



JOHNSON SCHOLARSHIP

*Foundation*

2024 Report



# Johnson Scholarship Foundation Award Recipients

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# Since 2022, 20 students have received \$72,000 in awards from the Johnson Scholarship Foundation

Estimated Annual School Expenses  
Alaska Resident at UAF CBSM, Academic Year 2024-25

	First Years & Sophomores (30 credits)	Juniors & Seniors (30 credits)
Tuition and Fees	\$11,520	\$13,688
Room and Board	\$11,990	\$11,990
Annual Total	\$23,510	\$25,678

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I am proud to be an Athabaskan Alaskan Native, born and raised in Fairbanks. The generosity of the Johnson Scholarship Foundation has made it possible me to cover most of my senior year's expenses, and I'm incredibly grateful for that support. It has relieved a significant financial burden and allowed me to focus on my studies and extracurricular activities.

- Marcelo-Ketzler-Lopez

”



As President of the Native Alaska Business Leaders, Marcelo and the club presented their business plan to AIBL and took first place.

# Jennifer Andreassen

Fall 2022, Spring 2023

Jennifer Andreassen is a first-generation college student studying accounting. She is Tlingit, and was born in Haines, Alaska. She started her degree in 2002, and due to life circumstances, had to put her education on pause until recently. This scholarship will help her finish her education and get a job doing what she enjoys.

Jennifer grew up in a single parent home, with two of her siblings. She did not meet her biological dad until she was 35 years old. Watching her mom raise three children made her more independent. She was very determined to go to college, and in the beginning didn't know what she wanted to study. After taking some core classes and some sign language classes, she then took a couple of business classes. After her first accounting class, she knew that she wanted to pursue an accounting degree.



*Jennifer takes a selfie as she explores the Painted Hills in Oregon.*

# Katie Anthony

Fall 2022, Spring 2023

After completing her secondary education, Katie fell in love with school and decided to pursue a college degree at UAF. In 2016, Katie earned a certification and a Associates of Arts degree. Afterwards she took a break until spring 2021 where she returned to earn her Bachelors degree in Applied Management and Bussines Administration.

Katie's family has always passionately supported her educational endeavors. Always excited to see her reach her future goals and full potential. Thus driving Katie to work hard toward her college education and entering the workforce as a qualified individual that can help better any company she works for.



*Katie Anthony posing with family for a birthday.*

# Monique Beetus

Fall 2022, Spring 2023

Monique Beetus is a part-time college student who was born in Tanana, AK. She spent her early years growing up in Hughes. Monique is a first-generation senior college student, who is majoring in business administration and will be graduating within the next year. She is very honest and straightforward when it comes to identifying her main goal: to successfully graduate. With her degree, Jennifer hopes to finally be eligible for management positions.

Monique is a single parent with two children. After hearing about the award from the university itself, she views this scholarship as an opportunity to cover her academic expenses, such as textbooks, and a chance to make a difference in her daily living. She is highly influenced by her cultural values that will guide her in pursuing her career path. Monique is the president of the Native Alaska Business Leaders (NABL) organization. The NABL aims to provide support for Native Alaskan and American Indigenous college students who are interested in different areas, including business and rural economic development. Speaking of which, Monique is a member of Doyon Limited and the Hughes Tribe.



*Monique with her two children.*



# Marcus Callahan

Fall 2023, Spring 2024

Marcus Callahan, from Chugiak, Alaska, studies accounting. A first-generation college student, Marcus aims to earn his degree with honors. His career goal is to become a public accountant and gain experience in the field, potentially pursuing a master's degree in the future

Raised by his grandfather, Marcus has developed a strong sense of self-reliance and responsibility. He applied for the Johnson Foundation Scholarship to alleviate financial stress, allowing him to focus more on his studies.

In high school, Marcus was actively involved in extracurricular activities, including being the captain of the rifle team, a member of the NJROTC drill team, and a varsity esports player. He also volunteered at local food pantries, participated in community clean-ups, and assisted the police department with training exercises. Marcus is affiliated with the Cook Inlet Region, Inc. and Koniag. He is eager to use his education to contribute to his community and build a successful career.



