

**Koniag Education
Foundation**
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Do you want to receive
monthly email updates
about scholarships and
student programs?
Email us at kef@alaska.com



Mission Statement: **To Help Our People Achieve their Potential Through Education**

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**“It is good to have
an end to journey
towards, but it is
the journey that
matters
in the end.”
-Ursula LeGuin**

Issue VI: Spring 2009

PICK—CLICK—GIVE

It’s time to sign up for your Permanent Fund Dividend! This year, you can make a contribution directly from your PFD application online to your favorite non-profit organization, there are 300 nonprofits to give to—including KEF!

To donate to one of the 300 non-profits, just apply for your PFD online at www.pfd.state.ak.us. Check the box labeled, “Yes, I want to participate in the Charitable Contributions program”, and choose your favorite nonprofits to give to from the list. Every contribution that you make to a nonprofit is tax-deductible, going to a good cause, and deeply appreciated by those people who benefit from the services that nonprofits provide.

KEF is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization—funded through tax deductible contributions and from the interest of our endowment. Funds that are donated help KEF to give out scholarships and continue to provide programs and services to Koniag shareholders and descendants. Eighty-four cents out of every dollar donated goes directly toward funding scholarships and services for students. Please consider contributing to KEF when you apply for your PFD this year! KEF Board, staff, and students thank you for your support!

Check out our New Website!

KEF is in the process of designing our new website. This new site can still be found at www.koniageducation.org. The new site will be more interactive and will work to network students with each other through peer-to-peer student mentorship programs, social networking sites, and bulletin boards. Our new site was built by Marketing Solutions—owned by KEF Board Member, Laurie Fagnani, who donated hours of her time and staff expertise to design the site for KEF! Thank you Laurie!



Anton Larsen Bay—Kodiak, AK

“Thank You” from KEF’s Outstanding Students!

Alisha Drabek contributes her expertise to many educational and cultural Alutiiq programs - “I would like to thank you for supporting my career development with a scholarship in 2008 for my participation in the Worlds Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education in Melbourne, Australia. It was a wonderful conference and a great opportunity for me to share with others about the Native Village of Afognak production of the Red Cedar of Afognak: A Driftwood Journey children’s book. I made many good contacts with other researchers and gained a more global perspective of efforts I’ve been engaged in locally. It was an honor to hear so many positive responses about the project as a model, and the efforts being made in our Alutiiq region, particularly from groups such as the Maori who have been so successful in making strides in indigenous education. The conference featured approximately 4,000 indigenous educators from over 30 countries. I participated in site visits of two higher education Aboriginal education programs and listened to several lectures from scholars about storytelling, language revitalization, and indigenous education support. It was a great opportunity for me to meet with Malia Villegas, also from Afognak, who attended and presented at the conference, too. It was ironic to get to meet her overseas. I greatly appreciate your support through scholarships.”



Peter Boskofsky lives in Kodiak, AK and actively participates in Alutiiq language programs - “I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Koniag Education Foundation and especially the Godfrey family for supporting me with my educational endeavors through the Glenn Godfrey Scholarship. The funding that you provided will go towards supporting my first semester at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School. Without this support, it would have been difficult for me to cover the cost of tuition. It is important to me that you are aware that your investment in my education will not be under-utilized. I am certain that through my educational experience I will be better equipped to serve the interests of our people. Again, thank you for choosing to support me with my career goals.”



Koniag, Inc. Internship Scholarship—\$10,000 each year

KEF, Koniag Inc, and KDC are working together to establish a Koniag Internship Scholarship. The goal of this scholarship is to seek out Koniag’s best and brightest shareholders and descendants to intern in KDC subsidiaries and establish relationships with our future leaders and KI/KDC. Koniag will fund a \$10,000 scholarship that is large enough to allow a student who is pursuing a four year degree, the ability to attend school without working. In order to be eligible for this funding, students must have a GPA that is 3.0 or above and agree to intern in one of Koniag’s subsidiaries each summer that they participate in the program. Any student who is awarded this scholarship and continues to meet the requirements of the scholarship will receive funding throughout their graduation. KEF, Koniag, and KDC will release more information about this program as it is developed— **STAY TUNED!**

MEET THE KEF STAFF

In 2008, KEF hired two phenomenal employees.....

