

2024 Arctic Tern Program

**Organization
Filing Report:**

Curyung Tribal Council
P.O. Box 216
Dillingham, Alaska 99576

**Person
Completing
Report:**

Kim Williams,
Tribal Administrator

Project Title:

DCSD 2024 Youth & Elders
Conference

Close Out - Report

Project Overview:

From October 13-18, 2024, students traveled to Anchorage for the Elders & Youth Conference and the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) Convention. At the Elders & Youth Conference (October 13-16), students connected with peers and elders, participated in cultural activities like Yuraq (Native dance), and explored the theme "Dinjii Zhuh K'yàa Zhit Gwarandaii" – "Our Land Our Food - We are Living Our Indigenous Ways of Life."

On October 17, they attended the opening day of AFN, observing policy discussions and leadership in action. The day ended with Quyana Night, celebrating traditional dances from across Alaska. The trip was a meaningful opportunity to grow as leaders, celebrate culture, and make lasting connections.

of students employed and/or involved:

- 10 Students attended the conference.

Were you able to carry out the project as described in your application?

- Yes.
- We were also able to practice yuraq and then perform on the main stage, with a dance group comprised of adults, students, and elders from across Bristol Bay!
- We added an additional day to the conference so the students could attend 1 day of the AFN convention.

How did the youth participants perform?

- All students were actively engaged every day and performed Yuraq on the main stage to open the conference on Day 1
- Students were responsible, respectful, and safe while attending the conference.
- 2 students were nominated and spoke in front of the Bristol Bay Delegation group - 1 student was elected to represent Bristol Bay on the State Elders & Youth Board.
- Each student made atleast one meaningful connection with someone from outside our community.

How did the community respond to the project/program?

- The school, community, tribes, and other project partners showed strong support and warmly congratulated the students for their participation in the Elders and Youth Conference.
- The conference was highlighted in DNN's Monday newscast after returning.

How did the project contribute to the community?

- This trip helps our community by building cultural pride, leadership, and connections. Our youth step up by learning about challenges in their communities and finding positive ways to make a difference. They gain new skills, connect with peers and leaders from all over Alaska, and come back inspired to share what they've learned and make our community stronger.

Suggestions for the program:

Continue to support young leaders through the Elders & Youth Conference. Share with other communities who are eligible for the program - so they know the possibility.

Quyana for the opportunity! 