Marcus showing off the fall harvest from his garden.

# Neal Charlie Jr.

Fall 2023, Spring 2024

Neal Charlie Jr., from Minto, Alaska, is a senior majoring in applied management. As a first-generation college student, he seeks to use his degree to support Alaska Native interests and improve community management. The Johnson Foundation Scholarship helps Neal manage college expenses and focus on his studies. Neal, who has a GED and an AAS degree, comes from a large family with parents who had limited higher education. His journey reflects the value of education, shaped by 30 years of work in firefighting and social services. He honors his traditions by teaching younger generations about Athabaskan customs and is a mentor for a UAF freshman.

Affiliated with Doyon, Limited, and the Native Village of Minto, Neal is committed to leveraging his education to benefit his community and support its development.



Neal posing for his headshot in a UAF film in the Alaska Native Performing Arts course.

# Jamie Davis

Fall 2023, Spring 2024

Jamie Davis, a Fairbanks native, is a dedicated junior, where she is majoring in accounting. As a first-generation college student, Jamie is committed to balancing her academic responsibilities with her role as a single mother. Her goal is to pursue a career in accounting.

Growing up in a supportive family, Jamie was taught the values of respect and kindness, principles that continue to guide her. She finds strength and motivation in her daughter, whom she is raising while pursuing her degree. The Johnson Foundation Scholarship significantly eases her financial burden, allowing her to focus more on her studies and her daughter.

Jamie sees this scholarship as a crucial support for her educational and career ambitions. Her involvement in GAAP (accounting club) meetings and extensive experience in service-related jobs reflect her commitment to her professional development and her community. Affiliated with the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, Jamie is proud of her heritage and looks forward to making a meaningful contribution to her community and the field of accounting upon graduation.



Jamie enjoying the Alaskan fall colors.

# Will Hartman

Fall 2022, Spring 2023



*Will and his faithful companion Widgit.*

Will Hartman is a first-generation student studying applied management and resides in Fishhook, Alaska with his wife, Rachel. He enjoys spending time outdoors, collecting oddities, and traveling. Will grew up in Western Alaska and has lived in a number of villages along the Kuskokwim river, with his family ultimately settling in Bethel for work and educational opportunities. Will spent a lot of time on his grandparents native allotment in Georgetown, Alaska. It was there where he learned to subsist and be self reliant, and that you have to work hard and persist in order to get what you want. Will was raised by his mother, Debby, and has two brothers Jonathan, and Tyler. She taught him to treat people with respect, give back as much as he's able, and appreciate what he has. Will continues to maintain those values personally and professionally.

Will's career goal is to direct a small-to-medium sized nonprofit or tribal organization. Completing his bachelor's degree will allow him greater access to opportunities and advancement. Will is a member of Beta Gamma Sigma, the business honor society recognizing students in the top 10% of their class. Previously he served as Tribal Administrator and Tribal Council Member for the Native Village of Georgetown, and Board Member and volunteer for Iditasport Alaska.

# James Isabell

Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023, Spring 2024



*James Isabell on the beach in Hawaii.*

James Isabell grew up in Teller and Nome, AK. After earning his bachelor's degree in applied management, James wants to continue his pursuit of higher education by working towards a master's degree in rural development. He is eager that his academic pursuits will allow him to retain his current job, as well as eventually providing him with opportunities for new positions. With this scholarship, he is hopeful it will assist in overcoming several challenges in the form of financial relief. He views the award as a gateway to continuing his academic goals. James has decided to seize the perfect opportunity to become a peer mentor for CBSM. Aside from school, he dedicates up to four hours a week in volunteer work.

"My family comes from a small village in Alaska. They inspire and motivate me to earn a college degree and follow a path that will help me and others."

# Jasmine Jemewouk

Fall 2022, Spring 2023



*Jasmine smiles into the camera for a picture.*

Jasmine is an undergraduate student who is earning her business administration degree with a minor in rural development. While continuing her education from her home in Elim, she works part-time as a teacher's aid and serves on the board for the nonprofit organization, Alaska Community Action on Toxics. Jasmine's ancestors are her biggest inspiration. Having lived through other pandemics, religion, racism, addiction, and much more, they still overcame every obstacle thrown their way.

