

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Northern Susitna Institute****Federal Tax ID: 20-4297821****Project Title:****Project Type: New Construction and Land Acquisition**

## Northern Susitna Institute - Campus Property Purchase

**State Funding Requested: \$150,000**  
One-Time Need**House District: Mat-Su Areawide (7-11)****Brief Project Description:**

Capital Funding Assistance for the purchase of 3 acres of strategically located property in downtown Talkeetna for development of the Northern Susitna Institute campus.
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**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost:	\$410,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$185,000)
FY2014 State Funding Request:	(\$150,000)
Project Deficit:	\$75,000

*Funding Details:*

Since August 2011, Northern Susitna Institute has raised \$35,000 through local fundraising efforts toward purchase of the property.

In December 2012, the Rasmuson Foundation awarded a dollar-for-dollar challenge grant up to \$150,000 for funds raised by NSI between December 2012 and December 2013.

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

Northern Susitna Institute is a collaborative nonprofit educational organization dedicated to providing people of all ages the opportunity to learn, explore ideas and develop real life skills through a variety of experience-based programs, workshops, seminars, conferences, and community partnerships. As an umbrella organization, NSI is presently home to four distinct, hands-on education programs: Classroom With A View, CEAL Academy (Career Exploration and Applied Learning), Talkeetna Build A Plane, and Alaska Folk School. Detailed descriptions of each of these programs can be found on the NSI website and in our catalog.

The work of NSI is predicated upon addressing needs identified during a series of NSI sponsored "Empowering Students" education symposiums held in 2008. Over two hundred people attended the three symposiums, including the MSBSD superintendent, education experts from around the state, teachers, home school and public school parents, students, and community members. Needs identified during these symposiums are addressed in the 2011 NSI Business Plan (available upon request).

- There is a lack of career development pathways like those found in the core area of the MSB.

- Young people need to recognize the opportunities for career exploration and training that exists within our community.
- People in the Northern Susitna Valley need better access to post secondary educational opportunities.
- There is a need to share the accumulated knowledge, skills, and talents of people living in the Northern Susitna Valley.
- There is a shortage of community gathering places for meetings, conferences, classrooms, workshops, and rehearsals.

Our project is to secure funds for the purchase and development of the 3-acre property in downtown Talkeetna currently leased by NSI for use as a campus and community center. This property is ideally located such that all visitors must pass by the site, whether approaching by car, bus, train, bike, or walking to downtown from the Talkeetna Airport or Alaska Railroad Depot. Situated on the property is a 3700 sq. ft. former church building that includes a 1400 sq. ft. great room, a kitchen, lobby, four classroom/office spaces, two restrooms, and several storage areas. There is an additional outbuilding (approximately 750 sq. ft.) on the back of the property that can be used as a workshop. A small building in one corner of the parking lot also serves as Talkeetna's "Free Box" (a free recycling center staffed by volunteers). Two separate Broker's Opinion of Value assessed the property between \$395,000 and \$410,000.

Owning this centrally located property will ensure the continuation and expansion of NSI programs and allow us to provide people of all ages the opportunity to explore ideas and develop real-life skills. For example, Classroom With A View will have a venue for developing leadership skills with young people; CEAL Academy will have a place to discuss and practice workplace protocol and entrepreneurial skills; and Talkeetna Build A Plane will be able to conduct ground school and A&P courses. By providing venues for valuable interaction with adult mentors, these NSI programs all focus on developing healthy lifestyles in young people.

Perhaps most significantly, this property will become known as the home of the Alaska Folk School, a program that taps into local, statewide, national, and international resources to provide classes in traditional arts, humanities, natural history and sustainable living in our northern environment. Like other folk schools around the nation, the Alaska Folk School will become a positive learning center enhancing the physical, social and economic health of our community and the state of Alaska. Instructors will lead classes for residents and visitors alike covering such topics as sustainable agriculture, health and fitness, fabric arts, masonry heater construction, natural history, and visual and performing arts. Alaska Folk School will be a place where people of all ages can share skills and expertise with each other and be within easy walking distance of "beautiful downtown Talkeetna". (Alaska Folk School has been modeled after the international folk school concept, primarily the North House Folk School located in Grand Marais, MN. North House has generously provided valuable advice along with their "Economic Impact Study" describing how their programming annually adds over \$6 million in economic activity to their rural community in northern Minnesota.)

