



MANIILAQ
ASSOCIATION

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 20th 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 Scholarship Program

The Maniilaq Association James Qigñak Wells Scholarship Program (hereinafter referred to as the “Program”) is available to eligible tribal members who meet the requirements as listed in Section 2, below. The Program provides eligible recipients up to \$15,000 in financial assistance per calendar 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. Once tuition, fees, and related expenses are met, all remaining program funds may be released to the student. Maniilaq the Workforce Development department administers this Program. 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 criteria listed below:

- 2.1** Be an enrolled member in one of the tribes within the Maniilaq service area, which consists of the Native Villages of Ambler, Buckland, Deering, Kivalina, Kobuk, Kotzebue, Noatak, Point Hope, Selawik, Shungnak, Noorvik Native Community, and Kiana Traditional Council.
- 2.2** Be enrolled as an undergraduate student at junior standing or higher in a 4-year degree program, graduate, or a post-graduate in a masters or doctoral level 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 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 prior awards 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, as outlined in Section 3, 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 for further award(s) unless they can demonstrate just cause for withdrawal.

MANIILAQ ASSOCIATION | P.O. BOX 256 | KOTZEBUE, AK 99752 | 1.800.478.3312

Kotzebue Qikiqtagrak, Ambler Ivisaappaat, Buckland Nunatchiaq, Deering Ipnatchiaq, Kiana Katyaak, Kivalina Kivaliniq, Kobuk Laugviik, Noatak Nautaaq, Noorvik Nuurvik, Point Hope Tikigaq, Selawik Akuligaq, Shungnak Isinnaq

MANILAQ ASSOCIATION JAMES QIGÑAK WELLS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM POLICY



Section 3) Probationary Status

Returning students who do not meet the requirements for maintaining a minimum 2.5 GPA, may be placed on probation, with a penalty of being awarded 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 2.5 or higher from prior term.

Section 4) James Qigñak Wells Scholarship Program Award Totals

4.1 Undergraduate Scholarship Award Totals

Credits Enrolled	Semester Term	Quarter Term
12+ credits	\$5,000	\$3,750
9 - 11 credits	\$3,750	\$2,800
6 - 8 credits	\$2,500	\$1,850
3 - 5 credits	\$1,250	\$900

4.2 Post Graduate Scholarship Award Totals

Semester Term	Quarter Term
\$5,000	\$3,750

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.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=maniilaq>

5.2 University/College Annual Semester Schedule Deadlines: (before midnight AST)

Fall Semester	August 15th
Spring Semester	January 15th
Summer Semester	June 30th

MANILAQ ASSOCIATION JAMES QIGÑAK WELLS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM POLICY



5.3 University/College Annual Quarter Schedule Deadlines: (before midnight AST)

Fall Quarter	August 15th
Winter Quarter	January 15th
Spring Quarter	March 15th
Summer Quarter	June 30th

5.4 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 program during its approval of the organization's annual fiscal year operating budget. Based upon this appropriation, the Workforce Development staff administers this scholarship in accordance with this policy, and the administrative procedures developed by WFD staff. If necessary, any unused funds from the annual approved appropriation may be transferred to the James Qigñak Wells Endowment Scholarship Paaraq scholarship program to maximize awards provided, if necessary. In the event that Paaraq funds are insufficient to offer a full award, partial awards may be approved, at the discretion of WFD staff.