

# MANIILAQ ASSOCIATION JAMES QIGÑAK WELLS ENDOWMENT POLICY



## A Legacy of Leadership

James Qigñak Wells was a strong Inupiaq leader from Noorvik, Alaska. Qigñak tirelessly served his community in many capacities, including as a father and husband, hunter and provider, and tribal council member of the Native Village of Noorvik. He was a powerful voice for the Inupiat people, and served in the 20<sup>th</sup> Alaska Territorial Legislature in 1951. By naming the endowment scholarship program in honor of James Qigñak Wells, Maniilaq Association celebrates Qigñak for his commitment and dedication to the Inupiat people and communities and seeks to build upon his legacy of leadership and service.

### **Section 1) Overview and Description of the James Qigñak Wells Endowment Scholarship Program**

The Maniilaq Association James Qigñak Wells Endowment Scholarship Program (hereinafter referred to as the “Program”) is a competitive scholarship available to selected professional, graduate and undergraduate students of junior standing or higher standing who are pursuing degrees at accredited universities/colleges. Applicants must be enrolled in a federally recognized tribe of the Maniilaq service area. The Program provides eligible recipients up to \$12,500 in financial assistance per year for tuition and other educational expenses considered non-taxable by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). All funds are paid directly to the university/college for tuition, fees, and related expenses. Once tuition, fees, and related expenses are met, all remaining program funds may be released to the student. This Program is administered by Maniilaq Workforce Development and is overseen by the Maniilaq Association Board of Directors and Administration. The Program shall in all cases be administered consistent with the requirements of applicable IRS laws and regulations.

### **Section 2) Eligibility Criteria**

To be eligible for the Program, the applicant must meet the below criteria:

- 2.1** Be an enrolled member of the Native Villages of Ambler, Buckland, Deering, Kivalina, Kobuk, Kotzebue, Noatak, Point Hope, Selawik, Shungnak, and Noorvik Native Community, and Kiana Traditional Council.
- 2.2** Be enrolled as a professional, graduate or undergraduate student at junior standing or higher in a 4 year undergraduate degree program or a postgraduate (i.e. masters or doctorate) degree program at an accredited university/college.
- 2.3** First time applicants must have a cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 2.5 or higher from high school or previous higher education transcript, and returning applicants must have a 2.5 or higher GPA for the previous term funded.
- 2.4** For continued eligibility, recipients of the James Qigñak Wells Endowment Scholarship must maintain a 2.5 or higher grade point average (GPA) each term. A returning student whose GPA is below 2.5 will be placed on probation for the following term. The student must raise their GPA during this probationary term or they will be considered ineligible for the following term. GPA probation is allowed once per calendar year.
- 2.5** Students who withdraw, whether officially or unofficially, may be deemed ineligible unless they can demonstrate just cause for withdrawal.

### Section 3) Probationary Status

Returning students who do not meet the eligibility requirements may be placed on probation, which means they may receive half of the normal award as outlined in sections 4.1 or 4.2, as applicable. If student does not improve his/her grades by the end of the probationary status term, the student will not be eligible to receive financial assistance the following term, until the student has a GPA of 2.0 or higher.

### Section 4) James Qigñak Wells Endowment Scholarship Program Award Totals

#### 4.1 Undergraduate Scholarship Award Totals

Credits Enrolled	Semester Term	Quarter Term
12+ credits	\$5,000	\$3,333
9 - 11 credits	\$3,250	\$2,500
6 - 8 credits	\$2,500	\$ 1,650
3 - 5 credits	\$1,000	\$ 825

#### 4.2 Post Graduate Scholarship Award Totals

Semester Term	Quarter Term
\$5,000	\$3,333

### Section 5) Application, Deadlines, and Submission Information

5.1 The Program application can be found on the Maniilaq website under the Tribal Government Services tab <https://www.maniilaq.org/resources> or by using the following link: <https://www.maniilaq.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Endowment-Application-07.10.2020.pdf>

5.2 University/College Annual Semester Schedule Deadlines: Before Midnight AST

<b>Fall Semester</b>	August 15th
<b>Spring Semester</b>	March 15th
<b>Summer Semester</b>	June 15th

5.3 University/College Annual Quarter Schedule Deadlines: Before Midnight AST

<b>Fall Quarter</b>	August 15th
<b>Winter Quarter</b>	January 15th
<b>Spring Semester</b>	March 15th
<b>Summer Semester</b>	June 15th

5.4 Submit Complete Applications to:

Maniilaq Association Workforce Development  
P.O Box 256  
Kotzebue, Alaska -99752-  
Fax: 1-866-832-9350  
Email: [scholarships@maniilaq.org](mailto:scholarships@maniilaq.org)

5.5 Applicants will have fifteen (15) days from the date of notice of incomplete application to submit all identified missing documents. If applicant fails to submit documents by the fifteen (15) day deadline, they will be deemed ineligible for that term.

**Section 6) Annual Funding Availability**

The Maniilaq Board of Directors appropriates an annual funding amount for this scholarship during its approval of the organizations Fiscal Year Operating budget. Based upon this appropriation, Workforce Development administers this scholarship in accordance with this policy, and the administrative procedures developed by WFD staff. Any unused funds from the annual approved appropriation may be transferred to the James Qigñak Wells Endowment to maximize awards, if necessary. In the event that Paaraq funds are insufficient to offer a full award, partial awards may be approved.