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Helping others find  
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Naqht'ana  
"Our People"

OUR MISSION:  
To work in partnership with Our People to develop opportunities  
that fulfill Our endless potential.



Former CITC Recovery Services participant Jessica Johnson tackled her substance abuse issues and now serves as a Support Coach for CITC's Ernie Turner Center. "I'm there at the start and I watch their progression. To see them grow, it touches my heart and humbles me, because it reminds me how far I've come myself," said Jessica.

PHOTOS BY WAYDE CARROLL/waydecarrollphotography.com

## Charting a Course for Growth

*ETC staff member taps her potential  
by helping others find their own*

"The position I had was 'Navigator,'" said Jessica Johnson, 32, about one of her first jobs with CITC. She smiles at the irony of the title: Newly divorced, working to support her three children, Jessica was searching for a direction in a life that had, until she came to CITC, been filled with turbulence.

"I struggled in my adolescent years with my identity, with knowing who Jessica was," she recalled. "All my childhood, I went from homeless shelter to homeless shelter with my mom because she was being abused. We were always running; we never had that stable foundation."

She found stability for a brief time with McAuley Manor, a residential program with Catholic Social Services that teaches teenage girls to live independently. But in 2001, she suffered a setback when she lost her brother. "It was a huge downfall for me. That's when the



drugs kicked in. I lost myself."

"I was abusing myself with drugs and alcohol," Jessica continued. "But I was being abused, too." Horrified to find herself in the same situation she'd seen her mother go through, Jessica decided enough was enough and, in 2009, found herself sitting outside CITC's Nat'uh Service Center in a police car, with an officer telling her she'd done the right thing by leaving her husband.

Jessica had heard that CITC offered programs and support, so she reached out for help: "I went to CITC to get my independence back," she said.

CITC's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program helped Jessica keep food on her table while she searched for a job. She found herself applying for a position at CITC at the encouragement of

RECOVERY SERVICES  
CONTINUED ON BACK PANEL

"What I love about CITC is that they want to train you and see you grow. That was really the beginning of my foundation."

—JESSICA JOHNSON,  
CITC Ernie Turner Center Support Coach

## Education is the "Great Equalizer"

As CITC celebrates 30 years of service to Our People, I want to offer my deepest gratitude to you, our funders and partners, for all you do to strengthen our community.

Forging critical partnerships is vital, and CITC's mission is only possible through the support of so many caring



Gloria O'Neill,  
President & CEO

individuals and organizations.

At the heart of this mission reside our youth, as we believe education is the "great equalizer" for Alaska Native young people—a commitment reflected across a breadth of

impactful CITC opportunities.

We have formalized this commitment by establishing CITC Education Innovation initiatives like CITC's Fab Lab, ARISE, Partners, Dena'ina Academy and NYO Games Alaska.

Your financial support of these programs provides Alaska's youth with a quality education and access to technology that empowers them for success in academics and in life.

In turn, these programs are eligible for the Alaska Education Tax Credit for qualifying businesses, making your financial impact even greater while lessening your company's tax burden.

We are extremely grateful for your partnership as we work toward a shared vision of a better community and a more promising future for our young people.

As we look ahead to the next 30 years, we're excited for the opportunities the future holds for our youth.

Thank you for all you do.

Together, we continue to build a stronger Alaska. ❖

—Gloria O'Neill



Along with access to CITC's new Fab Lab, the Schoolyard program reinforces good school attendance, job-skills development and tutoring, while increasing student engagement and graduation and GED attainment rates.

## Afterschool Program Expands Academics, Cultural Awareness

*With your support, students gain new skills,  
access to technology*

After successful spring and summer programming that provided learning and cultural activities for more than 150 students, CITC's Schoolyard afterschool educational program for Alaska Native and American Indian youth ages 12–19 has returned for its second year.

Thanks to your generous support, qualifying students in middle and high school will gain new educational skills and access to technology through a curriculum that infuses video-game design and development with academic support to engage students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)-related learning.

Along with access to CITC's new Fab Lab, the program reinforces good attendance in school, job-skills development and tutoring. The goal is to increase middle school engagement, and high school graduation and GED attainment rates, while teaching entrepreneurial employment skills through STEM-infused activities.

"Generally, students involved with our Schoolyard programs perform better academically," said CITC Academic Counselor Bob Harty. "We emphasize to the students that their number one job is to be the best student they can be, and to perform at the highest level they possibly can."

Schoolyard program staff review academic records and offer individual assistance pertaining to specific courses and students' academic plans. During the after-school program hours, students have time to work on homework, brush up on academic skills, participate in cultural activities and develop technology-based projects.