This 3-acre property will also provide a much-needed community center and meeting place for area groups and organizations. Workout equipment, an open field, wireless internet, and a piano make the space flexible and functional for a range of community needs. The NSI campus has provided a venue for such activities as the Talkeetna Book Festival (sponsored by Friends of the Talkeetna Library), an annual statewide art teachers conference, and was base camp for the 50 member New Old Time Chautauqua touring troupe during their five day stay in Talkeetna. Our facility has been the site of a Swiftwater Rescue course, memorial services, receptions, yoga and Pilates classes, art classes for home school students, and is made available to area non-profits for monthly board meetings free of charge.

The NSI campus will not only help us develop our own programs, but will help develop relationships with other educational institutions. We have met with representatives of Mat Su College to discuss the possibility of NSI becoming a satellite campus and are coordinating activities with the staff of Alaska Pacific University's Spring Creek Farm in Palmer. NSI has also participated in several statewide conferences related to career and vocational training, and also participated as a

member of the Mat Su Central School strategic planning team at the Alternative Schools "Healthy Behaviors" Conference in November 2011. (The Mat Su Central team adopted our CEAL Academy internship program as an initial strategy for reducing the sense of isolation for their high school students.) Su Valley High School students have participated in the CEAL internship program, working with mentors at Golden Pond Veterinary, the National Park Service, Upper Susitna Soil and Water Conservation District, Denali Arts Council, and Talkeetna Elementary School.

To date, we have raised nearly \$35,000 through local fundraising efforts and have gathered broad-ranging community support for this project (see attached letters). Our capital fundraising committee has developed a multi-faceted campaign with a goal to raise an additional \$75,000. (Thousands of hours of in-kind support have been logged but are not included in this request.) Our request is to be funded at the \$150,000 level through the State of Alaska capital budget. With this funding, NSI will be able to develop our campus and improve delivery of hands-on learning experiences benefitting both residents and visitors to our community. We believe this model will not only help sustain our local economy but will be able to be replicated in other Alaskan communities. NSI is committed to establishing a framework for taking advantage of the skills and talents of Alaska's most valuable resource, her people.

### Project Timeline:

Our goal is to secure \$410,000 by December 31, 2013. This will allow us to match the Rasmuson challenge grant and purchase the 3 acre property we currently lease.

### Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Northern Susitna Institute

### Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Joe Page  
 Title: Executive Director  
 Address: PO Box 46  
 Talkeetna, Alaska 99676  
 Phone Number: (907)733-7111  
 Email: Joe.Page@northernsusitnainstitute.org

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority?  Yes  No

## Classroom with a View



Since 2001 Classroom with a View has created and led an array of experience-based courses designed to immerse high school students in engaging environments from Mexico to Alaska. CWAV's mission is to strengthen leadership skills, inspire interest in active life-long learning, build self-confidence, and promote place-based understanding through travel and cultural exchange. The experience-based courses offered by CWAV all contain preparatory coursework leading up to the culminating expedition and offer the option of earning high school credits.

## Talkeetna Build-A-Plane

Talkeetna Build-A-Plane is a hands-on program designed for students to work with professional pilots and Talkeetna airport mechanics in rebuilding donated airplanes. The program uses aircraft construction projects to teach science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and encourages students to learn more about pursuing careers in commercial aviation, aerospace engineering, aircraft maintenance, airport management, and air traffic control. Students are in the process of returning a 1973 six-seat Cherokee PA 32-300 to airworthy condition with the intention of selling it and using the proceeds to fund the next project for the next group of students.



# NSI Programs



## "Real Learning in the Real World"

### CEAL Academy

*Career Exploration and Applied Learning*



CEAL Academy has collaborated with a team of area residents, school personnel, tradespeople, and business owners to create a comprehensive program of job shadow, internship and service learning opportunities. This program is designed to engage students in real life experiences and help them understand the issues and challenges of different careers, while earning academic credit.

### Alaska Folk School

The Alaska Folk School will tap into local, statewide, national, and international resources to promote creative, and sustainable programs for individuals and families. Instructors will lead classes and workshops for residents and visitors covering topics such as sustainable agriculture, log building, health and fitness, fabric arts, natural history, masonry heater construction, visual and performing arts. The Alaska Folk School will provide a place where people of all ages can share skills and expertise with each others and with visitors who are attracted to the course offerings.





## MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

### Office of the Mayor

350 East Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, AK 99645

Phone (907) 745-9682 • Fax (907) 745-9669

[Larry.devilbiss@matsugov.us](mailto:Larry.devilbiss@matsugov.us)

December 20, 2012

Erin Aulman, NSI Board President  
Northern Susitna Institute  
P.O. Box 46  
Talkeetna, AK 99676

Dear Ms. Aulman,

As Mayor of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, it is my honor to lend support the Northern Susitna Institute (NSI). NSI is a collaborative nonprofit educational organization that provides students of all ages the opportunity to learn, share ideas and develop real life skills through creating and supporting a variety of experience-based academic programs, workshops, conferences, and community partnerships.

I want to continue to support NSI in serving the community with educational opportunities provided by the following programs: Classroom With a View, Talkeetna Build A Plane, Career Exploration and Applied Learning, and the Alaska Folk School. The current project to purchase and renovate the new facility in Talkeetna, is a worthwhile project and I will look forward to updates on the progress.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Larry DeVilbiss  
Borough Mayor

LD/tr



# Talkeetna Community Council, Inc.

A non-profit, community service organization

To Whom It May Concern:

Nov,12 2011

The Talkeetna Community Council supports the mission of Northern Susitna Institute and their efforts to provide a campus for hands-on learning and community-based education in Talkeetna. The property they seek to purchase is ideally located for this purpose. Not only will our community benefit by having expanded access to educational programs, but their facility will provide additional space for community meetings, rehearsals, workshops, classrooms, and conferences.

Sincerely,

*Mary EB Jarina*  
*Vice-Chairperson, TCC, Inc*

**Talkeetna Community Council, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 608, Talkeetna AK 99676**

December 20, 2012

To whom it concerns:

I write to express my continuing support for the Northern Susitna Institute. As the General Manager of Twister Creek Restaurant/Denali Brewing and the father of three girls I am a proud supporter. Two of my girls aged seven and ten attend Talkeetna Build a Plane (TBAP), for us this experience is the highest form of education possible. They receive hands on practical life experiences that will continue to shape them for many years to come. It is often stated that all of Alaska's best talent leaves the state. It is only by training, educating, and employing our youth in relevant fields that we can hope to keep them here. Last year seven students from TBAP were employed at local air taxis. In my prior support letter I had stated that it is my hope that one day my daughter will also have this opportunity. Through our continued participation in TBAP my eldest daughter has been offered the opportunity to intern at a local flight school in exchange for flight lessons. This is just one example of NSI becoming a catalyst for community partnerships and development.

Without a permanent home NSI's ability to continue to grow and contributed to our community will be diminished. In the past year, the NSI building has been a place that my family and I have gone to to vaccinate our children, attend multiple Folk School classes, celebrate the wedding of our dear friends, remember and support the lives of community members no longer with us. The value of these examples cannot be measured in a profit and loss statement, it requires a core belief that if we invest in our community we will not have to pay twice as much later. Our community believes in NSI. Denali Brewing's founding and participation in the Hudson Memorial Fly-in and the Talkeetna Brewfest raised close to \$10,000 for NSI in 2012. We look forward to building on these events and seeing the benefit that they bring. We are but just one group of individuals that have done this. Example after example can be found of folks volunteering their time and giving their hard earned dollars to see NSI get established.

This past summer my daughter and father built a small boat made out of cardboard, duct tape and glue as a part of an NSI event for people of all ages. Prior to our boat's maiden voyage Joe Page loaned us a kayak paddle, with life jacket on, my daughter paddled past folks of all ages and in the last leg of the regatta race she was able to take the lead and finish in first place. Crowds cheering, kids laughing, families spending time together, a nine year old going home with memories that will build confidence. In valuable! Please feel free to contact us with any questions as it is very important to us to see NSI in a permanent home.

Sassan Mossanen, General Manager  
Denali Brewing  
P.O. Box 1021, Talkeetna Ak 99676  
Work (907) 733-2535  
Cell (907) 355-1169

Ruth D. Wood  
P. O. Box 766  
Talkeetna, AK 99676

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January 9, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to voice my support for the Northern Susitna Institute, with particularly emphasis on its efforts to purchase the Church on the Rock property and its efforts to expand educational opportunities in our community.

