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...
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 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 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.

Facebook.com/EducatorsRisingAlaska/
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.

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

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)
District Setup: March 16 (8am - 12pm)
Portland, OR: 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.

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.

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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A SMP 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.

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