Christina Fisch and Iluhi Schimetka. The effectiveness of the current staff team at KEF can be seen in its strong teamwork and productivity. Chris has increased the quality of communication with our students and donors as well as developing programs for KEF’s database and marketing. In his short time on staff, Iluhi has worked on the development and implementation of the multi-faceted Student Mentorship Program, which he will manage, as well as moving programs such as the website upgrade forward. Iluhi worked at KANA as Assistant to the President prior to moving to Anchorage. You can meet Iluhi in the office or as he travels within Alaska for student and shareholder meetings and you can meet Chris by calling or stopping by our office!



KEF Scholarships Become More Competitive

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KEF Mentorship Program Begins

In an effort to help students who begin their educational careers remain in school and finish successfully, KEF has worked with Alaska Native educators, cultural advisors, and successful student mentorship programs such as ANSEP to design the KEF Student Mentorship Program. Beginning in the school year 2009/10, KEF will require that students applying for scholarships and funding participate in the peer-to-peer mentorship program. This program is designed to network students with one another to decrease factors such as culture shock and homesickness which lead to high drop-out rates. Underclassmen will be matched with upperclassmen in similar fields of study for monthly phone calls, emails or meetings to encourage and provide support for new students. Please visit our website to learn more!

It is no secret that the end of 2008 was a difficult one in the financial sector. While KEF's investment managers did a good job of keeping KEF's finances from the low side of the curve, the declines in the stock market have done much to undermine KEF's endowment. Through the end of December 2008, KEF's investment market value dropped to the lowest level ever of \$4 million, down from its highest level of \$6 million, one year ago. The effect that a drop of this magnitude has on the value of the endowment at KEF is a sobering one. KEF's board has a long-term goal to grow the endowment so that the Foundation can award meaningful scholarships to students in future generations. In a more practical application, KEF's Board uses the value of the endowment to calculate the funds available for scholarships in each fiscal year (not more than 5% of the fund value, in an effort to preserve the principle and grow the fund).

To students, a decrease in the amount of funding available means that there will be more competition between applicants for scholarships. In order to receive the maximum amount you are eligible for in your field of study, please make sure to fill out your KEF scholarship application completely and to include all of the items requested. Scholarship applications are scored by a Review Committee based on completeness, letter of application, GPA, etc. The highest scores (most completed applications) will receive the most funding. KEF will fund as many scholarships as our budget will allow each year- we will be funding fewer scholarships in the upcoming year due to the decrease of funds available in the endowment.

2009 will undoubtedly be a difficult year for every business and for non-profits in particular—with fewer people donating to their organizations. However, KEF has a strong Board and a strong team of staff members who will work with whatever we've got to develop programs to support our students throughout their educational careers and to focus on donor-partnerships to increase the endowment and position ourselves for long-term funding opportunities.

Who's that Board Member? Jeff Chester

Jeff Chester was born in Kodiak, the son of Germaine and Lorren Chester. His grandparents were Alexandria Chernov and Charles Madsen. He is the nephew of Roy Madsen and Thelma Johnson. Jeff lives in Cave Creek, Arizona, is married to Pam and has two daughters, Kayla 17 and Kristen 13. Jeff graduated Kodiak High school in 1976, Gonzaga University in 1980 with a Finance degree and got his MBA from Seattle Pacific in 1985. He spends much of his free time as a "soccer Dad". Jeff has been at Food Services of America for fourteen years as their Corporate Director of Supplier Information and Quality Assurance. Prior to that he worked at a pasta manufacturing plant, a pizza restaurant food distributor and Nordstrom.