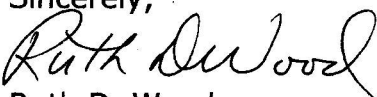
I have been actively involved in the Talkeetna community since I moved here 14 years ago. I served on our community council for 7 years, including 5 as chair. Two of our community successes during that time were completing the Talkeetna Community Tourism Plan and securing Mat-Su Borough adoption of the Talkeetna Special Land Use District (SPUD), our only zoning. The plan was an effort to address community needs arising from the ever expanding growth of tourism, and the overwhelming direction from the community was to maintain our community's character. The SPUD puts some of the recommendations from the plan into code, but the SPUD does not (and should not) mandate land use. Therefore, most land is developed to take advantage of the growth in tourism (e.g., more restaurants, gift shops, etc.) The Northern Susitna Institute's use of this property will be unique in that it will be available for a multitude of community uses and for programs aimed at attracting a different kind of tourist. NSI will both support our community economically and help us maintain our town character.

Talkeetna has some excellent educational opportunities, and NSI will build on and increase those opportunities. We probably have the best Community Schools program in the State, but school isn't in session all year, and classes cannot be held during the school day. We have some of the best public school teachers that I have known anywhere, but the hours in a school day are limited and some curriculums cannot be accommodated. When I heard the concept for the Build A Plan program, for example, I immediately understood the value of bringing together our high school students and aviation experts so that these youngsters learn marketable skills that will prepare them to find careers in Alaska. Fostering internships and mentors is a proven method of helping young people learn work ethics and skills needed in the real world. The Folk School will not only offer classes designed for locals, but for people who travel to take advantage of artisans who teach where they live.

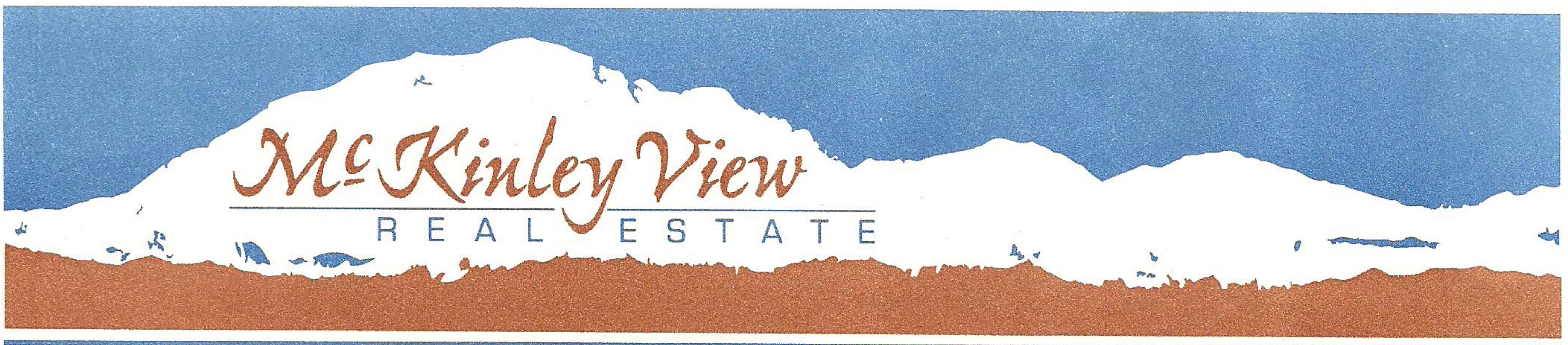
Talkeetna is very short on good meeting space, and NSI makes their space available to ~~the~~ the community at very reasonable rates. I am on the board of the Jessica Stevens Community Foundation (JSCF.) Last year, JSCF held a fund-raising workshop for community nonprofits, an all day planning session, and a donor event at NSI. The benefits from the availability of this great space cannot be overstated.

I am happy to expand on these thoughts if you would like to call me at (907) 733-6874, and I close by stating that my family will continue to support NSI with our own charitable giving, for all the reasons stated above.

Sincerely,

  
Ruth D. Wood





December 13, 2012

I'm writing this letter in support of Northern Susitna Institute (NSI), a Talkeetna-based non-profit offering many educational opportunities for residents and visitors of all ages. Under the umbrella of NSI several separate learning programs are underway and, with your help and support, they can continue to grow. Having a variety of courses will benefit not only local residents and visitors but can result in an increase in visitors who choose Talkeetna as a destination partly (or wholly) because of the learning opportunities at NSI.

