Larry A Tyone
Lillian Holley
Lloyd Henry Thomas

Lynn Robert Craig
Mae Elizabeth Marshall
Margaret Kirsch
Marina Matthias
Michelle Onofrio
Nicky Nickoli
Richard J Stevens Sr
Ronald G Stevens
Smitty Gene Jr
Timothy Albert Hadley

Timothy Lee Stevens Valerie Ann Leonard William Nicolai

The Testamentary Disposition form and stock transfer forms for adults and custodians of minors can be found on the Ahtna website at <a href="https://www.ahtna.com/shareholders/shareholder-services">www.ahtna.com/shareholders/shareholder-services</a>.

# Don't forget to apply:

# WALTER CHARLEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Walter Charley Memorial Scholarship program assists Ahtna shareholders with meeting their educational goals by funding full and part-time students.

#### SPRING SEMESTER

Applications will be accepted online for the Spring semester from **Nov. 15-Dec. 15** at: www.ahtna.com/scholarship.

Spring Application Period	Spring Application Deadline	Spring Supplemental Information Deadline
November 15 – December 15	December 15	January 5

Check the website for the latest information. Any questions can be directed to Tracy Parent, Shareholder Enrichment Coordinator, at (907) 868-8250 or <a href="mailto:scholarship@ahtna.net">scholarship@ahtna.net</a>.

# SHAREHOLDER SERVICES UPDATES

# **TESTAMENTARY DISPOSITION PRIZE DRAWING!**

Here is your chance to win \$100, \$200, or \$300!

To encourage shareholders to have a valid Testamentary Disposition on file, Ahtna's Shareholder Records department will be holding two prize drawings a year (June and December), each with a total of \$1,000 in prizes. The prizes will be \$300, \$200, and five \$100.

To be eligible for the drawing, shareholders must have a valid Testamentary Disposition and current mailing address on file.

The Testamentary Disposition form is available online at <a href="www.ahtna.com/TD">www.ahtna.com/TD</a>. You may also call Shareholder Services at (907) 822-3476 to have one mailed to you from the Glennallen headquarters office. Shareholder Services is available to answer questions or assist you in filling out the form correctly. The form must be completely filled out, notarized, and returned to Shareholder Services to be considered valid. Custodians, guardians or agents under a power of attorney cannot complete the form – it must be signed by the individual adult shareholder and notarized. You can update your Testamentary Disposition at any time and only the most recent form will be considered valid. You should also make a copy of the completed form for yourself and keep it in a safe place.

# Join us for our shareholder Christmas Gatherings! Ahtna shareholders & their families are invited to join us for Dinner, Door Prizes & Santa!

## **Glennallen Gathering**

- \* Date: Friday, Dec. 6, 2024
- \* **Time:** 5:00 7:00 p.m.
- \* Location: Kluti-Kaah Hall

\*For more info, please call (907) 822-3476

#### **Anchorage Gathering**

- \* Date: Saturday, Dec. 14, 2024
- \* Time: 3:00 5:30 p.m.
- \* Location: ChangePoint 6689 ChangePoint Drive Anchorage, AK 99518

\*For more info, please call (907) 868-8250



# SHAREHOLDER SERVICES UPDATES

# **ELDER BIRTHDAYS**

Wishing all of our Elders a birthday filled with happiness and a year filled with joy. Happy Birthday from the Ahtna Board of Directors and staff!

**OCTOBER** Belinda Creeden Betty Wyant Beverly Harris Carolyn David Cheryl Lee Christine Hood Claire Heaton Diane Garris Dorthy Blair Evelyn Beeter Gladys Lord Gloria Stickwan Gloria Cook James Pennington Jerry Johnson Joseph Peterson Jr Laura Andrews

Lorraine Gordon Lorraine Dummler Lynn Ashkettle Michael Carter Nicholas Jackson Ramona Christensen Ramona Justin Rita Racelis Sharon Faverty Shirley Smelcer

Leland Jamison

Lena Craia

Linda Kline

Linda Walsh

**NOVEMBER** Arnold Hawkins Sr Bill Tyone Callie Dally Daniel Hicks David Rice Debra Hoehne Diane Jordan Donald Macarthur Jr Donna Galbreath Donna Coughlin Eleanor Dementi Elsie Agibinik Faye Ewan Freddy Nicolai Sr Gary Gene Georgianna Henry Gillam Joe Helen Smithart James Wheeles John Craig John Billum III Kenneth Johns Leona Johns Lillian Martens Linda Liles Lori Waisanen Maggie Oliver Marian White Paula Wood

Reina Kanaas Roy Ewan

Sandra Crider

Sharon Soule

Violet Fichter

#### DECEMBER

Alma George Anthony Hash Arlene Tibbits Arnold Lincoln Brenda Rebne Carol Holt Christopher Gene Daniel Stevens Donald Johns Eva John Evelyn Nicolai Faye Sarren Frank Racelis Gary Folger Gary Pennington Glenn Edwards Godfrey Nicolie Harold Fier Jr Jay Tyone Jeanette Williams Karen Devine Kenneth Johnson Laura Sweet Lonnie Tyone Margaret Bell Mary Davis Michael Voyles Myra Starkloff Pamela Finnesand Patricia Coronel Priscilla Mahle Roberta Kuschel Ronald Jacobson Samuel Kristian Sandra Racelis Sandy Moore Sharon Stickivan Sherry Sinyon Steena Oliver Tamara Bennett TJ Wellington



# **CONDOLENCES**

In loving memory of our shareholders who have passed

# **James Michael Nelson** James P. Wheeles Valinda L. Vermillion

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

= video conference between Anchorage & Glennallen

The events below are subject to change or cancellation. Please check the website at <u>www.ahtna.com/events</u> for the most current information.

## NOVEMBER

Nov 15 Walter Charley Memorial

Scholarship Spring **Application Period Opens**  **Nov 28** 

Thanksgiving (Offices Closed)

**Nov 29** 

Day After Thanksgiving (Offices Closed)

# **DECEMBER**

Dec 6 Glennallen Shareholder

Christmas Gathering, 5:00-7:00 pm, location

Kluti-Kaah Hall

Dec 13 AN Executive Committee

Meeting

Dec 13

Al Board of Directors

Meeting

Dec 14 Anchorage Shareholder

Christmas Gathering, 3:00-5:30 pm,

ChangePoint Alaska

Dec 15

Walter Charley Memorial

Scholarship Spring

**Application Period Ends** 

**Dec 25** Christmas (Offices Closed)

# **JANUARY**

New Year's Day Jan 1 (Offices Closed)

Jan 2 Al Board of Directors Nominations Open

Jan 2

**SVO** Nominations Open

Jan 20

Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Offices Closed)

Jan 24

Class L Application Deadline

Jan 24

Ahtna Stock Gifting Deadline

Jan 24

Diploma Graduate Gift

Deadline



## **RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED**



## Ahtna, Inc. Board of Directors



Nicholas Jackson



Karen Linnell Vice-Chair



Cecil Sanford



Susan Taylor



Lucille Lincoln



Ken Johns



Linda Pete



Clint Marshall



Jessica Denny



**Grant Rebne** 



Jason Hart



Felicia Ewan



Aaron Miller



Anchorage Office

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**FCS LOGO HERE**