K-12 Outreach at the University of Alaska Fairbanks is committed to partnerships that support quality education for all of 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 Place-Based Education, with the current curriculum project Teacher Ambassadors Sharing Knowledge (TASK).

ATP continues to host and attend job fairs across the state and nation

Alaska Teacher Placement has been on the frontlines, working to recruit teachers to Alaska and its Districts. Alaska is not alone in experiencing teacher shortages, and because of the remoteness of most of our sites, we experience a special challenge finding candidates to fill these posts. We have been ramping up our efforts to reach more future teachers through digital campaigns, college visits, website enhancements, and as both the host or the guest, attending many local and out-of-state job fairs.

ATP has functioned for years as an Education Service Agency (ESA), and with the additional support of being housed under K-12 Outreach, has managed to attain a wider, more effective reach for recruiting candidates, both at the local and national level. Dovetailing with our GYO program, Educators Rising Alaska, we can help to solve the teacher shortage as a team.

Our Spring Job Fair dates have been solidified. The Anchorage Educator Expo will be Friday, February 24. District meetings and set up will be Thursday, February 23. ATP will host a virtual job fair on Saturday, April 1 from 10:00-2:00 AK time. ATP staff are traveling this fall and visiting campuses across the United States to promote living and working in Alaska's schools. September brought us to Montana, Minnesota, Iowa and multiple campuses in Arizona. Upcoming visits are scheduled:

- October 11, Michigan State University Job Fair
- October 12, University of Michigan 12-4
- October 26 AAEE Job Fair, Baltimore
- October 28, Washington State University Spokane, Communications Job Fair
- November 1, Oregon State Job Fair
- November 2, Oregon State University, 9-4 Furman Hall
- November 3, University of Oregon 9-4

Please check our website for more details and to learn more about our program.

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Teacher Ambassadors Sharing Knowledge (TASK) fosters cultural exchange between Hawaiian and rural Alaskan teachers. Teachers in both Alaska and Hawai‘i collaborate remotely on place-based culturally relevant science lessons.

Spring and summer 2022, TASK hosted several student and teacher workshops in Hawai‘i highlighting, culture, local knowledge, and the environment.

The first multi-day workshop was focused on supporting teachers in the Waianae school district by providing an off-site workshop focused team building and engaging with the local environment. Educators focused on successful educational self-care practices and attended off-site field trips.

Our second multi-day workshop saw teachers from the Nome School District travel to Oahu for science, education, and cultural experiences. Teachers toured the local schools, learned from cultural experts, and learned about tsunamis, Polynesian culture, and local ecosystems.

The final TASK workshop brought high school student leaders from the Nome School District to Oahu. Students from Nome met and worked with high school students from Wai‘anae, helped repair a historic fish pond and experienced Native Hawaiian cultural traditions.

We will facilitate a student exchange this upcoming spring with students from the Nānakuli Wai‘anae School District traveling to Nome to meet with their student peers and learn about rural Alaska.

The TASK program is wrapping up this fall but major updates to the website will showcase place-based mini lessons, interviews from rural Alaska and Oahu along with dynamic maps showing how the landscape has changed from both human natural processes over the past 70 years. We’re excited to explore new opportunities and collaborations that further place based education in Alaska and beyond.

Find out more on our K-12 Outreach website www.alaska.edu/k12task

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A TP is active on social media and you may find recent updates there as well. Follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/AlaskaTeacher) and Twitter (UA/ATP). You can find all our past virtual chats with Alaska school districts on Facebook.

You can see our recruiting schedule and more, at: www.alaskateacher.org

---ATP Job Fairs are a great place to recruit people who are already living in Alaska. Photo: Grayling Media Video. Watch this full video on our Facebook page: facebook.com/AlaskaTeacher---

---Cultural Exchanges for Teachers and Students Wrap Up---

---Students listen to Reid Yokokote discuss the uses of taro root. Photo: K-12 Outreach Staff.---

---Nome & Wai‘anae students, work together to repair a historic fish pond. Photo: K-12 Outreach Staff.---

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---Find out more on our K-12 Outreach website www.alaska.edu/k12task---
The vision of the Alaska Statewide Mentor Project is that every student in Alaska will have the benefit of a great teacher. Our mission is to give new teachers the support they need to succeed. We are thrilled to begin the 22-23 school year with Alaska’s districts. Our mentors are passionate about lifting up and supporting the profession of teaching in Alaska. We provide individualized coaching that develops an effective teaching force responsive to the diverse academic needs and cultural backgrounds of all students.

It’s remarkable that despite pandemic challenges since March 2020, our mission and vision were fulfilled in spectacular fashion. Our job has always been to assist early career teachers in achieving their goals. Being adaptive and innovative, ASMP continued to fully support, through instructional mentoring, Alaska’s valuable and vulnerable resource: our newest teachers.

We keep moving forward despite an ever-changing landscape. This year we are embarking on a grant-funded study that will measure hybrid vs. in-person methods of the delivery. The model of mentoring is identical. As an additional portion of the study, we will focus on cultural competency of mentors AND early career teachers, with outcomes to be reflected in higher student social-emotional aptitudes.

In July and August, we concentrate on locating every Alaska early career teacher who qualifies to be mentored. We do this by contacting superintendents, HR personnel, and administrative support people in each of our 54 districts. Qualifying teachers meet the following criteria:

- Experience of 0 or 1 years in the teaching profession
- Teaching in the following content areas: Math, Science, English/Language Arts, Social Studies, Elementary, Middle School Generalists, and Special Education.

Our mentor Start Up commenced the first weeks of August. We began virtually and ended with in-person AND on-line training at the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus. In all, we have 16 mentors who have received their caseloads and have begun the mentoring process for the 22.23 school year.

Thank you for all you are doing for your students and your community. ASMP has resources to support districts, staffs and individuals. We look forward to our continued partnerships, please reach out if we can help further your initiatives.

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For more information about ASMP please visit: www.alaska.edu/asmp
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Contributions may be made in support of the K-12 Outreach Program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks online at: https://engage.alaska.edu/
Please note the K-12 Outreach Program (20419) when prompted for gift designation.
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