

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Alaska Association of Student Governments****Federal Tax ID: 92-0116510****Project Title:****Project Type: Other**

# Alaska Association of Student Governments - Hope4Alaska Suicide Prevention Campaign

**State Funding Requested: \$7,500**  
One-Time Need**House District: Statewide (1-40)****Brief Project Description:**

To provide support of continued peer-to-peer outreach relating to youth suicide prevention efforts.

**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost:	\$7,500
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2013 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$7,500)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

*Funding Details:**This campaign effort has been funded through a community grant that is due to end.***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

Hope4Alaska is a group of Alaska Association of Student Governments (AASG) students. They have organized workshops and activities in schools all over Alaska. Fueled by a passion to make a difference after experiencing the effects of suicide first-hand in their lives, these student have presented peer-to-peer training in 20 school districts statewide. Alaska has the nation's highest suicide rate and these kids hope to change that statistic.

**Project Timeline:**

Expenditures will occur over the next two years.

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

Alaska Association of Student Governments

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Name:	Carol Waters
Title:	Executive Director
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Total Project Snapshot Report

2012 Legislature

TPS Report 59027v1

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

*For use by Co-chair Staff Only:*



PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

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**Alaska Association of Student Governments  
Earns National Recognition for Service Project**

**AASG Recognized for Engaging  
Student Councils in Service Statewide**

[Anchorage, AK] – The Alaska Association of Student Governments (AASG) has been named the 2011 winner of the Ardis Kyker State Service Project Award by the National Association of Student Councils (NASC). The award is presented annually by NASC and recognizes a NASC-affiliated state student council association for its organizing and sponsoring of a statewide service project that engages its membership in support of a common charity or cause.

The Award is named for Ardis Kyker, who for more than 20 years coordinated the state student council and National Honor Society associations in Minnesota. The Kyker Award challenges state associations to clearly articulate their project goals, planning processes, implementation

strategies, and evaluation methods. Two other key elements are project outcomes and the levels to which member student councils participate in the projects.

The Alaska Association for Student Governments served its mission to develop student leadership through training, advocacy, and service by developing and implementing their statewide Suicide Prevention Campaign. Executive Board member Rachel Gulanes (from Unalaska) and Committee Co-Chair Tessa Baldwin (from Kotzebue and a Mt. Edgecumbe student) completed the award application.

The Suicide Prevention Campaign was designed to raise awareness and student advocacy for suicide prevention in Alaska's schools. The project was sparked by one of the AASG student board members telling a personal tragedy of having a high school friend commit suicide. Combined with the fact that Alaska has the highest teen and young adult suicide rate in the country, especially with Alaska Native youth, the student-led Executive Board felt compelled to launch their state project on teen suicide prevention. To plan and implement the project and engage their state members, the members of the AASG board participated in special training from suicide prevention experts, offered workshops, sponsored a media contest, engaged in an on-line suicide prevention simulation program, and involved conference delegates in suicide prevention debate and other activities. Hope4Alaska, a group of AASG students headed up by Teresa Baldwin, organized workshops and activities in schools all over Alaska. Fueled by a passion to make a difference and by funding from Alaska Federation of Natives, Hope and AASG presented training in 20 districts.

At the 2011 Spring Conference, the General Assembly's key accomplishments were to debate and pass suicide prevention training resolutions. One of the resolution stated that all teachers in Alaska need suicide prevention training, and another resolution advocates for the implementation of the online simulation suicide prevention program Kognito/At Risk at a total cost of only \$12,000 per year. AASG representatives will present these resolutions to the Alaska Board of Education and Early Development for recommended implementation.

More than half of AASG member schools participated in the suicide prevention project, and many expanded their involvement with the state association by launching suicide prevention activities in their own buildings, thus raising awareness of this serious issue facing Alaska's teens.

The Media Contest garnered over 30 entries. AASG partnered with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) and GCI to select the top videos for airing on Alaska stations.

Training in suicide prevention reached over 1500 youth during AASG leadership Conferences. In addition, many schools offered suicide prevention activities. AASG is now planning suicide prevention training to take place at the Fall Conference at Service High School October 13-15, 2011.

The National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and the National Association of Student Councils applaud AASG's outstanding efforts to engage its membership, and for its "Suicide Prevention" Campaign, which is making difference and saving the lives of teens. For more information on the National Association of Student Councils, visit [www.nasc.us](http://www.nasc.us).

