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**CVRF Awards 2017 Spring Semester Scholarships**

ANCHORAGE, AK – Coastal Villages Region Fund (CVRF) has awarded \$179,500 in Louis Bunyan Memorial Scholarship (LBMS) funds to 62 Western Alaska residents for the 2017 spring semester. CVRF's LBMS program has provided a consistent opportunity for funding support since its inception in 1993. In 2016 alone, CVRF awarded \$398,400 to 140 applicants, and since 1993 the program has provided millions of dollars in scholarships to CVRF community residents.

"We highly encourage our residents to take advantage of this program to further their education, may it be in a university or a vocational program," said Marlene Minnette, Programs Specialist at CVRF. "This allows our residents to gain experience in fields that require college degrees and certifications. Our scholarship program staff here at CVRF are focused on supporting our future leaders in our 20 communities in furthering their education."

Scholarship award amounts are based on GPA and whether an individual is enrolled as a full-time or part-time student. Western Alaska residents are able to take advantage of CVRF's support as a way to reduce the overall cost of their college education at either the undergraduate or graduate level.

"Because CVRF has made the Louis Bunyan Memorial Scholarship program available, I am able to afford attending college without having to take on loans for a great education," said scholarship recipient Regina Therchik of Toksook Bay. "This scholarship has definitely paved my way to success!"

CVRF's LBMS program offers spring and fall scholarships to member community residents every year, and internship opportunities are available each summer. More information on how to apply for these opportunities is available on CVRF's website at [www.CoastalVillages.org](http://www.CoastalVillages.org).

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