



K-12 Outreach

News & Events

Our Mission

Lifting up Educators and Students

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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
- Providing individualized support to new teachers

- Supporting educational agencies to recruit quality educators
- Supporting place-based education
- Helping to increase the effectiveness and retention of teachers

Our programs include the **Alaska Statewide Mentor Project (ASMP), Alaska Teacher & Personnel (AT&P), Educators Rising Alaska (EdRising AK), and Place-Based Education Curriculum Development.**



Educators Rising Alaska

Almost 200 people, mostly high school and middle school students from across the state attended the annual Educators Rising Alaska State Leadership Conference, which was held on the UAS campus, February 22-23, 2024. The annual state conference rotates between UA's three main campuses: UAA, UAF and UAS, to provide an immersive experience in the education field. The conference followed two days of virtual leadership competitions that were held February 12th and 13th, 2024.



2023-24 Student Officers offered a Q&A breakout session with past EdRising Officer and current teacher Amanda Friendshuh. Seated to her left are Gunther Polzin and Morgan Carlson-Kelly. The other officers Ellen Redigton, Blaine Paje and Martin Olson were also part of the panel. *Photo: K-12 Outreach Staff.*



EdRising 2024 State Attendees gathered for a group photo in the UAS Recreation Center following the Opening Ceremonies. *Photo: K-12 Outreach Staff.*

The competitions give students an opportunity to compete in various events that demonstrate their knowledge and leadership in education. Those students who participate and place in the top 10 of their competitions

are eligible to attend the National Educators Rising Conference, which will be held in Washington, DC this year, June 28 through July 1, 2024. Competition categories include Creative Lecture, Public Speaking, Lesson Planning, Children's Literature, Exploring Support Services & Careers, Public Service Announcement-Teacher Recruitment and Job Interview.

The state conference kickoff was Thursday, February 22nd where attendees heard from inspirational speakers including the 2023-24 Alaska Teacher of the Year, Catherine Walker, and Interim

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UAS-SOE Dean Carlee Simon. Students then attended over 30 breakout sessions for two days, relating to entering college, activism, education careers, and more, leveraging the expertise of UA faculty and leaders across Alaska.



The All Nations Children's Dance Group led by Barbara Dude (and a 1st grade teacher) honored our group with a number of dances for the Closing Ceremonies. Photo: K-12 Outreach Staff.

An award ceremony in the Juneau Arts and Culture Center wrapped up the conference on Friday, February

23rd to recognize those who competed. Students heard from UA President Pitney, UAS Chancellor Palmer, US Senator Murkowski, US Senator Sullivan, and US Representative Peltola, followed by a closing ceremony including performances from Woosh.ji.een Dance Group and the All Nations Children's Dance Group.

We recently hired a new Program Manager, Florence Scott, who has a BA in English and Psychology and a M.Ed in Curriculum & Instruction with a minor in Trauma and Resilience in Educational Settings. We are excited to have her on our team and look forward to continued growth of the program!

For more information about Educators Rising Alaska, please contact us at uaf-edrisingak@alaska.edu, or visit our website at: alaska.edu/educatorsrising



Alaska Teachers & Personnel

Alaska Teachers and Personnel and the Alaska State Department of Education and Early Development co-hosted a Teacher Recruitment and Retention Convening, February 29 – March 1st at the Captain Cook Hotel. Session presenters included national, state, and district education experts such as Tim Neubert, Executive Director for the American Association for Employment in Education, and Hella Bel Hadj Amor, Senior Grants and Research Officer at Verite Educational Services. AT&P's annual March Job Fair was held concurrently on March 1st at the Cook as well.

AT&P regularly hosts virtual job fairs for our districts, the most recent of which was April 5th. Virtual events are a wonderful tool to connect with educators outside of Alaska.

Spring Job Fair season is actively underway and AT&P staff are attending 25 job fairs in 18 states, spreading the word about teaching in Alaska.

