

Hello Everyone! Thank you so much for coming today. I am Jorie “Ayyu” Zilys, I am Inupiaq and my family is from Unalakleet. My grandparents are Stanton and Irene Katchatag, and my parents are Doug and Vernita Herdman. I serve as the Chair of the Alaska Native Professional Association (ANPA)—the primary organization that is responsible for holding this forum here today.

Our mission at ANPA is to build relationships, leadership and community development among Alaska Native professionals and organizations, with the core purpose of developing young native leaders.

We work toward our mission primarily through networking opportunities at our monthly lunchtime Gatherings the 3rd Thursday of each month—we were honored this month with a dialogue with Willie Hensley, who came by to share excerpts from his book. In March we were happy to have Sarah Scanlan of RurAL CAP give a very timely presentation on the impact of the federal stimulus package on our Alaska Native organizations. All of our Gatherings are open to the public—catered lunch is free for ANPA Members, \$10 for non-members.

We’d like to recognize the organizations we partnered with to put on the forum today—Especially the ANCSA Regional Association and Get Out The Native Vote—who sponsored lunch today. We also worked with First Alaskans Institute, Catholic Social Services, KNBA 90.3FM (who is recording this forum for rebroadcast later), the Alaska Native Heritage Center and the Alaska Native Justice Center.

I would like to thank and introduce our wonderful moderators today--

Andrea “Iipak” Gusty is Yup'ik and Athabascan from Aniak. She can be seen anchoring CBS 11 News at 5pm with Dave Stroh Monday through Friday, and reporting at 10pm on Thursdays. Andrea graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Broadcast Journalism from the Medill Journalism School at Northwestern University, returning home to Alaska in 2005 to pursue her dreams of reporting on Alaska Native issues in the mainstream media. Andrea is the recipient of three Alaska Broadcaster's Association Awards in the Best Feature, Best Feature Series, and Uniquely Alaskan categories, as well as receiving a Native American Journalist's Association Award for exploring the impacts of methamphetamines on women in Montana's prisons.

Jack “Qiqiqtagruk” Zayon is of Inupiat Inuit and Russian Jew descent, from Fairbanks and Kotzebue. He received his Bachelors in Business Management from UAA and graduated Cum Laude with his MBA from Alaska Pacific University. His professional experience has taken him into the investment arena, startups, executive director positions, general manager positions, and most recently management consulting. Jack is one of the founding members of the Alaska Native Professional Association, and was elected back onto the ANPA board in February 2009.

With that, I’d like to get the forum started—we will provide a transcript, link to the audio recording, and hopefully a link to the webcast through our ANPA website.

We’d like to welcome Dan Sullivan and Eric Croft – thank you for taking the time to join us today. We will begin with a moderated question and answer period, pulling questions that were sent to us last week, moving into an open Q & A session at these 2 mikes, allowing for brief closing remarks, winding down by 1:00pm to honor the lunchtimes of our attendees.

Each candidate will have one minute to answer each question, we ask that they limit their answers to the question and topic on hand. We are looking forward to a respectful dialogue—with that, let’s get started with brief opening remarks from the candidates, starting with Eric Croft...