Providing learning outside the institutional environment for children is beneficial in many ways, and ongoing courses for life-long learning as adults creates a better community for all. The economic stimulus to local restaurants, overnight accommodations and other businesses by those who travel to attend courses through NSI will help broaden Talkeetna's small economy.

Northern Susitna Institute is an organization providing many positive benefits for our community and has widespread support locally, including this local real estate broker and business owner. I have had nothing but positive enriching experiences as an instructor at Alaska Folk School, as a learner in classes, and as an organizer of small events held in the NSI building that would simply not happen if this space was not available to rent to us.

Sincerely,

Holly Stinson, REALTOR®  
Broker



## MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

**Community Development  
Recreation and Library Services  
TALKEETNA PUBLIC LIBRARY /  
COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER**  
PO Box 768, Talkeetna, Alaska 99676

December 15th, 2012

To Whom it May Concern:

It gives me great pleasure to write a letter of support for the Northern Susitna Institute. This community is in great need of additional resources for education, job training, and community building. The Talkeetna Public Library/Community Resource Center is struggling to meet these same needs, and we deeply value and appreciate the work the Northern Susitna Institute does, and the ability to collaborate with an organization that so closely matches our own mission of community building and lifelong learning.

The Folk School initiative has the potential to become a state-wide or even nationwide resource for teaching skills that are hard to come by as well as making NSI self-supporting. Skills such as log building, basket making, blacksmithing and the like are taught in very few locations throughout the nation. The CEAL academy, Classroom with a View, and Talkeetna Build-a-plane, all of which are also under the NSI umbrella, provide unique educational opportunities to our rural area.

Furthermore, the fact that NSI has worked to incorporate several non-profit efforts under one umbrella is an exemplary move to benefit a small rural community which already hosts over 20 nonprofit organizations.

For all these reasons and many more, on behalf of the Talkeetna Public Library/Community Resource Center, I heartily recommend any support you can provide to the Northern Susitna Institute.

Sincerely,

Ann M. Yadon  
Library Director  
Talkeetna Public Library/Community Resource Center

December 28, 2012

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in support of the proposed land purchase by the Northern Susitna Institute of the Church on the Rock property in Talkeetna. NSI has been a positive force for educational programs and community enrichment in Talkeetna for many years. They have a highly respected staff with many years of experience. A permanent campus would increase the accomplishments that NSI has already proved they are capable of.

The location of the former Talkeetna Christian Center will generate a wide variety of economic advantages to local businesses. The Talkeetna Folk School will bring an increase in visitors to Talkeetna at both peak and otherwise "off-season" times of year

As the owners of two small businesses, we hope to see NSI thrive in all it's many endeavors! We encourage the state to consider supporting NSI and it's wide reaching benefits to our community.

Sincerely,

Whitney Wolff and Paul Roderick

Talkeetna Air Taxi , P.O. Box 73 / 14212 E. Second St. , Talkeetna  
Traleika Mountaintop Cabins, P.O. Box 96 / 22216 s. Freedom Dr., Talkeetna

From: Top Notch Logbuilders, Inc.

Box 401, Talkeetna, Ak.

To Whom It May Concern,

This is a letter of support for the ongoing development of the Northern Susitna Institute. Top Notch Logbuilders, Inc. has been building commercial and residential structures in the Upper Susitna Valley since 1981. To date we've constructed well over 100 buildings ranging from remote log lodges in the Alaskan Bush, to community centers to fully finished, super-insulated timber-framed homes.

A significant percentage of the timbers, logs and lumber which we have used in our buildings has been harvested right here from our own northern boreal forests. The skills and techniques which we have developed over the years have evolved in accordance with the functional necessities demanded of our northern lifestyles, while taking full advantage of the particular qualities of our spruce and birch forest resources.

Indeed, our company is about as "home grown" as they come. We have managed, over the past three decades, to weather the long-term vagaries of fickle economies in a small rural town, all the while providing a much needed service employing a local, skilled workforce "adding value" to our community's infrastructure through the utilization of our local forest products.

From our perspective, the development of a future workforce with "Real-World" skill sets will become more of an imperative as issues of energy consumption, climate change and subsequent economic transitions come to the fore. The Northern Susitna Institute offers a wonderful venue for promoting the future development of such much-needed skills. This knowledge gained will serve our future generations well professionally, as well as enhance our entire community's working-knowledge and use of the forests which we call our home.

