

K-12 Outreach

News & Events

Lifting up Educators and Students

December 2018 • Vol. 3 No. 1

Our Mission

K-12 Outreach at the University of Alaska Fairbanks is committed to partnerships that support quality education for Alaska. We endeavor to do this by:

- Helping to grow our own educators
- Supporting educational agencies to recruit quality educators

- Providing individualized support to new teachers
- Supporting place-based education
- Helping to increase the effectiveness and retention of teachers

Our programs include the **Alaska Statewide Mentor Project (ASMP)**, **Alaska Teacher**

Placement (ATP), **Educators Rising Alaska (EdRising AK)**, and **Culturally Responsive Education**, including **Raising Educational Achievement through Cultural Heritage Up (REACH Up)** and our newest award **Teacher Ambassadors Sharing Knowledge (TASK)**.

Culturally Responsive Education

Our curriculum development program is excited about the continuation of an existing successful project and starting a new project.

Raising Educational Achievement through Cultural Heritage Up (REACH Up) develops place-based and culturally relevant supplementary STEM curricula and offers professional development support to teachers and paraprofessional educators in rural Alaska through workshops, courses and scientist site visits.

Most recently, the REACH Up team has been updating lessons with national science standards and revising videos so that teachers and students can continue to use up-to-date materials in the future.

REACH Up also conducted another site visit in Gambell and Savoonga on St. Lawrence Island in September, bringing an ocean acidification expert to the classroom and having meetings to discuss ocean change with community members.

A new three-year project, Teacher Ambassadors Sharing Knowledge (TASK), recently received



The sun peeks through clouds and mist over a Savoonga hill on a September morning. *Photo: Yuri Bult-Ito.*

federal funding. TASK seeks to increase Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian student interest and readiness in STEM careers by incorporating indigenous language and culture in STEM instruction. TASK will also provide intensive teacher professional development workshops and online peer mentoring to increase the number of teachers delivering culturally relevant STEM instruction, including assisting non-Native teachers to incorporate indigenous language.

A cultural exchange workshop in Alaska and Hawaii will give participating teachers an opportunity to collaborate with their online peer mentors in person, work with science and cultural experts, and incorporate culturally relevant science into their classroom teaching. A student cultural exchange academy will offer participating students a chance to learn about college expectations



Windmills march across the landscape in Gambell, providing supplemental energy to this remote island village. Photo: Yuri Bult-Ito.

and campus living to transition smoothly from high school to college life.

Tune in to future newsletters for updates on the status of the TASK project.



Educators Rising Alaska

The 2018-19 Educators Rising Alaska Officers were selected in September and attended training in Anchorage the weekend of October 9th. The four officers are located in different regions around the state. Officers Yareth Santana, Alyssa Howard, Matthew Young and Carl Moses-Vent learned their future responsibilities, brainstormed fundraising ideas, and planned for future events.

The group had the pleasure of hearing live from Shamira Peters, an Educators Rising National Officer. This online chat allowed them to ask questions about what to expect and do as an officer.

They have since assembled various fundraising events at their locations and are leading the way and helping other communities to do so as well.

Educators Rising Alaska's State Conference application and registration period begins December 1st and ends January 31st. The State Conference is in Juneau, March 7-10th, 2019. This is an exciting and very large gathering of advisers, staff, and other K-12 Outreach staff and ASMP mentors. On the evening of the 9th, 6-8pm, K-12 Outreach's will host a Showcase of our programs. This event will be held at the Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall. Light refreshments will be served. Please stop by if you're in Juneau!

Transporting the large numbers of people attending the conference is a challenge, especially financially. We would like to extend a **huge thank you**



Officers pictured left to right are Yareth Santana, Alyssa Howard, Matthew Young and Carl Moses-Vent. Photo: Putt Clark.

to Ravn and Alaska Airlines, for providing group discounts to this event. If you or your organization is interested in donating towards this effort, please contact us.

For more information about the conference or program, email: uaf-edrisingak@alaska.edu

 educatorsrisingalaska.org

 facebook.com/EducatorsRisingAlaska/



Alaska Teacher Placement



One of ATP's job fairs was held at Portland University (pictured). Photo by JoeLotz, Wikimedia Commons.

