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**Contact:** Aleesha Towns-Bain, (907) 278-3602

## **Neqa Derby raises funds for Bristol Bay area students and cultural programs**

Bristol Bay Native Corporation Education Foundation (BBNC EF) announces the second annual Neqa Derby, a King Salmon Derby held on the Nushagak River from June 21-23. The derby is open to the public and offers cash prizes ranging from \$500 to \$3,000. Tickets cost \$100 and cover all three days of the derby. They are available through BBNC EF by phone at (907) 278-3602 or by email at [neqaderby@gci.net](mailto:neqaderby@gci.net). Only 150 tickets will be sold.

Neqa Derby is the premier fundraising event for BBNC EF, which provides scholarships to Bristol Bay area students and grants for cultural heritage activities, including culture camps and place names research. The Education Foundation awarded 188 higher education/vocational education scholarships for the 2019-2020 academic school year.

“We developed Neqa Derby not only as a fundraiser, but as a way to create connections between area lodges, their guests, and the people and culture of Bristol Bay,” said Aleesha Towns-Bain, Executive Director of the Foundation. “The Derby is carefully planned to limit impacts to the Nushagak, and to provide cultural activities to help visitors learn more about this land, its abundant resources and to illustrate the depth of our salmon-based culture.”

BBNC EF works with Bristol Bay Native Corporation, Choggiung Limited, and a number of area lodges to organize the three-day event, which is headquartered at Choggiung Camp on the Nushagak River.

New this year is a mobile “Gallery on the Nushagak,” featuring the artwork of Bristol Bay resident and BBNC EF alum Apay’uq Moore. Nine of her pieces will be on display throughout the derby. On Saturday, June 22, Moore will be on site in person to discuss her art and the cultural values that inspire it. Additional cultural activities include traditional salmon filleting demonstrations and discussion of traditional native place names.

2019 Sponsors include: GCI, Weidner Apartment Homes, Calista Corporation, Choggiung Ltd, Doyon Limited, Mission Lodge, Rasmuson Foundation, S360, AT&T, Chugach Corporation, Goldman Sachs, Liberty Mutual, Marsh & McLennan Agency, Parker/Smith/Feek, Wells Fargo, Sealaska Corporation, KPB Architects, Chase Foundation, Bank of America/Merrill Lynch, Cook Inlet Tribal Council, UBS, Hartman Orthodontics, FisheWear, Anchorage Brewing Company, Anchorage Oral Surgery and Implant Center, Apay’uq Moore, Six 7 Strategies, Everts Air Cargo, and Dorsey & Whitney LLP.

Visit [neqaderby.net](http://neqaderby.net) to find Derby Regulations, see photos from last year’s event and to learn more about BBNC EF.