

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 9, 2015

New executive director takes the reigns at Huna Heritage Foundation

Sarah Dybdahl will join Huna Heritage Foundation, as the executive director on Feb. 9.

Huna Heritage Foundation, the non-profit arm of Huna Totem Corporation, exists to perpetuate Huna Tlingit culture and promote education for present and future generations of Huna Tlingit shareholders and descendants.

Dybdahl has worked at Sealaska Corporation and Sealaska Heritage Institute since 2000, most recently as the administrative director of Sealaska Heritage Institute. She brings a wealth of experience managing grants, cultural projects and events; facilitating federal and state-funded projects; and establishing long-term organizational plans.

She's also shown leadership on Klawock Heenya Corporation's Board of Directors since 2010. Dybdahl grew up in Klawock, and is from the Taakw.aaneidi clan. She lives in Juneau with her family, including husband Travis Dybdahl, a Huna Totem Corporation shareholder.

Dybdahl will be responsible for the day-to-day management and administration of Huna Heritage Foundation, including relationship building, fundraising, financial management and program management.

"Sarah stood out to us from among all of the qualified candidates for this position," said William "Ozzie" Sheakley, Huna Totem Corporation board member and chairman of Huna Heritage Foundation. "She has such strong experience through her previous positions and we are confident she'll be an innovative leader for the foundation. Her role is vital to the future success of the Huna Heritage Foundation."

One of Dybdahl's projects will be to spearhead the Huna Traditional Scholars Council, created by Huna Totem Corporation's Board of Directors in June 2014. The council will address the continued loss of the irreplaceable wisdom and cultural knowledge of the Huna Tlingit elders and advise Huna Totem board members and Huna Heritage Foundation's Board of Trustees.

One of the foundation's priority programs is higher education scholarships for Huna Totem shareholders and descendants who are attending college, vocational school or cultural workshops. From 2001 through 2014, the foundation has awarded more than \$830,000 in scholarships.

The foundation's signature cultural program is the annual clan workshop. This three-day conference in Hoonah provides the opportunity for the Huna Tlingit

community to share traditional knowledge with the next generation. Dybdahl will have the opportunity to expand and improve the foundation's cultural programming in her executive director role.

Huna Totem Corporation's Board of Directors chartered Huna Heritage Foundation on Jan. 17, 1990. Huna Totem has contributed more than \$4.5 million to the foundation. As the sole organization through which Huna Totem has historically funded its mission-based educational, cultural and charitable endeavors, the foundation's goals are complementary to Huna Totem's efforts to advance the economic aspirations and culture of the Xúna Kaawu through business excellence, sustainable economic growth, leadership and education. For more information on Huna Heritage Foundation, please visit www.hunaheritage.org.

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