

K-12 Outreach

Quarterly

Lifting up Educators and Students

January 2018 • Vol. 2 No. 2

Our Mission

Great teachers help Alaska's future generations

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 **Raising Educational Achievement through Cultural Heritage Up (REACH Up)**.

Educators Rising Alaska

Educators Rising Alaska (EdRising AK) just wrapped up registration for the Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSO) Conference to be held in Anchorage on March 22-24, 2018. We have registered 75 students, and they will compete in at least one Educators Rising competition. Students can sign up for one to two competitive events from the following choices: Creative Lecture, Lesson Planning (STEM or Arts), Children's Literature K-3, Inside our Schools, and Exploring Support Services Careers.


EdRising AK is still recruiting students to attend the state

conference in Fairbanks at UAF on March 25-26, 2018. Conference attendees will go on campus tours, meet School of Education faculty and staff, tour Rural Student Services offices, and learn career-orienting skills during the full two-day experience.


In addition to the conferences, teachers and students can make use of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathway materials and courses. Students are also able to complete the Educators Rising micro-credentials at no cost this year.



EdRising AK State Officers, clockwise from left: Elizabeth Lisenby, Historian, Karri Montero, Vice President, Pauline Catcutan, Secretary and Emma Shelton, President. *Photo credit: Rafael Bitanga.*

 Visit us on Facebook:

facebook.com/EducatorsRisingAlaska/

 Visit our website:

www.educatorsrisingalaska.org

Raising Educational Achievement through Cultural Heritage Up

REACH Up offers professional development support to science teachers in the Bering Strait School District. Currently REACH Up staff are expanding the number of lessons available for hands-on, place-based curriculum, developing and planning for a Science and Culture Workshop to be held in Anchorage this February, and conducting multiple Scientist Site Visits to teachers' classrooms.



giving students an opportunity to interact with experts, and teachers the opportunity to learn new hands-on approaches to engage their students.



Lindsey Parkinson with the University of Alaska Fairbanks, demonstrates cloud observations to a kindergarten class in Koyuk. *Photo credit: Yuri Bult-Ito.*

“ Great teachers help Alaska’s future generations learn, grow, and thrive, resulting in a greater Alaska. ”



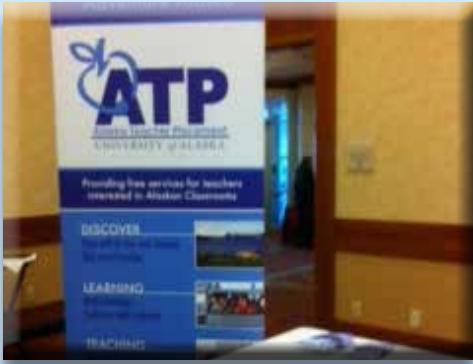
Alexis Will, a sea bird scientist with the National Institute of Polar Research and University of Alaska Fairbanks, describes the food chain and leads a discussion on murre's diet during a REACH Up school visit in Savoonga. *Photo credit: Yuri Bult-Ito.*

Supporting continued professional development (such as Site Visits for rural teachers) contributes to teacher retention, provides educators access to collaboration with professionals in the science field, and the opportunity to learn about new topics in the realm of science education. REACH Up Scientist Site Visits are a popular professional development activity for both teachers and their students. REACH Up brings scientists into the classroom,



Late fall colors and the beginnings of winter form on Unalakleet river and surrounding hills. *Photo credit: Yuri Bult-Ito.*

Alaska Teacher Placement



Alaska Teacher Placement (ATP) is always looking for ways to increase teacher recruitment and has recently started networking with colleges and universities in the Lower 48 to place their student teachers into Alaskan classrooms. ATP is helping to facilitate the identification of each university's programmatic requirements for student teaching in Alaska and to help match student teachers with interested school districts.

ATP hosts a data bank of interested Lower 48 student teachers and gives them

informational resources regarding the different climate regions, cultures and lifestyles they may experience in the state. Additionally, ATP gives information regarding Alaska school districts that are looking to hosting student teachers and the needed support for these future teachers such as housing and stipends.

The office is pursuing grants to offer financial support for teacher mentor/supervisors, travel for student teachers, and cost of living stipends as well as developing partnerships with Alaska Statewide Mentor Project (ASMP) to further assist student teachers and school districts.

