**DONLIN GOLD: HELPING PREPARE YUKON KUSKOKWIM REGION’S YOUTH FOR A BRIGHTER TOMORROW**

The power of education to change lives is why Donlin Gold invests so much in programs that help and encourage the youth of the Yukon Kuskokwim region to graduate from high school and then get the training they need for a successful life.

Donlin Gold’s educational initiatives range from sponsoring the Elder Mentor Program that brings Elders with their traditional knowledge into classrooms, to supporting a program that teaches kids in the region how to cross-country ski and then gives them the skis to keep on skiing.

“We value education and understand its importance,” explains Meg Day, Donlin Gold’s human resources manager. “We recently made a donation to the McGrath School Library to purchase computer software and computers.”

Donlin Gold also supports the Rural Alaska Honors Institute, the University of Alaska Fairbanks’ academic program for Alaska Native and rural high school juniors and seniors with at least a B average. This program helps young people make the academic, social and cultural transition from a small village to an academic campus. At the University of Alaska Southeast, Donlin Gold supports an introduction to mining course.

The company provides internships and scholarship opportunities for the region’s residents, supports distance learning channels, sponsors culturally important events like Native Youth Olympics and sends healthy lifestyle advocates to talk to students.

Donlin Gold is a major sponsor of EXCEL Alaska and its many programs to provide supplementary and academic activities for junior high and high school students. These range from career fairs to academic decathlons to vocational training.

The company also partners with Yuut Elitnaurviat Learning Center in Bethel, the region’s vocational training center, where it recently provided a grant to purchase eight welding units, and the Alaska Process Industry Careers Consortium.

One of Donlin Gold’s most rewarding investments is its support of ANSEP, the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program. This innovative STEM program sets Native students on a path to academic and career success through hands-on learning and leadership development. ANSEP students graduate at rates much higher than non-Native STEM students.

“It is exciting to see how programs like ANSEP can empower and excite youth around engineering and science, promoting success in educational and career paths, and connecting local communities to science, technology, engineering and math resources,” said Day.

Donlin Gold is working with [NOVAGOLD Resources](http://www.novagold.com/), [Barrick Gold Corporation](http://www.barrick.com/), [The Kuskokwim Corporation](http://kuskokwim.com/)(TKC) and [Calista Corporation](http://www.calistacorp.com/) to build a gold mining project on Calista and TKC land near Crooked Creek in the Yukon Kuskokwim region.