In a nutshell, the Northern Susitna Institute will be an educational, economic and cultural boon to our community, our Borough, and the visitors who annually come here to experience its edge of the wilderness.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I would be more than happy to offer some insights from the perspective of a long-time business owner.

Sincerely,

Arthur Mannix (907) 733-2615

Top Notch Logbuilders, Inc.

Alaska Contractor's Lic. # 22848





## DENALI ARTS COUNCIL

***Mission:*** *We value Diversity, Artistry and Community.  
We create and nurture community-based opportunities  
for artistic expression.*

P.O. Box 404 ~ Talkeetna ~ AK 99676 ~  
907-733-7929  
~ info@denaliartscouncil.org

July 24, 2011

To Whom it May Concern,

The Denali Arts Council wishes to voice full support for the mission and endeavors of the Northern Susitna Institute. We share NSI's vision for the future of fulfilling our common goal of community based education in the arts and crafts, and we believe that success in attaining and in sustaining this goal involves collaborative effort.

We acknowledge that there are needs for classroom, workshop, office, storage, and meeting space for both of our organizations and for the community, and we believe that consummation of NSI efforts in purchasing the 'Christian Center' property will be critical to the future of our community. We further wish to express that NSI efforts in this regard are particularly agreeable - and good for our community, and our state - in that these efforts are not related to traditional tourist activities.

Sincerely,  
Board Of Directors  
Denali Arts Council

President, Jeff Lebegue

Vice-President, Mary Farina

Treasurer, Kathy Stoltz

Secretary, Mike Sterling

Jan 4, 2012

To Whom it May Concern,

We have seen the benefits of a community folk school first hand. Having attended the John Campbell Folk School in North Carolina many times and am now teaching classes there every year, folk schools hold a special place in our lives. The JCFS has been in existence since the early 1930's, people come from all over the country to attend a wide array of classes taught by professional instructors. It is a treasure to experience the comradely of the people who attend and the school staff.

We believe that a folk school located in Talkeetna will be very beneficial to our local economy.

Sincerely,

Kevin Foster

Ironclad Designs

January 6, 2012

To whom it may concern,

We are a small independent retail grocery store located in the Upper Susitna area at the junction of the Parks Highway and Talkeetna Spur Road; striving to establish positive working relations in the community. We support the Northern Susitna Institute and their efforts to improve the educational opportunities that are available to people of all ages in our community. We have agreed to assist in their CEAL Academy and offer mentoring to students who are interested in a business career. We believe that a mentoring program would be an excellent way to give students a real life experience in the field and give them a better idea of the challenges of operating a small business. This program could provide students with high school credits that we believe would be just as beneficial as book learning, if not more. The Talkeetna Build A Plane program has been a huge success throughout the community. More businesses and individuals have shown interest in supporting future programs like it. In all, we believe that the Northern Susitna Institute is a great opportunity for local residents and we will continue to support the programs and services that they offer to our community. We believe that with continued support, NIS will improve our community and surrounding area.

Sincerely,



James G. Pearson

Owner

Cubby's IGA Marketplace



December 30, 2011

To Whom it May Concern,

We are writing on behalf of Northern Susitna Institute in Talkeetna Alaska. There are dozens if reasons why this organization is an asset to our community and our state. One of the most important aspects of the NSI campus being housed near the heart of Talkeetna is that it can provide not only a space for educational opportunities but also a much needed space for other community based activities. This in turn can support other businesses in our community, being a win - win situation for all involved.

NSI programming supports community and school partnerships allowing for access to all community members. We would strongly encourage you as our legislators to consider appropriate funding assistance when determining the state budget.

Sincerely,

Mark and Laura Wildermuth  
Owners, Talkeetna Camper Park

January 3, 2012

To Whom it May Concern:

We are writing in support of the legislature providing funding assistance for the purchase of the Northern Susitna Institute Campus Property in Talkeetna. As the owners of a tourism business and active members of the community we are familiar with the many benefits this facility would provide.

Our business and others would benefit greatly from the establishment of a winter tourism market that the Alaska Folk School program will bring. It will add stability, strength, and diversification to this vital industry. The facility will also will meet other important other important needs in the community, such as office and meeting space. As parents, we support NSI's efforts to boost vocational training, helping to give our children good jobs right here at home.