Jasmine is Inupiaq, Yupik, and Cherokee. At the age of 12, Jasmine was enrolled in her father's tribe, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, which is located in North Carolina. Inspired by her grandfather's knowledge of family history and storytelling abilities, Jasmine has gained a passion for working closely with her community. She strives to fulfill a leadership position in her community; with the help of her college degree, she can do just that.





Marcelo and his family enjoying a sunny Alaskan day.

# Marcelo Ketzler-Lopez

Fall 2023, Spring 2024

Marcelo Ketzler-Lopez, a Fairbanks native, is pursuing a Bachelor's in Accounting at UAF, aiming to graduate in 2025. Initially drawn to engineering, Marcelo switched to accounting after receiving guidance from his uncle and support from peers. His career goals include interning at a major accounting firm, earning his CPA, and possibly teaching at UAF.

As a first-generation college student, Marcelo is motivated by his family's diverse heritage. His mother, a UAF graduate from Mexico, and his father, a former U.S. Marine, have inspired his academic drive. Marcelo values his multicultural background, which includes Hispanic and Athabascan roots.

Outside of academics, Marcelo is active in Alaska's volleyball community, refereeing and coaching, and participates in UAF's accounting club. He enjoys snowboarding, cross-country skiing, and web design. Marcelo is dedicated to setting a positive example for his younger siblings and supporting them in their educational pursuits.



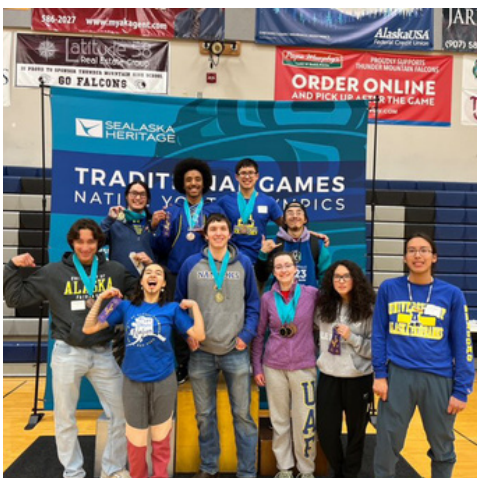
Jaylein posing for a photo.

# Jaylein Kriska

Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023, Spring 2024

Jaylein Kriska appreciates receiving this scholarship to attend school full-time, to further her education. While attending school she also runs her small business, volunteers in the native community, and works full-time. In order to receive a better education, Jaylein's mother moved her family to Fairbanks from Koyukuk, AK when she was in the 4th grade. When she first moved to Fairbanks the school determined that she was 4 years behind because the main focus was the Athabascan culture instead of Western culture. Jaylein improved over the years and graduated high school with a 3.75. Her mother worked two jobs to support her family and make ends meet.

Having her mother as a role model, Jaylein learned that no matter what situation you are in, it is always okay to ask someone for help. Jaylein's positivity and work ethic helps her succeed as a Business Administration major. In addition to school, she works full-time at Doyon, Limited and has a small business called JayBaesBeads. She also makes time to volunteer at the ANCSA symposium, Morris Thompson golf tournament, and other events. She also supports and donates to the Women's shelter, the place that helped the family get on their feet.



Colin and his Native Youth Games team posing for a photo after many wins for the team.

# Colin McFarland

Fall 2022, Spring 2023

Colin McFarland, from Nome, Alaska, is a Business Administration major and a first-generation college student.

Colin's goals are to complete his degree and set an example for his younger brother. Despite a challenging high school experience, he aims to prove himself and enhance his financial stability through a business career. Raised in a complex family environment, Colin values the lessons taught by his parents and grandparents. His grandmother Nancy has been a significant source of support and inspiration.

Colin is active in student life as the Treasurer of the Native Games Club and has a history of community service, including subsistence fishing and volunteering. He is a member of the Tribe of Koyuk.



