

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



SENATOR MURKOWSKI DELIVERS \$5 MILLION IN DIRECTED SPENDING FOR DESIGN OF NEW ILISAĠVIK COLLEGE CAMPUS

January 17, 2023

Ilisaġvik College is excited to announce the inclusion of \$5 million in federal funding for the continued design of their new campus in the congressionally approved 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

The funding is part of the \$1.7 trillion bipartisan omnibus spending bill that will fund the federal government for fiscal year 2023. It was passed by Congress on December 23, 2022, and was signed by President Biden on December 29.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R) secured nearly \$500 million in Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) for the state of Alaska, funding more than 130 different projects. In a statement included in Murkowski's announcement, Ilisaġvik College President, Justina Wilhelm, said, "The Senator understands our mission and vision and is aware of our needs. She has visited our campus, heard directly from our students, and sees the positive impacts of higher education. Our tribal college has a state-wide reach that continues to grow. Iglaurugut suvunmun – we are moving forward!"

Second-year Information Technology student Damon Gordon said, "It is exciting to see the school grow within the North Slope and expand to be able to serve the community better."

Ilisaġvik has been working towards a new campus since preliminary discussions began in 2007. In 2018, they were allocated \$1 million in North Slope Borough Capital Improvement Program funds to support the programming and concept design phase. The \$5 million will allow the college to continue the design phase, including an ongoing collaboration with Ukpeaġvik Iñupiat Corporation (UIC) to secure a long-term land lease for a site. Ilisaġvik is working with UIC UMIAQ LLC and Cibinel Architects on the design.

Ilisaġvik College is currently housed at the Naval Arctic Research Laboratory, a 70-year-old facility four miles outside of Utqiaġvik that was never meant to be a college. The campus is spread across 13 buildings that are occasionally locked down due to polar bear sightings or inaccessible due to road closures caused by extreme weather. The college is hoping to consolidate operations

into one purpose-designed facility in town that can better serve the community's needs for education, training, and events.

To learn more about the new Iḷisaḡvik College campus or to make a donation visit <https://www.ilisagvik.edu/about-us/nicc/>

ABOUT IḷISAḠVIK COLLEGE

Located in the northernmost point of Alaska, Iḷisaḡvik College is a two-year accredited tribal college that provides quality post-secondary academic, career and technical education in a learning environment that perpetuates and strengthens Iñupiat culture, language, values and traditions. Iḷisaḡvik College is a public, non-profit organization. If you wish to donate to Iḷisaḡvik, your donation is tax deductible.

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