Please support funding assistance for this critical purchase.

Thank you,

Howard and Noelle Carbone, Owner/operators of Alaska Nature Guides

Jan 1, 2012

Dear Persons,

We believe in knowledge and passing on knowledge to people with open minds who want to learn! What better village to pursue this than Talkeetna.

A folk school located in Talkeetna will benefit our local B&Bs, restaurants and gift shop owners. Talkeetna currently is known as a unique village where tourists love to come to listen to the local music and enjoy the great outdoor activities Talkeetna has to offer.

I believe having a folk school in Talkeetna is a win, win situation. We already have the desire to build it, we have the population to support the classes, and Alaska has the talent to teach many creative and exciting classes.

Thanks for your time,

Peg Foster

Basketmaker

January 11, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my support for the purchase of property for the Northern Sunitna Institute Campus. The campus currently offers a centralized location for community events such as workshops, rehearsals, and meetings. There are many promising ideas for the future of NSI. Purchasing the property would make it possible for the ideas to materialize into real and varied opportunities for the community.

Sincerely,  
Lori Holcomb

January 17, 2012

To Whom It May Concern,

I am very excited that the Northern Susitna Institute has invited the folk school to use their building as a home base. The classes offered under the umbrella of NSI have served as a very popular option for those in the community interested in continuing ed., hands on experiences beyond what can be offered in community schools. The folk school provides the opportunity for local artisans to share their craft with the community and visitors interested in experiencing some of the local culture and art. The benefits that our little town would derive from such an endeavor would be wonderful. I envision that our folk school would make Talkeetna a destination for participating in the local art classes along with enjoying the beauty and quaintness that this magical little village has to offer. I look forward to seeing the NSI/Folk School grow and further enrich our wonderful artsy, innovative community.

Sincerely,

Mary Gunderson

- Talkeetna Water & Sewer Fees & Billing**

Service	Fee or Charge
Residential	\$41.45 per month
Commercial: Metered	\$5.80 per 1,000 gallons (\$46.43 per month minimum)
Commercial: Non-Metered	\$46.43 per month
Late Charge	\$8.29
Interest Charge	10.5%
Temporary Off-Site Construction Service -Bulk Sales: Hydrant Meter Deposit	\$203.20 each
Temporary Off-Site Construction Service - Bulk Sales: Service from Fire Hydrant	\$5.80 per 1,000 gallons
Temporary Construction Service: 3/4"	\$59.86 per month
Temporary Construction Service: 1"	\$105.78 per month
Temporary Construction Service: 1 ½"	\$235.29 per month
Temporary Construction Service: 2"	\$419.26 per month
Temporary Construction Service: Larger than 2"	By Special Agreement
Bulk Sales	\$5.80 per 1,000 gallons
Interrupted Service Fee	\$24.88 per month

- Water & Sewer Rates**

**WATER RATES:**

Service	Fee or Charge
Water Turn-on or Turn-Off: During Business Hours*	\$41.45 each
Water Turn-on Turn-Off: During Non-Business Hours	\$82.90 each
Hydrant Use: Wrench Deposit	\$24.88 each
Hydrant Use: Meter Deposit	\$207.26 each
Water Main Connection Permit Fee	\$248.73 each
Stub-out Connection Permit Fee	\$82.90 each
Unauthorized Turn-On or Turn-Off	\$99.49 each
Meter Test: 3/4" through 2" Meter	\$41.45 each
Return Check	\$41.45 each
Call-Out: During Business Hours	\$41.45 each
Call-Out: During Non-Business Hours	\$82.90 each
Key Box Locate: During Business Hours	\$41.45 each
Key Box Locate: During Non-Business Hours	\$82.90 each
Refundable Deposit	Two months water service at applicable monthly rate
Application Fee	\$300

## SEWER RATES:

Service	Fee or Charge
Residential	\$41.45 per month
Commercial	\$79.62 per month

## SEWER RATES, NON-RECURRING:

Service	Fee or Charge
Sewer Connection Permit Fee*	\$248.73 each
Stub-out Connection Permit Fee*	\$82.90 each
Refundable Deposit	Two months service at applicable monthly rate
Call-out during business hours	\$41.45 each
Return Check	\$41.45 each
Unauthorized Connection	\$99.49 each and monthly charges
Application Fee	\$300

\* If a water connection is being done at the same time as a sewer connection, charge will only be for the water connection.