

Welcome to the 2025 Tribal Governance Symposium

✦ Yesterday ✦ Today ✦ Tomorrow ✦

Supporting Elders:

Eliza Winfrey
Dr. Anna Frank
Dr. Sarah James
Faye Ewan
President Joel Jackson
Wilson Justin
Mike Jackson

Special thanks to:

Dustin Newman, Unignax Consulting, Graphic Artist
Alisha Carlson, Diinaashii, Gwich'in Athabaskan,
Bookkeeper, Good Vibes Hype Girl



OCTOBER 27 - 29

FAIRBANKS, AK



DEPARTMENT OF
TRIBAL GOVERNANCE

**TRIBAL
UNITY**



2025 Tribal Governance Symposium

Tuesday, October 28 | *Yesterday*

8:00 AM **Shared Breakfast and Visiting**

9:00 AM **Eena Neenyo: Welcome**

Elder Blessing; Traditional Song with **Sonny Luke**, Dot Lake Tribal Member and Dene Eslaanh Dance Group member & **Ariella Derricksen**, Tanana Tribal Member and Dene Eslaanh Dance Group leader; Welcome from **Mike Sfraga**, UAF Interim Chancellor; Tribal Welcome with **Melissa Charlie**, Tribal Citizen Native Village of Minto, Executive Director of Fairbanks Native Association; Land Acknowledgement & Table Introductions

Tribal Executive Director Keynote

Kaaxwáan (Dawn Jackson)

Tsaagweidi, Executive Director of Organized Village of Kake

Traditional Governance Panel

Moderator: **Kevin Illingworth**, Professor and Department Chair of Tribal Governance
Panelists: **Elders Wilson Justin**, Headwaters People, Ahtna/Althset'Nay, Cheesh'Na Tribal Member, Chair BOD, Mt Sanford Tribal Consortium & **Mike Jackson**, Ka.oosh, Of the Kaach.adi Clan (Fresh Water Marked Coho), Tlingit and Haida, The Organized Village of Kake, Keex' Kwaan (Kake), OVK Transportation Director, Chief Judge, Historian, past Council member and past President

12:00 PM **On-Site Lunch &**

The Land Loves Us with Tia Tidwell, Puya, Naqsragsmiut tribe, Village of Anaktuvuk Pass, Assistant Professor of Alaska Native Studies

1:15 PM **Table Dialogue**

Traditional Leadership and Values Panel

Moderator: **Laura Zimin**, Alutiiq, Assistant professor of Tribal Governance
Panelists: **Tullek Jonathan Samuelson**, Kuskokwim Yupiaq & Dené, Georgetown Tribal Council Chair; **Acaq Alannah Hurley**, Yup'ik, United Tribes of Bristol Bay Executive Director; **Tonya Garnett**, Neets'aai Gwich'in, Tribal Advocate & Tribal Operations, Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government & Arctic Village Council

Table Dialogue

5:00 PM **Closing Blessing & Adjourn**

2025 Tribal Governance Symposium

Wednesday, October 29 | *Today*

Daily Moderator: **Tullek Jonathan Samuelson**, Kuskokwim Yupiaq & Dené,
Georgetown Tribal Council Chair, Tribal Governance Graduate

8:00 AM **Shared Breakfast and Visiting**

9:00 AM **Eena Neenyo: Welcome**

Elder Blessing; Traditional Song with **Sonny Luke & Ariella Derricksen**; Welcome from **Dr. Charlene Stern**, Neets'aai Gwich'in, UAF Interim Provost; Table Introductions

Tribal Education Keynote

Anna Huntington-Kriska

Koyukon Athabaskan, Koyukuk, Founder of UAF Tribal Governance Program

Being Sovereign Panel

Moderator **Professor Carrie Stevens**

Panelists: **President Joel Jackson**, Organized Village of Kake; **Chief Galen Gilbert**, Neets'aai Gwich'in, Arctic Village Council; **President Kirsten Timbers**, Kiyuktoruq, Village of Solomon, Tribal Judge

12:00 PM **On-Site Lunch &**

Traditional Trades with Bruce Ervin, Upper Tanana Dene, Northway Tribe, Term Assistant Professor of Language and Culture

1:15 PM **Table Dialogue**

Practicing Sovereignty Panel

Moderator: **Assistant Professor Michelle (Jaaghal.aat) Demmert**, Tlingit, Eagle, K̓aaḡ'oos.hittaaan (Man's Foot) clan

Panelists: **Karen Linnell**, Chistochina, Ahtna/Tlingit, Naltsiine and Wasí'neidii, Executive Director, Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission; **Chief Karma Ulvi**, Native Village of Eagle, Chief and Tribal Administrator; **Dr. Joel Isaak**, Łiq'a yes, Dena'ina, Kenaitze Indian Tribe, Director of Culture Preservation and Language

Table Dialogue

5:00 PM **Closing Blessing & Adjourn**

6:00 PM **Evening Reception @ UAF Museum of the North**

2025 Tribal Governance Symposium

Thursday, October 30 | Tomorrow

Daily Moderator: **Lonnie Buresch, or Daathlel**, Denyeet Hutana (from Stevens Village), Tribal Government Support Manager at Tanana Chiefs Conference

8:00 AM **Shared Breakfast & Visiting**

9:00 AM **Eena Neenyo: Welcome**

Elder Blessing; Traditional Song; Welcome from **Teisha Simmons**, Koyukon Athabascan Tribal Member of Louden and Huslia Tribes, Dean of College of Indigenous Studies & **Bryan Uher**, Interim Vice Chancellor for Rural, Community and Native Education at UAF; Table Introductions

Strength and Unity Panel

Moderator: **Meghan Sigvanna Tapqaq**, Inupiaq, Native Village of Ambler, Tribal Governance Affiliate Faculty

Panelists: **Diloola Erickson**, Kaltag Tribal member, Tanana Chiefs Conference Tribal Resource Stewardship Director; **Laaganaay Tsiits Git'anee**, Haida/Tlingit, Tribal Citizen of the Organized Village of Kake, OVK Tribal Council Member; **Craig Kaviak Chythlook**, Aleknagik Traditional Council, Native Peoples Action Fishery Policy Director

Table Dialogue

12:00 PM **On-Site Lunch & Visiting**

Tribal Visioning

Moderators: **Carrie Stevens**, Professor and Vice Chair of Tribal Governance; **Kevin Illingworth**, Professor and Department Chair of Tribal Governance; **Laura Zimin**, Alutiiq, Assistant professor of Tribal Governance

Share Out

3:00 PM **Closing Blessing & Adjourn**

Thank you for joining us!



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