



Denali Commission
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Denali Training Fund Final Report

Funds for this project are provided by the USDOL and the Denali Commission and managed, in partnership, by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Name of Organization: First Alaskans Institute		
Contact Person: Kristel Komakhuk	Email Address: kristelkomakhuk@firstalaskans.org	
Award Year: 2011	Reporting Period: 10/1/2011 – 12/31/2011	Award Number: 1252-B
Original Amount Awarded: \$125,000	Final Expenditures: \$113,850.93	
Certification: I certify that the information in this report is current, correct and true and in accordance with the terms and conditions of the agreement.		
Signed by: 	Dated: 1/19/2012	

1. A. In a few sentences, please describe the initial scope of your project.

First Alaskans Institute provides Alaska Native or rural Alaskan junior, senior, and/or graduate college students (also, recent college graduates in some cases) with a 10-week summer internship opportunity. Interns are placed with a partner employer in the students' field of study. Each intern, regardless of location, participates in a series of leadership training seminars.

In order to evaluate the success of the program, FAI maintains annual contact with each intern. We survey interns to track where they are in their educational or career path, who they are working for, and identify whether he/she are involved in any other leadership roles.

B. Did you modify the scope or the budget at any time during this project? If so, please explain thoroughly.

The scope of work was not modified. However, because only 20 interns were placed and funding was based on 24-28, there were some cost savings. Additionally, there were funds remaining from 2010 which were rolled over into 2011. In 2011, a total of \$113,850.93 is allocated with Denali Training Funds. A total of \$31,859.54 is being requested to be rolled over into the 2012 Summer Internship Program.

2. A. How many people did your original proposal intend to train?

First Alaskans Institute initially budgeted for 30 interns.

- B. How many people did you ultimately train? Please attach a final list of participants, their community, certification and where they are employed.

The program trained 19 interns in 2011.

- C. If there is a variance between original and final, please explain.

We have found over the years that 23-25 interns create a perfect sized cohort. It is large enough to have an impact yet small enough so they are able to develop a stronger network amongst fellow interns. Also, being conscious that funding was slowly decreasing, we wanted to have as much carryover for 2012 as possible.

3. Please tell us about lesson(s) learned during this project.

We have organized the internship program for many years and it has become efficiently streamlined, the one thing we have to continue year round is actively recruiting. Our intern alumni are the best form of advertisement and referrals. Another focus of the program, the last few years, has been to ensure that those who are graduating or looking for employment after the internship, have that opportunity to secure competitive job placements, often with the partner employer he/she was placed with during the internship program.

4. Please provide a minimum of one success story for this project.

The 2011 cohort had many amazing interns!

Sasha Vale completed her degree program and is currently still working for the organization she was placed with during the internship program. She is an Intake Specialist with the Human Services department at Yakutat Tlingit Tribe helping community members search for employment, attain job placement, volunteer work, and community work service. She is also a instructor for her native song & dance group.

Erin Keith was offered a full time position working with her intern placement host, NMS Staffing. She is on track to graduate in May 2012 with a degree in Occupational Safety Health Environmental Awareness, and will continue her studies via distance education while working.

5. How did you acknowledge the Denali Commission for support of this Project?

The Denali Commission logo was present on all materials, announced at all functions, and Denali Staff was given the opportunity to present to the interns on what the commission is, how it was formed, and future opportunities within the commission. Commissioner Joel Neimeyer also presented a Denali Commission report to the First Alaskans Board of Trustees.

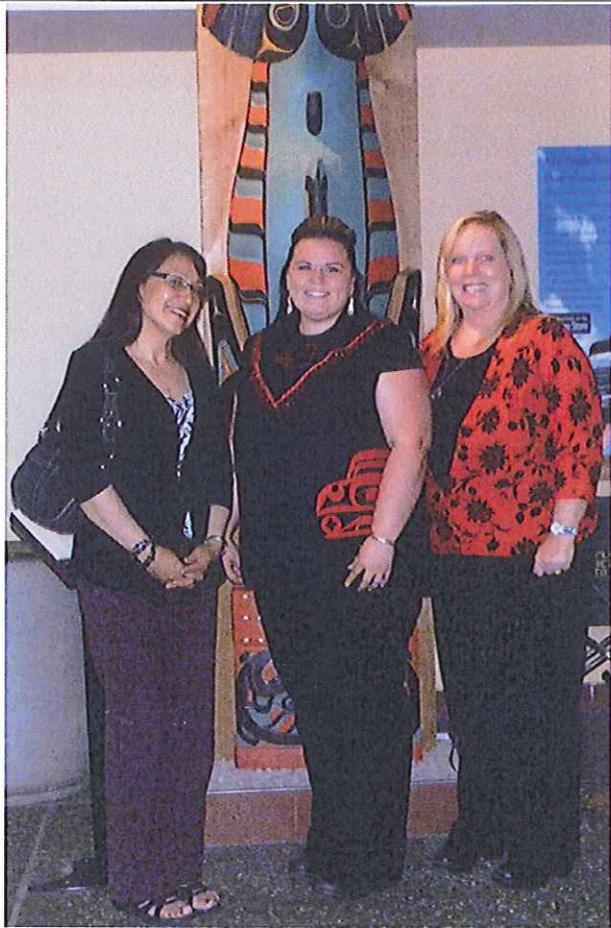
6. Please attach a few photos with descriptive captions.



2011 Summer Internship Cohort



Sasha Vale with a young Mt. Saint Elias Dancer



Erin Keith (middle) and her NMS supervisors