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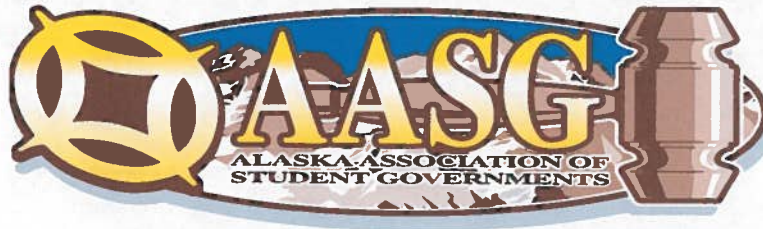
### **About NASC**

The National Association of Student Councils ® (NASC) provides resources, programs, and recognition to develop and support student council leaders and advisers. NASC believes that student council is the voice of the student body and is dedicated to preparing and empowering student leaders to serve their schools and communities through service and civic engagement. For more information, visit [www.nasc.us](http://www.nasc.us).

### **About NASSP**

In existence since 1916, the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) is the preeminent organization of and national voice for middle level and high school principals, assistant principals, and aspiring school leaders from across the United States and more than 45 countries around the world. NASSP's mission is to promote excellence in school leadership. The National Association of Student Councils ®, The National Honor Society ®, National Junior Honor Society ®, and National Elementary Honor Society ® are all NASSP programs. For more information about NASSP, located in Reston, Virginia, visit [www.principals.org](http://www.principals.org) or call 703-860-0200.

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**Alaska Association of Student Governments  
Resolution #4 (PASSED UNANIMOUSLY)  
Kognito for Teachers in Alaska**

**Submitted by: Alaska Association of Student Governments Executive Board**

**Be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments:**

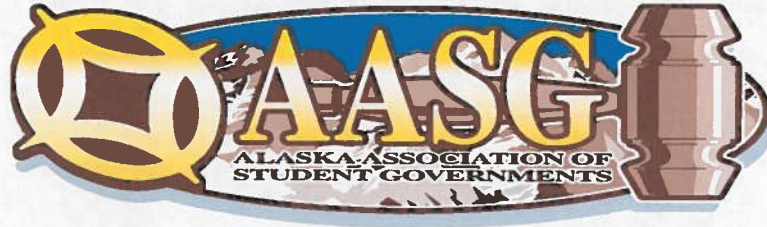
1. **Whereas, Alaska has the highest suicide rates in the nation,**
2. **Whereas, people between the ages of 15-22 commit the majority of the suicides in**
3. **Alaska; this age group consists largely of high school students,**
4. **Whereas, the signs of potential suicide can be difficult to recognize.**
5. **Whereas, in Alaska most teachers are not required to get suicide prevention training,**
6. **Whereas, Kognito will provide training for all teachers in Alaska,**
7. **Whereas, Kognito online training uses real life situations and virtual interaction to**
8. **provide information on suicide prevention,**
9. **Whereas, the training can range from 45 minutes to two hours which is flexible for**
10. **teachers,**
11. **Whereas, online training can convert existing classroom-based materials into real life**
12. **scenarios,**
13. **Whereas, it costs \$12,000 for the whole state of Alaska to receive the training,**
14. **Therefore be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that**
15. **funding for Kognito is provided for Alaskan teachers.**

**Action statement:** if passed by the Alaska Association of Student Governments, this resolution will be sent to the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council as well as the State Board of Education and Early Development.

Sources

Statewide suicide prevention council website <http://www.hss.state.ak.us/suicideprevention/>  
Kognito website <http://website.kognito.com/>





**Alaska Association of Student Governments  
Resolution #5 (PASSED)  
Requirement for Teachers to receive Suicide Prevention Training  
By Donald Handeland and Tessa Baldwin**

**Be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments:**

- 1. Whereas, Alaska has the highest suicide rates in the nation,**
- 2. Whereas, people between the ages of 15-22 commit the majority of the**
- 3. suicides which is the age group that are in high school**
- 4. Whereas the signs of potential suicide can be unrecognizable,**
- 5. Whereas, in Alaska most teachers are not required to get suicide**
- 6. prevention training,**
- 7. Whereas, teachers interact with students on a daily basis,**
- 8. Whereas, the State of Alaska doesn't require teachers to receive suicide**
- 9. prevention training,**
- 10. Whereas, resources are available for training, like Kognito online training,**
- 11. Whereas, schools usually provide grief counseling immediately after a**
- 12. suicide, but its tends to eventually be discontinued,**
- 13. Therefore be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student**
- 14. Governments that the State of Alaska look into developing a system to**
- 15. require all teachers in Alaska to participate in a suicide prevention**
- 16. program.**