Field trips in the community also expand students' cultural and academic awareness. Schoolyard's summer programming included visits to the Alaska Native Heritage Center, the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP); and the University of Alaska Anchorage's Multicultural Center, Alaska Native Student Services and planetarium. Several Alaska Native elders also participated as guest speakers.

To enroll or learn more about the Schoolyard program, please contact Bob Harty at (907) 793-3261.

Your support of CITC educational services creates innovative programming opportunities that engage students in creative and relevant ways. To learn how you can become a supporter of the Schoolyard program and other CITC educational programs, please contact Kelly Hurd at (907) 793-3272, or visit [citci.org/giving/](http://citci.org/giving/).

*Thank you, for supporting our youth! ❖*

# Been There, Made That

*Fabrication lab puts technology at forefront of education innovation*

**CITC's new fabrication laboratory** (Fab Lab) opened this summer, providing a unique and creative space where desktop computers that control manufacturing machines empower CITC students to make nearly anything they can imagine.

The lab merges architecture, engineering and construction through sophisticated, industrial-grade fabrication tools that encourage students to use their imagination to invent and create.

Students design and develop original ideas and projects through a variety of methods, including laser cutting and etching, 3D printing, sandblasting, electronics design, screen printing and embroidery, among others. Summer projects included scrimshaw on walrus ivory, personalized t-shirt screen printing; vinyl decal and graphics design and cutting; and sand-blasting designs on glass and metal water bottles.

Through your support and an exciting partnership with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Boston, CITC launched the lab this spring by converting its Transportation Center into a modern, technology-focused work and learning space that challenges CITC students in a fun, imaginative way.

The lab is the latest addition to CITC's Education Innovation initiative—a holistic approach combining rigorous academics



Professor and Director of MIT's Center for Bits and Atoms, Neil Gershenfeld shares the capabilities and impact of fabrication laboratories (Fab Labs) at the opening of CITC's new Fab Lab in April. PHOTO BY LOREN HOLMES/THE ALASKA DISPATCH

with youth opportunities outside the classroom through supportive and innovative educational programming.

Your generous gift provides the opportunity for students to use their ingenuity and learn through self-motivated ideas by designing and creating technology-based personal projects that reinforce the STEM disciplines—Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

The self-guided learning promoted in the lab develops important skills, including critical thinking and problem solving that better prepare students for work and life, and are valuable assets to potential employers.

As Alaska's first community-accessible

Fab Lab, the space will be a resource for a variety of individuals in the community beyond our Native students—artists and artisans, college students and professors, craftsmen and industry professionals alike could utilize the technology for a variety of creative pursuits.

Your support of Fab Lab CITC and our Education Innovation Fund provides Alaska's youth with a quality education that empowers them for success in academics and in life, and its tax deductible! To learn how you can become a supporter of Fab Lab CITC or other educational programs associated with CITC's Education Innovation Fund, please contact Kelly Hurd at (907) 793-3272, or visit [citci.org/giving/](http://citci.org/giving/) ♦

✦ Innovation. Creation. Impact. ✦



## CITC EDUCATION INNOVATION FUND

Your investment assists more than 3,000 students each year through the following programs:

- CITC Fabrication Lab
- ARISE
- Dena'ina House
- NYO Games
- Partners program

**Donations to the Education Innovation Fund qualify for the Alaska Education Tax Credit incentive!**

Contact Kelly Hurd at (907) 793-3272 or [khurd@citci.org](mailto:khurd@citci.org) to learn more

# For Volunteer, Helping Others is Food for the Soul

**For CITC Community and Outreach Coordinator Ann Lawrence**, volunteering is more than just a nice thing to do—it's an extension of the subsistence activities her family does together each summer.

"In the village, we go hunting and fishing and we prepare our Native foods together as a family," she said. "So in Anchorage, volunteering is what we do to connect with each other and our community."

Starting in 2007, Ann's family has logged countless hours volunteering for CITC programs and events, starting with the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program's quarterly Cultural Gatherings, when her children, Aaron, 18, and Karla, 13, and her husband, Marvin, would help set up for the event. The Lawrence family has also contributed time and money to CITC's Christmas Basket program, NYO Games Alaska, and the Junior NYO Games.

Since they were tots, Ann has taught her children the importance of giving to others, and to this day, for Christmas and Thanksgiving dinners, the Lawrences volunteer at Beans Café. "We're in a world where it's always take, take, take," she explains. "But giving is healthy for the soul. Helping others succeed, pushing them in the right direction, it builds self-esteem and gives you a good feeling."