# Jennifer Phillip

Fall 2022, Spring 2023

Jennifer Phillip is a first-generation college student, who was born in Bethel, AK. Jennifer grew up in a village named Akiachak. She is a part of the Calista and Akiachak Native community. She is a sophomore part-time student who will graduate this fall with an Associate of Arts degree in business administration, while obtaining a notable minor in HR. She recognizes the long-term benefit of each and every one of her courses and how it will expand her knowledge in working within the HR department. She is open to new volunteering opportunities, including her daughter's senior class fundraisers. Jennifer is a steadfast individual who plans to further her means of education. At the moment, she is the only member of her family who is able to provide a stable flow of income. Due to this, she is determined to make a life-changing difference that will financially support her and family.



*Jennifer captures a photo of her with family.*

# Megan Roberts

Fall 2023, Spring 2024

Megan Roberts, hailing from the small community of Venetie, Alaska, with a population of just over 100 sitting above the Arctic Circle. She was originally born in Fairbanks, the second largest city in Alaska. As the first in her family to pursue higher education, Megan is studying business administration aspiring to create a construction contracting business that serves Alaska's remote areas.

Growing up in a community with limited financial resources, Megan deeply understands the impact of financial support on educational opportunities. The Johnson Foundation Scholarship represents a vital opportunity for her to continue her studies and pursue her dreams without the burden of financial stress. Her family, deeply rooted in Alaskan traditions and affiliated with Doyon, Limited, and The Native Village of Venetie, has been a constant source of encouragement and support.

Megan's passion for giving back is evident in her active participation in volunteer work and school events, which she enjoys as a way to connect with others and contribute to her community. She sees the scholarship not just as financial aid, but as a stepping stone to realizing her vision of improving lives in Alaska's underserved regions. For Megan, this opportunity is a crucial step toward fulfilling her career goals and making a lasting impact on her home state.



*Megan posing on the UAF research vessel Sikuliaq for the Chief Scientist Training Cruise.*

# Loveina Romero

Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023, Spring 2024

Loveina Romero is a full-time undergraduate student, from Jemez Pueblo, NM, who aims to earn a bachelor's degree in business administration. As a first-generation student, she has steady plans to seek a managerial position in HR, by staying true to her academic goals, one semester at a time.

Loveina exhibits a deep passion for the field of study she wishes to pursue. She is eager to explore the different opportunities offered to her as a result of her educational commitment. She is devoted to returning to her tribe and contributing to its economy as a project manager. In her free time, Loveina plays slow-pitch softball and has played for several teams in her community.

"My family relationship has a strong bond, and the way I see the world with my family's influence is that everyone needs someone. Accept people and care for them, because you don't know what they are going through. This is the best piece of advice I've received from my Grandpa."



*Photo was taken by Kevin Toya at the Indian Market, Santa Fe, NM in August 2022 with Loveina and Quannah Chasinghorse.*

# Pierce Sandberg

Fall 2023, Spring 2024

Pierce Sandberg, a Fairbanks native, is studying accounting and aims to pursue a Master's in Business Administration in the future. Pierce is driven by his goal to work with the IRS Criminal Investigation Division, where he hopes to use his accounting skills to combat fraud and white-collar crimes.

The Johnson Foundation Scholarship provides essential financial support, allowing Pierce to focus entirely on his studies. Pierce's background has instilled a deep sense of empathy and commitment to using his education to support others. In addition to his academic pursuits, Pierce is an active mentor at CBSM and leads study groups for his accounting classes. He is a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and is committed to leveraging his education to make a positive impact in his community and career.



Pierce and his family capturing a photo.

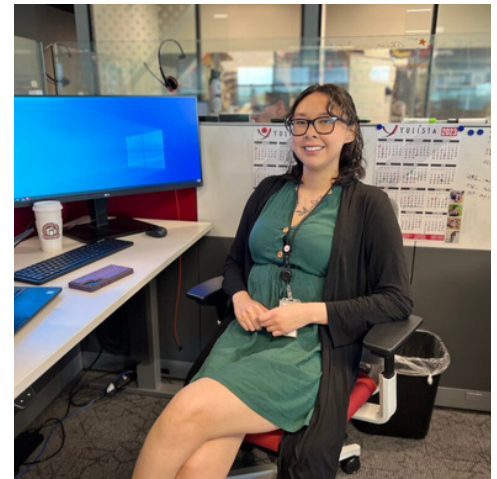
# Baniika Slats

Fall 2023, Spring 2024

Baniika Slats is from Chevak, which is in southwest Alaska and approximately six miles from the Bering Sea coastline. She is studying business administration. As a first-generation college student, Baniika aims to use her degree to help manage and improve her village corporation, addressing the challenges it faces.