ATP has scheduled four of the five teacher job fairs for 2018. The Anchorage Teacher Expo is scheduled for March 15-17. This is ATP's largest job



fair with over 200 candidates and 40 school districts attending each year. ATP also hosts Alaska District only job fairs in Oregon, Minnesota, and Texas. For more information on all services, go to: alaskateacher.org

2018 Job Fair Dates

Anchorage Educator Expo: Mar. 15-17
March 15 – Setup & Recep. 3-5 pm
March 16 – Job Fair 8 am - 5 pm
March 17 – Job Fair 8 am - 12 pm

OR State Teacher Job Fair: April 3
OR ATP-hosted Job Fair: April 4
MN State Teacher Job Fair: April 23
MN ATP-hosted Job Fair: April 24
Region 13 Teacher Job Fair: May 7
Austin ATP-hosted Job Fair: May 8
AK Summer Job Fair, Anch.: TBD

 alaskateacher.org

 www.facebook.com/AlaskaTeacher?ref=profile

 twitter.com/AK_ATP



Alaska Statewide Mentor Project

Retention and recruitment in Alaska? Each of these very serious teacher issues in our state is addressed by K-12 Outreach. Alaska Teacher Placement (ATP) assists districts in recruitment, and Alaska Statewide Mentor Project (ASMP) improves teacher retention. Evidence shows ASMP mentoring of those newest to the profession makes a difference in teacher retention, student achievement, and accelerating teacher growth.

Prior to the implementation of ASMP, the historical retention rate for new teachers in the districts we serve averaged about 68% over five years (Hill, 2008). Since implementation in 2004, teachers lucky enough to be mentored by ASMP are retained at 75-85%, rates, much higher than non-ASMP mentored teachers.

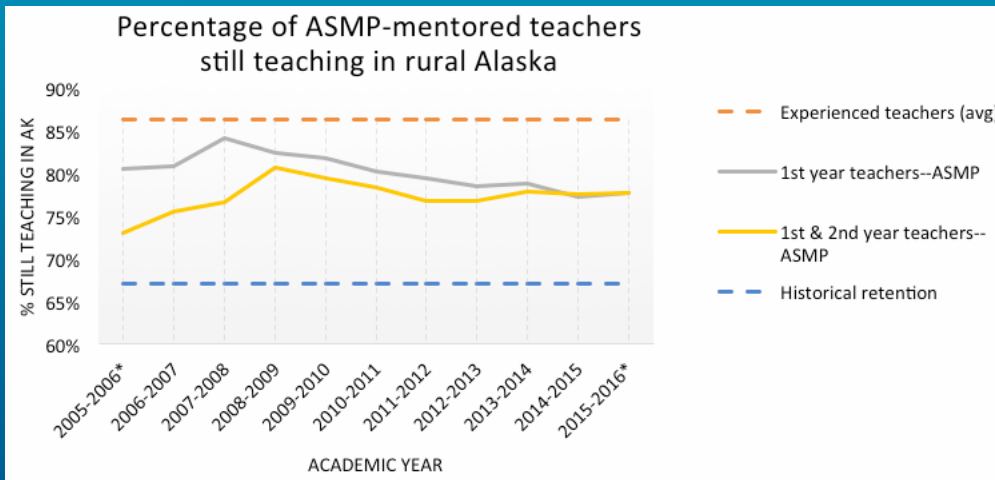
Considering the high cost of recruitment over retention, ASMP is strongly value-added when it comes to

improving teacher retention across the state in ways that save our state money AND contribute to improved academic achievement. Mentoring works, and ASMP has the research evidence to prove it.¹ <http://asmp.alaska.edu/research-summaries>.

1. Hill, A., & Hirshberg, D. (2008). Turnover among Alaska teachers: Is it changing? Retrieved from scholarworks.alaska.edu.

ASMP continued on next page...

ASMP continued...



Boys in Gambell "See no evil, hear no evil or speak no evil." Photo credit: Mentor Bob Williams, 2006.

From Dietz, L., Herrick, K., Clark, P., Findlay, G., & Atwater, S. (2016). Alaska Statewide Mentor Project: Research Summary 2004-2016.

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.



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www.uaf.edu/soe/k12_outreach/



Students from Little Diomed Island hike to the top of the island to take in the view of Big Diomed Island, Russia. Photo credit: Mentor Laurie Leonard, 2006.