Jeff currently serves on the Leisnoi board of Directors and also did a stint on that board from 1995-2000 as its Secretary/ Treasurer. He also served two terms on the Koniag, Inc. board from 2002-2007. Jeff has served on the KEF Board of Directors for two years and is resigning this term to allow his daughter to apply for KEF scholarships as she begins college. Jeff's insight and guidance while serving on the KEF Board can be seen in the programs that KEF is now undertaking to improve student retention and recruitment. He is a strong supporter of KEF personally through financial contributions and gave of his time to serve on KEF's Development and Scholarship Review Committees.

Thank you, Jeff, for contributing to KEF's future!



Scholarship Deadlines

Just a reminder to **postmark your applications by these deadlines for the following scholarships:**

March 15th—KEF Application deadline for those students attending summer, fall, and spring terms 2009/10

June 1st—KEF Application deadline for those students attending fall and spring terms 2009/10

August 10 – Deadline for Glenn Godfrey, Larry Matfay, and Alyeska Scholarship Applications

You may check on other scholarships, job opportunities, and upcoming deadlines throughout the year on our website. You may also download scholarship applications at www.koniageducation.org.

KEF Board of Directors and Committee Members

Thank you to our Board and Committee Members—you have done a great job in steering KEF to a positive future! The Koniag Education Foundation Board of Directors serves on a voluntary basis and receives no compensation for their service. The Board firmly believes that educating our people greatly enhances the quality of life in the communities in which they live.

Edward Ward, President
Jon Panamaroff, Secretary/ Treasurer
Jeff Chester
Laurie Fagnani
Uwe Gross
Michael Pestrkoff

Anthony Cange, Vice President
William Anderson, Jr.
Lorena Skonberg
Lois Fields
Roger McCracken

Development Committee Members: Debbie Lukin, Jerome Selby

Staff Members: Tyan Hayes - Executive Director—email: director@koniageducation.org

Iluhi Schimetka -Program Manager—email: programmanager@koniageducation.org

Christina Fisch— Office/ Scholarship Manager—email: scholarships@koniageducation.org

If you are interested in serving on the KEF Board, please call, email, or contact our office..

Thank You To This Year's Donors!!!

Thank you to our fabulous 2008 donors. Your contributions have allowed KEF to continue operating and to become more effective at our goal of reaching Koniag shareholders and descendants with educational opportunities and employment! You should be proud of your contribution—we are!

If you would like to donate to KEF and support our mission, you may send donations or call them in.

-ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE- CASH & IN-KIND DONATIONS LISTED

Championship Level (up to \$499)

**Sharon Anderson—Lavonda Beukers—Anthony Cange—Harold Charliaga—Joelle Chenet
 Jeffery Chester—Dennis & Jane Demmert— Linda & Jim Dunham—Laurie Fagnani—J. Gavin—
 Uwe & Cliona Gross—Anthony & Tyan Hayes—Elmer & Virginia Lotter— Debbie Lukin
 Lorna & Dave McEachern—Mike Murray—NETS—Brent Parsons—Jon Panamaroff
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Benchmark Level (\$500-\$999)

**Lena Amason—ERA Aviation—Sandy & Tony Drabek—Christina & Mike Fisch—Robb Gray—
 Balika & Sven Haakensen, Jr.—Archbishop Frank Hurley—Alisha Drabek & Helm Johnson—
 Elizabeth Peterson—Gloria & Jerome Selby—Helen Simeonoff—Steven & Linda Suydam**

Leadership Level (\$1,000—\$4,999)

**Alaska USA—Will & Jill Anderson—Chris & Nancy Johnson— Roger & Barb McCracken—
 Thomas Panamaroff—Greg & Jill Young**

Pace-Setter Level (\$5,000-\$9,999)

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Alyeska Pipeline Co— Koniag, Inc.

