Circus on the Slope:
A Collaborative Project to get Kids and Communities Moving

Diana Solenberger, Mres
Ilisagvik College
North Slope Borough, Alaska
- Area: 89,000 sq. miles
- Population: 6800 people in 8 communities
- Communities accessibly only by plane
- İñupiaq Culture

Iḷisaġvik College, Barrow, Alaska
- Two-year community college
- Alaska’s only Tribal College
- Serves in excess of 1800 students annually

Iḷisaġvik College
- Two-year community college
- Alaska’s only Tribal College
- Serves in excess of 1800 students annually

Alaska’s Only Tribal College
Recent survey findings indicate that younger residents have a higher reliance on non-traditional “market foods” than the older residents.

The 2010 North Slope Borough Census reported that the consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages is strongly correlated with age; the young adult demographic reported a significantly higher consumption level than older groups (Baseline Community Health Analysis Report, 2012).

Among the Iñupiat population on the North Slope the rate of diabetes has more than doubling between 1985 and 2008.
The Cooperative Extension program seeks to encourage an environment of life-long learning in the communities of the North Slope through a variety of non-classroom, hands-on workshops specifically focused on topics that enhance health, wellness and family.

Main Focus:
• Giving people the tools they need to make healthy choices,
• Seek to set healthy patterns early
• Combat the rising rates of Obesity and Diabetes in our communities
Circus Camp

Instilling the idea that movement and physical activity can be fun!

162 child physical activity hours (Summer 2014)

320 participants ranging in age from 0-65 (Summer 2014)
• Every child should be able to find something they can be good at
• Adaptable activities which can be modified for youth from 4 to 16 or older
• Unusual activities which make joyful memories
• long-term skill building – seeing improvement over time
On the Road: Bringing Circus to the Villages

- 22 pieces of luggage
- 3-4 staff
- 5 weeks
- 4 communities
Maintaining community partnerships help keep program costs down.

Main partner: Arctic Slope Native Association’s Special Diabetes Program for Indians grant
Additional partners: North Slope Borough School District, and City of Barrow, Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library
Involving the Whole Community

Inspirational professional shows in every community

Kid's show each year in Barrow

Alaska's Only Tribal College
Lasting Memories

Alaska's Only Tribal College