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- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Alakanuk | New Stuyahok |
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| Emmonak | Quinhagak |
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| Hooper Bay | Scammon Bay |
| Huslia | Selawik |
| Kaltag | Shageluk |
| Kasigluk | Shaktoolik |
| Kiana | Shishmaref |
| Kivalina | Shungnak |
| Kobuk | Stebbins |
| Kotlik | Teller |
| Koyuk | Togiak |
| Lower Kalskag | Toksook Bay |
| Marshall | Tununak |
| Mekoryuk | Upper Kalskag |
| Minto | Wales |
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AK-105

Way to go, Apaay! We are so proud of you

A few months ago, a letter came across my desk from Apaay Campbell—a 16-year-old student from Gambell. A month earlier, she had set a world record for the women's kneel jump at Native Youth Olympics at 55.25 inches. she was looking for assistance to attend the World Eskimo Indian Olympics in Fairbanks last month, hoping to win gold at that venue.

Here is an excerpt from her letter: "Being a competitor in the NYO has brought nothing but benefits throughout my school years. Besides meeting new people from different places and cultures, being a serious competitor has allowed me to gain confidence and discipline both on and off the competitive floor. These skills have allowed me to shine in other sports as well. Academically, the skills I have gained throughout the years have allowed me to excel. I finished this year, my sophomore year in high school, with a GPA of 3.89."

Our collective heart here at AVEC swelled with pride about the accomplishments of this articulate young lady. We stepped up to the plate and provided Apaay and her mother, Sharon Aningayou—who was also a state kneel jump gold medalist in 1994, with airline tickets to get them from Gambell to Fairbanks for WEIO week.

The fickle weather in Western Alaska conspired unfortunately to delay Apaay and Sharon's arrival in Nome, and Apaay missed the women's kneel jump event. The judges however, in the true Native spirit of inclusion, delayed the final results and allowed Apaay to compete the day after the event. Apaay did her best, but the stress of travel had its toll on her. She was unable to claim the coveted gold medal, but instead settled for silver.

In my book, a silver WEIO medal is a fabulous reward for an exceptional performance, and our heartiest congratulations go to Apaay. I have absolutely no doubt that we will read about Apaay in Alaska's history books in the future, and that she will excel in whatever she sets her heart to.

We are so proud of you, Apaay! Keep up the good work. You have made Gambell and all of Alaska brim over with pride at your achievements.

Meera Kohler
President and CEO

