

Doyon 
FOUNDATION

ALL KINDS OF STUDENTS.
ALL KINDS OF PLACES.
ALL KINDS OF DREAMS.

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Morris Thompson
Memorial Golf Classic
Student Coordinator

Scholarship Deadlines

April 15
Scholarship Type:
Basic and Competitive
Semester: Fall

September 15
Scholarship Type:
Basic (for vocational
students only)
Semester: Winter

Graduation Reception a Success



Nearly 40 people attended Doyon Foundation's annual graduation reception, held May 16 in Fairbanks. Pictured here are some of the attendees, including Norm Phillips, Doyon, Limited president/CEO (back row, far left), Greg Bringhurst, keynote speaker (back row, second from right), Esther Combs, Doyon Foundation board member (middle row, far left), and Sharon McConnell Gillis, Doyon Foundation executive director (front row, far right).

Last Friday, we held our annual Doyon Foundation graduation reception in Fairbanks, where we honored the 71 students who are graduating this spring with higher education degrees. We had a remarkable turnout of approximately 40 people, who came to celebrate our graduates' recent accomplishments.

I invite you to read more about the reception in the May 17 Fairbanks Daily News-Miner article, which may be found below.

I'd like to thank everyone who attended the reception last week, including our special guests and valued donors, who make it possible for us to provide the financial support our students need to succeed.

And to our 2008 graduates, I say we are so very proud of what you have achieved to date, and what you are sure to achieve in the future.

- *Sharon McConnell Gillis*
Doyon Foundation Executive Director

November 15
Scholarship Type:
Basic
Semester: Spring

March 15
Scholarship Type:
Basic
Semester: Summer

Doyon Honors Scholarship Recipients with an Education Celebration

By Christi Hang

Published Saturday, May 17, 2008 in the Fairbanks Daily News Miner

From high school diplomas to doctorates, 71 Doyon Foundation scholarship recipients completed a milestone in their education in 2008.

The foundation has been providing scholarships since its inception in 1989. More than \$4 million in scholarships have been awarded to more than 2,000 students.

"The mission of the foundation has been to improve the lives of Native Alaskans, and one of the ways to do that is through education," Sharon McConnell Gillis, executive director of the foundation, said.

One of this year's graduates, Greg Bringhurst, was the keynote speaker at Doyon's annual graduation reception Friday. Bringhurst graduated from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in May with a bachelor's degree in management and organization. McConnell Gillis called Bringhurst a role model to younger students, especially Native males who have a higher drop-out rate than Native females.

"He's a male role model who does a lot, is very organized and well-spoken," she said.

Although he isn't sure what lies in his future, Bringhurst is giving back to the Doyon Foundation. He has been using his business education and helping plan the Morris Thompson Memorial Golf Classic, a major fundraiser for the foundation.

"The scholarship has opened up many more doors for me," Bringhurst said.

As a student, he held a job and said the scholarship money allowed him to take time off of from work, which meant more time dedicated to studying.

Doyon, Limited members, and their children are eligible for the scholarships.

McConnell Gillis reported at the reception that while accepting applications, the goal was to increase competitive scholarship applications by 10 percent. When the final numbers came in, they realized they had actually increased 43 percent.

The foundation also is starting to provide other support for students.

This was the first year for the alumni association, a group of former scholarship recipients who guide new students.

During the school year, members have invited students who are away from home into members' homes for meals or for the holidays.

McConnell Gillis said a main goal for the group is preventing drop outs, especially for students who come from rural areas and might become overwhelmed.

Another goal for the foundation is increasing the scholarship amount every year.

"We're very excited," McConnell Gillis said. "They've worked so hard and just want to congratulate them."

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