

# ESKIMO-INDIAN OLYMPICS

Welcome, Everyone, to the 35th Annual  
World Eskimo-Indian Olympics!

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics, its staff and organizing committees, and the many volunteers who have donated hundreds of hours into bringing this year's Olympics to reality, we would like to extend a most warm welcome to you.

The Olympics is a very special event, the largest cultural celebration in Alaska. It is acclaimed both nationally and internationally the most unique event of its kind in the world. Those that have worked on it over the years, those athletes that have participated, and those who have come to observe, as you have come to observe, as you are tonight, share one thin in common - and unforgettable experience.

What makes the Olympics so special? For one thing, it brings to life, year after year, games and traditional cultural activities and values that have been part of every Natives heritage, many dating back thousands of years. They illuminate our respect for our elders, our love for our children, our willingness to cooperate, and our respect for each other - sharing. Sharing our homes, food, fun, athletic prowess, and our experiences since that last time we saw each other. Cultural, political, religious and generational differences are all put aside as we all, participants and audience alike, join together in the spirit of celebration and good times as each athlete strives to reach his or her own highest goals, not trying to outdo the others, but each trying to do the best they can do. This is our tradition.

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to our major contributors and sponsors and those many others who have donated time, money and services. This includes those in the many villages around the state who have helped bring the many athletes and dance groups to Fairbanks. Without your combined generosity and support, the Olympics simple would not happen, You are greatly appreciated!

To The athletes, we wish all the best, and may you reach your goals.....

And now, sit back, browse, come and meet us, and enjoy the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics! Thanks for joining us and letting us share our culture with you.

Sincerely,  
The World Eskimo-Indian Olympics, Inc.

*Bernice Joseph*

Bernice Joseph, President of the Board

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National Bank of Alaska believes that culture and tradition are  
key elements in the survival of Alaska's people.

That's why we  
support the  
World  
Eskimo-Indian  
Olympics  
as participants  
demonstrate the  
finest of these  
qualities.



Photo by Rob Stapleton

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