



APPENDIX D

Ilisagvik College Vision Statement

Iḷisaḡvik College Vision Statement

Serving the core of the of the Circumpolar Arctic, Iḷisaḡvik College is uniquely positioned to create an environment for the local and global community that is altogether Indigenous, inclusive, and accessible. Together, we have an opportunity to build the future of education in the arctic with bold and sustainable purpose.

For over twenty years, Iḷisaḡvik College has stood as an exemplar of higher education, engendering lifelong learning within the holistic principles of Iḷupiaqatigiigñiq (the twelve Iḷupiaq values). Now, as we stride into the future, we embark on a journey to build a new college campus that reflects the innovation, importance, and integrity of our educational mission. Our new campus will be a community and global effort, and our new campus will be a public testament to higher learning and Iḷupiat culture.

The greatest resource in the arctic is and always will be our people. Our vision of a new campus embodies both adaptability and resilience in an ever-changing landscape. Located in Utqiaḡvik/Barrow, the northernmost village in the U.S., Iḷisaḡvik College's arctic landscape has been home to the Iḷupiat people for thousands of years.

The new Iḷisaḡvik College campus will be a direct reflection of the strong leadership and strategic planning that is inherent to Iḷisaḡvik: we envision a new campus that can move confidently into the future as an innovative, adaptable space that is technologically dexterous, environmentally sound, and immanently focused on education.

Our Vision will result in a beautiful, sustainable campus that houses academic, vocational, and workforce education, and includes dormitory housing for students, staff, and visiting arctic scientists modeled after the unique world in which we reside—from the expansive tundra, to the indigo-gray waves of the Chukchi Sea, to the mid-day twilight of arctic December.

Iḷisaḡvik College is on the forefront of so many changes—from climate challenges, to the Indigenous sovereignty movement, to the push for innovative energy sources and environmental stewardship—and the new campus that we are dreaming towards will provide a dynamic and breathable space that catalyzes learning and critical thinking. Our new campus is an opportunity for our communities to come together and create a center of knowledge that will serve as a circumpolar educational bastion.

The new student-inspired, community-driven, Iḷisaġvik College campus will be grounded in Iḷupiaq values and adaptable to the needs of an evolving student body to foster educational excellence. Drawing from our Iḷupiaq culture, our new campus will be:

- Student-Focused
- Environmentally Sustainable
- Technologically Innovative
- Spatially Adaptable, and
- Timeless in Design.

Our new Iḷisaġvik College campus will model best practices in Indigenous education and train our future leaders to drive global change.

Originally established in 1986, the first iteration of Iḷisaġvik College was borne in a cooperative agreement between the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) and the North Slope Borough (NSB), as an extension of UAF. In 1996, Iḷisaġvik came into its own as a nonprofit, independent institution. In 2003, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities officially accredited Iḷisaġvik, and the College remains accredited through that same body to this day. We are proud to offer quality postsecondary education to the residents on the North Slope and greater Alaska. As the only higher education institution on the North Slope, we serve our students with academic, vocational, and workforce education.

Since the College's inception, we have industriously worked within the confines of temporary infrastructure built by the Office of Naval Research 70 years ago this year, for what used to be the Naval Arctic Research Laboratory (NARL) and surrounding Quonset huts. While the college and the thousands of students Iḷisaġvik has had the privilege to serve have appreciated the availability of the space, our growth over the past decade necessitates a new campus to better serve our students.

We envision a campus that fits the varied needs of our students- from academic classes, to workforce trainings, to vocational education courses and cooperative extension workshops- and sets a technological and environmental precedent across Alaska. Our campus will be elementally part of our land, as integral and enduring as education, and display the unique strength, beauty, and cultural traditions of the Iḷupiaq people.

The new campus will embody our mission statement, which states:

Iḷisaġvik College provides quality post-secondary academic, vocational and technical education in a learning environment that perpetuates and strengthens Iḷupiat culture, language, values and traditions.

It is dedicated to serving its students and developing a well-educated and trained workforce who meet the human resource needs of North Slope employers and the state of Alaska.

We pride ourselves on being a dynamic postsecondary institution; unlike larger colleges and universities, Iḷisaġvik is able to tailor our educational offerings to student and employer demands. We are keen to ensure that our students receive the best and most relevant education possible, so that they are able secure North Slope and greater Alaska employment.

Iḷisaġvik College is also unique in that our constituents are comprised of both traditional and non-traditional college students. Many of our students work full-time, participate regularly in subsistence activities, and take care of children, grandparents, and other family members. Our traditional college-age students are often first-generation enrollees- they have sought out higher education of their own accord. Our students are devoted to their arctic home, and cherish the fact that Iḷisaġvik offers them degrees and certificates in a rural environment. Our primary constituents live in the eight Native villages on the North Slope, and our village-based students cherish that they can stay in their home villages and still earn a college degree.

The growth of Iḷisaġvik College mirrors the growth of our students. The beneficiaries of the college are a generation who have risen to meet the changing face of employment, requiring more out of an institution which has grown exponentially over the last twenty years, both academically and vocationally. In late 2017, we introduced our inaugural Bachelor's degree in business administration- the first of several baccalaureate programs to come. On average, the College serves 1,800 students each year – approximately 20% of the North Slope Borough population. Additionally, Iḷisaġvik offers one of the few Indigenous Learning programs in the U.S., preparing Alaska Native students to become teachers and leaders in their home villages. It is the *only* college in the world to offer an Iñupiaq Studies program, perpetuating the rich history, values, traditions, and language of the Iñupiat people. We believe in service to our students and the enrichment of lives through learning, which is why we implemented a tuition waiver, in partnership with the North Slope Borough, for North Slope residents in early 2018.

While we are excited about our new campus opportunity, it is our fiscal responsibility and organizational stability that have empowered our past and present- and will propel us into the future. The College is debt- and deficit-free, and has a growing endowment fund. Our executive administration has always been comprised of strong managers and stable leadership. Led by President Dr. Pearl Brower, Iḷisaġvik has a dynamic team of experts, intellectuals, and impassioned educators contributing to the mission of the College. Strategic planning is a college-wide effort that considers input from all departments to make informed, educated decisions.