The Johnson Foundation Scholarship provides crucial financial support, enabling Baniika to concentrate on her studies and career goals. Raised in a large, supportive family, Baniika values community service and financial responsibility, lessons taught by her parents who ran a small business.

Baniika has been actively involved in community service, participating in local clean-up events and assisting with her native corporation's annual golf tournament, which raises scholarship funds. She is affiliated with the Calista Native Corporation. Baniika is committed to using her education to benefit her community and build a successful career.



Baniika posing for a photo at her internship with Calista.

# Brian Stalker

Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023, Spring 2024

Brian Stalker is a first-generation student who anticipates graduating next year, with a bachelor's degree in accounting. After obtaining his license as a CPA, he has plans to open a business of his very own. He hopes to establish a new sense of achievement by earning his credibility through years and years of hard work. This scholarship will be of tremendous help in covering his college expenses, in addition to fueling his drive to pursue his future endeavors. Aside from his goal to ease the struggle to fund his education, Brian draws inspiration from his family. Their teachings have significantly impacted how views and approaches the world of countless possibilities. He is a qualified member of the NANA Regional Corporation, Native Village of Kotzebue.

Brian expresses interest in the college esports program. He is a part of the Rocket League Team. Many universities have facilities dedicated to hosting premier esports activities to encourage students to discover yet another source of opportunity.



Brian and his family gather around for a photo at one of his basketball games.





Joseph and his partner fishing on a river in Alaska.

# Joseph Thomas

Fall 2023, Spring 2024

Joseph Thomas, raised in Fort Yukon, Alaska, is a freshman majoring in Applied Management at the University of Alaska. As a first-generation college student, Joseph is driven by his goal to enhance his expertise in management, especially in the oil and gas industry.

With 20 years of experience in oil and gas operations, Joseph's career aspirations include pursuing a management role in the industry, starting a consulting business, and eventually using his expertise to mentor youth in rural Alaska. Raised by his grandparents, who instilled values of hard work and respect, Joseph's dedication to education and success reflects his desire to honor their influence and prove that success is attainable.

In addition to his studies, Joseph volunteers by teaching children hunting and fishing skills and participating in community wellness events. He is affiliated with Doyon and the Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government.



Jaret at the 2024 Commencement. Photo taken by Leif Van Cise.

# Jaret Warstler

Fall 2023, Spring 2024

Jaret Warstler, born and raised in Ketchikan, Alaska, is majoring in business administration. Jaret's academic and career goals include gaining the knowledge and skills necessary to become an entrepreneur, specifically focusing on owning and managing a gym or sports facility. As a first-generation college student, Jaret is motivated to succeed in his field. The Johnson Foundation Scholarship provides crucial financial support, helping him avoid debt and allowing him to save and invest in his future business endeavors.