Alaska Teacher Placement had a busy fall. We attended job fairs and campus sites to get the word out about living and working in our Alaska schools.

We have scheduled the Anchorage Job Fair and the three out-of-state job fairs. We have been working with several universities that want to send student teachers to our schools for internships.

Service forms have been sent to school districts for our 2019 recruiting season. If you are a district and have not received your forms, please contact our office so we can get you signed up before the December 20 deadline to ensure Applicant Tracking and

Job posting access without online interruption.

Alaska Teacher Placement is considering a name change: Alaska Teacher and Personnel or Alaska Teacher and School Personnel. There are several reasons as to why we would like to make this change: the word "placement" is confusing to candidates. We receive daily calls and emails from potential candidates requesting to be "placed" in schools. ATP functions as a clearinghouse, or a "job site" for educators and staff, not as an entity that hires; school districts hire those candidates that are the proper fit for the individual positions.

We are just beginning the process of looking into this name change and your input is important and welcomed.

Also, our online job bank offers more than just teaching positions. We post all school related jobs for the state in one place for potential candidates, whether they are an aide, a

teacher, janitor, principal or superintendent.

We are thankful for the guidance and partnerships we have with school districts. Our office is here to serve you and we enjoy hearing from you as we plan our yearly activities to meet your needs regarding school districts that are hosting student teachers during their internship in Alaska, including support for housing and stipends.

If you are a school district and want to host a student teacher, look for the "host a student teacher" link in the ATP monthly email newsletter. For more information on all services, go to:

- alaskateacher.org
- facebook.com/AlaskaTeacher/
- twitter.com/AK_ATP

- Anch. Educator Expo:** March 15-16 (8am - 5pm)
March 16 (8am - 12pm)
- District Setup:** March 14
- Portland, OR:** April 3* (9am-4pm)
- Minneapolis, MN:** April 11* (1pm-6pm)
- Houston, TX:** June 13* (9am-4pm)

*As always, out-of-state job fairs follow a local job fair so you can maximize your travel budgets.



Alaska Statewide Mentor Project

Mentoring begins days before travel to the site; the mentor organizes food, clothing, travel supplies/gear, and teacher resources. A site visit often involves several flights before arriving at the school. Mentors also check in with school administration. After an overnight stay, the mentor moves on to next site, and the next, returning to home base by week's end.



Mentor Hal Neace is surrounded by students in Brett Stevens' 5th grade Utqiagvik classroom. Photo provided by Hal Neace.

Mentors also stay in weekly contact with all the teachers on their caseload—often while traveling—by email, phone, text, and virtual visits online.

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ASMP mentors are professional observers, skilled in relationship building and best instructional practice. In the classroom, time is spent partnering with the teacher, observing instruction, talk and more talk. It is this talk that is rich, deep and instructional. The relationship between teacher and mentor is confidential, nonevaluative, and multi-faceted—a partnership with the goal of improved classroom instruction.

Today, 14 ASMP mentors are serving 152 early career teachers in 75 schools from 69 communities within 21 school districts across

Alaska. We appreciate the 13 districts that cost-share with ASMP. We deliver a personalized model of mentoring using three delivery methods: In-Person 6 visits a year; Hybrid 3 to 4 visits a year; and Distance Delivery where in-person visits are made when the teacher is traveling through the mentor's town. Mentors are highly trained with just-in-time learning ongoing throughout the year. 15 years of research demonstrates that mentoring by ASMP has improved classroom instruction.



www.asmp.alaska.edu

email: uaf-asmp@alaska.edu

Donating to K-12

Contributions may be made in support of the K-12 Outreach Program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks online at:

uaf.edu/giving/gift/giving-form/.

Please note the K-12 Outreach

Program (20419) when prompted for gift designation.

Checks may also be mailed to:

UAF Development
c/o UA Foundation
P.O. Box 755080
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775

Please make checks payable to UA Foundation, and include K-12 Outreach Program (20419) in the note.

If you have additional questions, please contact the Development Office at 907-474-2619.



K-12 Outreach

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www.uaf.edu/soe/k12_outreach



*Great teachers help
Alaska's future
generations*



A rare helicopter ride for Mentor Sandi Toth. *Photo provided by Sandi Toth.*