Though she's a full-time employee with CITC, Ann still feels compelled to volunteer. "CITC offers so much to our people," she



**The Lawrence family** volunteers at the 2013 NYO Games Alaska [from left to right]: daughter Karla, 13; son Aaron, 18; CITC Community and Outreach Coordinator Ann Lawrence and her husband Marvin. Ann and her family have logged countless hours volunteering for CITC programs and events.

said. "I see the success stories we've had, participants who have become self-sufficient and have moved their lives in a positive direction, and I want to be a part of that. I want my children to be part of that."

Ann says her children and her husband aren't just willing—they're eager. "I say, 'Let's volunteer,' and they step up immediately." She's certain her son, who starts college at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) this fall, will take along the values volunteering has taught him.

Ask Ann about her grandson who is relocating to Anchorage, and watch her eyes light up: "I'm already thinking which events I can get him to volunteer for," she said smiling.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities at CITC, please contact Denise Osborne at (907) 793-3209 or [dosborne@citci.org](mailto:dosborne@citci.org)

## Your Impact Matters

Your financial support to Cook Inlet Tribal programs and services achieves the following results in our community:

- ❖ Provides **educational, workforce training, child and family, and recovery and re-entry support** to more than 10,000 Alaska Native and American Indian people in the Cook Inlet region each year
- ❖ Provides a **variety of programs serving anyone in the community**, regardless of ethnicity, including our Chanlyut re-entry program and Ernie Turner Center's detox and residential programs
- ❖ **15% of CITC's gross revenue** is from Social Enterprise Operations. Annually, \$750,000 is used to support participant-based social enterprise programs.
- ❖ Has provided **more than 9,300 job seekers** with career exploration, training and job search assistance in the past five years
- ❖ Has helped **more than 63 percent** of those job seekers (more than 5,900 people) obtain employment
- ❖ In 2010, the average wage of a job seeker coming to CITC for services was **\$9.95 per hour**; upon leaving CITC, their average wage was **\$17.23 per hour**
- ❖ Has **engaged 1,084 families and 1,629 children in services** to improve child safety and family well-being in the past three years
- ❖ CITC enrolled an average of **more than 650 Alaska Native and American Indian students** in CITC's educational system (this does not include the more than 1,500 children who participate in NYO Games Alaska)
- ❖ **79 percent** of CITC-enrolled seniors **graduated from high school**, as compared to a 43.6 percent graduation rate for ASD-enrolled Alaska Native/American Indian students overall
- ❖ For the third year in a row, **100 percent of Bartlett seniors** enrolled in CITC's Partners program graduated
- ❖ Last year, with the help of our 19 non-profit partners, CITC provided **more than 8,000 low-income families** throughout the state with clothing, diapers and necessary items from our K.I.D.S. program—that's **more than \$1,021,116 worth of household essentials**

*Thank You! Together, we do make a difference.*

## We've Gone Digital!

### DON'T MISS FUTURE COMMUNICATIONS

CITC's Naquht'ana Impact Report has gone digital. Our e-report keeps you informed of the impact your support provides to CITC programs and services, and the people we serve.

To sign up for bi-monthly delivery to your email inbox, send a request to [tblum@citci.org](mailto:tblum@citci.org), or subscribe through our website at [citci.org](http://citci.org) today!

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[info@citci.org](mailto:info@citci.org)



**Jessica is employed at CITC's Ernie Turner Center** as a Support Coach, educating and supporting participants through their recovery. "I'm there at the start and I watch their progression. To see them grow, it touches my heart and humbles me because it reminds me how far I've come myself," said Jessica.

RECOVERY SERVICES: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Janice Williams— and Jessica landed the job. Reflecting on her first position at the front desk in Recovery Services, Jessica said, "What I love about CITC is that they want to train you and see you grow. That was really the beginning of my foundation."

Along with a team of colleagues, Jessica was eventually entrusted to help establish the Charlie Anderson Welcome Center. This was where she became a Welcome Center Navigator and, she said, where she truly began to blossom. "I discovered that I'm a people person," she said.

Today, Jessica continues to care for her children and pursue her education with CITC's assistance. She's also moved on to CITC's Ernie Turner Center as a Support Coach, educating and supporting participants through their recovery. "I'm there at the start and I watch their progression. To see them grow, it touches my heart and humbles me because it reminds me



**In her own journey toward recovery**, Jessica Johnson had heard that CITC offered recovery programs and support, so she reached out for help: "I went to CITC to get my independence back," she said.

how far I've come myself," said Jessica.

From seeking help to helping others, Jessica has tapped the potential that advocates at CITC recognized in her all along. "It's a blessing to work alongside people like Janice Williams, the person who first opened the door for me," Jessica said. "It's humbling to be that person for someone else." ❖

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