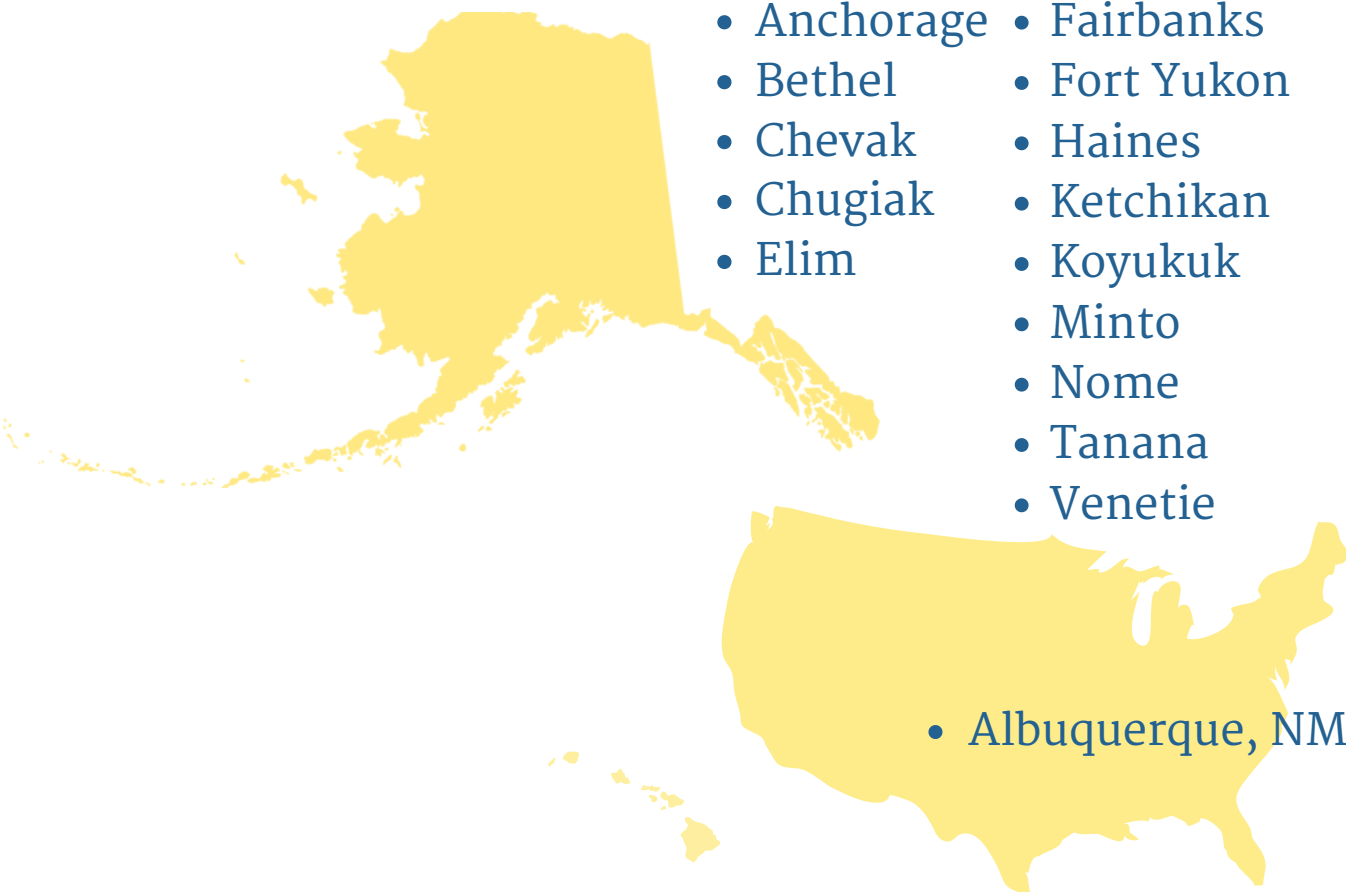
Jaret shares a close bond with his parents as an only child, and their support has been instrumental in shaping his outlook on life. He has been actively involved in student organizations and community activities, recently attending the CBSM etiquette and dinner seminar, and volunteering for the Business Leader of the Year dinner and award ceremony. Jaret is also an avid sports enthusiast and bodybuilder.

Jaret is affiliated with the Sealaska regional corporation and the federally recognized Tsimshian tribe. He looks forward to using his education and experiences to make a positive impact in his community and achieve his entrepreneurial ambitions.

**The UAF mascot is the Nanook,  
a derivation of “nanuq,”  
the Inupiaq Eskimo word for  
polar bear.**



# Scholarship recipients from around Alaska and the Nation



The Johnson Foundation Scholarship supports students at the UAF College of Business and Security Management. Indigenous students receive scholarship awards to help fund the cost of their education.

For more information, please contact Tammy Tragis-McCook by phone at (907) 474-7042 or email at [tammy.tragis@alaska.edu](mailto:tammy.tragis@alaska.edu)



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