

GROWING OUR OWN: INDIGENOUS RESEARCH, SCHOLARS, AND EDUCATION
Proceedings from the Alaska Native Studies Conference (2015)

Preface

The Alaska Native Studies Council (ANSC) held its first conference in the spring of 2013 in Anchorage, Alaska. The original plan called for a biennial conference, which would alternate between the various University of Alaska campus locations. Due to the success of the first conference at the University of Alaska Anchorage, it has become an annual event, and the University of Alaska Southeast hosted the 2014 conference.

The theme of the second ANSC Conference was, “Growing our Own: Indigenous Researchers, Scholars, and Education”. This theme was selected by the Conference Organizing Committee, and was based on our mission and the interest of participants. Held at the University of Alaska Southeast, Juneau campus, the pre-conference symposia showcased Alaska Native artists sharing their works.

The theme “Growing Our Own” was inspired by the work of leaders in the Indigenous education movement. Conference participants were treated to two inspirational and internationally recognized keynote speakers, Dr. Malia Villegas (Alutiiq-Sugpiaq) and Dr. Jo-Ann Archibald (*Sto:olo* First Nations) along with Tlingit elder *Kaalkáawu* Cyril George, Sr.. They also spoke at the preconference symposia and provided excellent mentorship and advice to the University of Alaska Fairbanks Indigenous Studies PhD students.

Dr. Villegas is the director of the Policy and Research Center for the National Congress of American Indians in Washington D.C. She is an advocate for Indigenous education and

policies affecting Alaska Native and American Indians. Dr. Villegas is instrumental in keeping Alaskans informed on national issues and is passionate in her life work of representing Indigenous people in Alaska and throughout the country.

Dr. Archibald (*Q’um Q’um Xiiem*) is a member of the *Sto:lo* First Nations in Canada. She is the associate dean for Indigenous Education and a professor of Educational Studies at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver. Her groundbreaking book, *Indigenous Storywork: Educating the Heart, Mind, Body, and Spirit* (UBC Press, 2008), uses the metaphor of Indigenous basket weaving to introduce readers to Indigenous ways of understanding knowledge. She is an internationally respected author on Indigenous education.

The following pages contain brief summaries and abstracts of some of the conference presentations, which serve to document and build upon the Council’s work to advance Alaska Native education.

We must express our deep gratitude for everyone’s hard work and the success of the 2nd conference, and acknowledge our great indebtedness to the work of *Xwaayeenák* Richard Dauenhauer, and *Kaalkáawu* Cyril George, Sr. Accordingly, we are dedicating this journal to these titans of the Alaska Native and Indigenous community.

Richard Dauenhauer, a poet and scholar and co-author and collaborator on many works with his wife Nora Marks Dauenhauer, he left a legacy at the University of Alaska

Southeast. Richard and his wife Nora attended and spoke at the conference and we miss him very much.

Kaalkáawu Cyril George, Sr. has left a legacy on Tlingit language, history and culture. He

tirelessly continued to teach the Tlingit language to all that were interested. He has left a *living* legacy of the Tlingit language and students continue to learn from the materials that he created.

X'unei Lance Twitchell, UAS
Janelle Cook, UAS
Margaret Rea, UAS
Heidi Allison, UAS
Ernestine Hayes, UAS

Kolene James, UAS
Lyle James, UAS
Alberta Jones, UAS
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