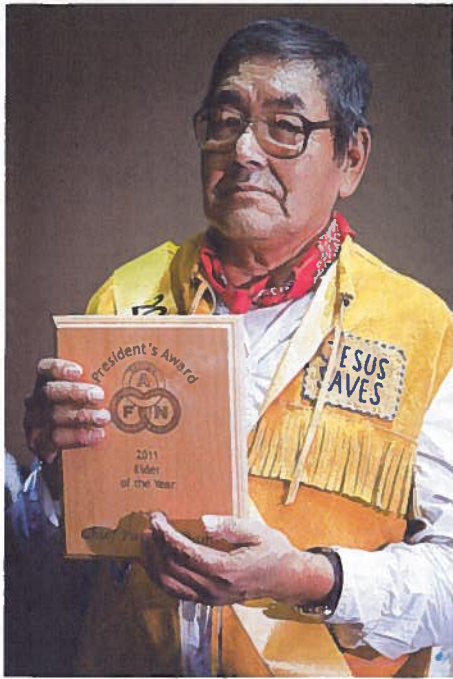
**Action statement:** if passed by the Alaska Association of Student Governments, this resolution will be sent to the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council as well as the State Board of Education and Early Development.

Sources

Statewide suicide prevention council website <http://www.hss.state.ak.us/suicideprevention/>

Kognito website <http://website.kognito.com/>  
Alaska Commissioner of Education and Early Development





**Chief Paul Williams**  
*Elder of the Year Award*

It takes more than just time to make a great Elder. Leadership, education and cultural-preservation efforts are some values the Alaska Federation of Natives looks for when giving the Elder of the Year Award.

Chief Paul Williams, 75, has those qualities in spades.

He's served on numerous boards and committees. He was chief of the Venetie Reservation for more than a decade, and second chief for more than two decades. He was traditional chief in Beaver.

A gifted oral storyteller and an historian possessing a wellspring of traditional knowledge, Williams fervently believes in the value of passing his knowledge onto younger generations, according to a short Alaska Federation of Natives biography.

The biography called him a "true servant of his people" who has worked to improve the lives of his Native people.

**Joseph "Nashalook" Masters**  
*Glenn Godfrey Law Enforcement Award*

The Glenn Godfrey Law Enforcement award was named for the state's former Public Safety Commissioner, an Alaska Native who rose

through the ranks to become the state's top police officer.

This year, that award went to another Public Safety Commissioner, Joseph "Nashalook" Masters, who was also Alaska Native and carries a long list of Alaska law enforcement experience in his holster.

Raised in Unalaska, Masters started out as a village public safety officer in Unalakleet. An Inupiat Native, he joined the troopers, working with that prestigious force for almost two decades. Now, under Gov. Sean Parnell, he's helped revive the Village Public Safety Officer program, dramatically increasing the number of officers to improve public safety in remote communities.



**\*Teresa "Tessa" Baldwin**  
*Lu Young award*

Named for Alaska Congressman Don Young's late wife, the Lu Young Youth Leadership Award is presented to high school students who make a difference.

Lu Young, a Gwich'in Athabascan and fixture in her husband's long political career, died in 2009 at the age of 67.

Teresa Baldwin of Kotzebue won the award for her efforts to address staggering rates of suicide in Alaska. A senior at Mt. Edgecumbe High School in Southeast, her life has been marked by suicide numerous times, starting with an uncle who took his life in a neighboring room when she was a child. When she was 16, her boyfriend died by suicide.

Alaska has the nation's highest suicide rate,

a number Baldwin hopes to change. Since her sophomore year in high school, she's founded Hope4Alaska, a nonprofit focused on suicide prevention and awareness. As lead chair of the Alaska Association of Student Governments, she worked with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium to create a statewide media contest targeting suicide prevention. She also started a yearly 'Suicide Prevention Week' at her school.



**David and Teresa Ulroan**  
*Parents of the Year Award*

David and Teresa Ulroan are community pillars in their lifelong village of Chevak. Married 35 years ago, they have raised five children with traditional Cup'ik, Western and spiritual values. Active in their church and parish council, the Ulroans are one of three couples in the village who help other couples prepare for marriage. The Ulroans stress that good communication is critical. When families grieve, the couple is quick to offer comfort. They lead by example, passing on lessons to children and the community as they help others.

**Loretta Throop**  
*Health*

Loretta Throop's history of trying to bring wellness to Alaska Natives goes back decades.

In the 1970s, she joined the Alaska Native Health Board. She's served as director of the American Indian Nurses Association. She joined Southcentral Foundation's Board of Directors in 2009.

Throughout her service, she's advocated