As always, AT&P continues to advertise widely, in educational circles and in the wider public venues available to our budget. Utilizing social media, podcasts, google ads and college job fair booklets, we are spreading the word about the wonderful state of Alaska and available education positions all over Alaska.



AT&P and AK-DEED combined efforts to offer a two day Convening about teacher retention and recruitment. This event coincided with AT&P's March 1st Job Fair. Pictured above are past officers for Educators Rising who offered a panel with their past Teacher Leader Christel Mozialevskiy and Mat-Su Superintendent Randy Trani, as they discussed the partnership between their district and Chadron State College regarding Grow Your Own programs. Photo: K-12 Outreach Staff.

Find out more on our FaceBook page: facebook.com/AlaskaTeacher.

You may also visit our website for more information:





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 teachers the support they need to succeed.**

Our mentors are passionate about lifting up and supporting the profession of teaching in Alaska. We provide individualized coaching to develop an effective teaching force responsive to the diverse academic needs and cultural backgrounds of all students.

Our job has *always* been to assist early career teachers in achieving their goals. Being adaptive and innovative, ASMP continues to fully support, through instructional mentoring, Alaska's valuable and vulnerable resource: our newest teachers.

And for the first time in the 20 year history of ASMP, we have expanded mentoring to experienced teachers who are new to Alaska, in response to requests by superintendents. This expansion is made



Mentor Mike Kernin snaps a class selfie of his ECT Trevor Wilson and students in the Unalaska 3/4 grade classroom as they are working on a kumihimo weaving project. *Photo: Michael Kernin.*

possible through an Education, Innovation & Research (EIR) grant from the US Department of Education. In addition, this grant allows us to develop a roadmap for other states to follow our mentoring model. We will be working with a group of mentors and teachers in Montana as part of this expansion.

An earlier EIR grant just spotlighted more of our mentoring work in Alaska. Scan the QR code to read the article in 'EIR Innovation & Insights' online publication:



A student is making his propeller car from the materials mentor Hal Neace had brought the week before. This is part of the Maker Activity Lessons past mentor Ed Sotelo sponsors for mentors. *Photo: Stephanie Conlan.*

Every spring we begin the process of contacting districts to identify teachers who qualify for mentoring.

Qualifying rural teachers 1) have 0-1 years of teaching experience, 2) teach content areas: math, science, English Language Arts, Social Studies, Elementary or Middle School generalists, or K-12 special education.

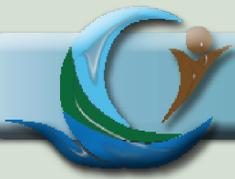
Our expansion includes experienced teachers new to Alaska in rural and urban schools who teach in the content areas listed above.

Please keep an eye out for new to the profession teachers and new to Alaska teachers during your hiring process. So, be thinking of the names of teachers you can share with us, new to the profession and new to Alaska.

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

Sue McIntosh
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For more information visit our website:
www.alaska.edu/asmp/



Place-based Education

Place-based teaching connects a student's individual background and life's experiences (individual culture) to learning—and as a result, students are more engaged and committed to learning. K-12 oversees three programs, Alaska Teacher & Personnel (AT&P), Educators Rising and the Alaska Statewide Mentor Project (ASMP). Each of these three programs has opportunities for using place-based teaching and cultural pedagogy in their work. Teaching through culture is a focus for K-12. You might wonder

where we get our information and resources for this work? You are in for a treat because we are going to share the wealth of Alaska-specific resources available to you at the click of a keyboard—read on.

Alaska is one of very few states that has mandated cultural standards, standards that were created by experienced Native Alaskan educators. Cultural standards in Alaska are embedded into teacher evaluations. Seven little booklets were published by the Alaska Native Knowledge Network in 1999, and these guide the cultural work at our own K-12 Department. You can find these publications for \$1 each at: <http://www.ankn.uaf.edu/publications/#standards> or for free by downloading the text for these standards at: <https://www.uaf.edu/ankn/publications/guides/alaska-standards-for-cult/>. These booklets include cultural standards for Students, Educators, Curriculum, Schools, School Boards, and Communities. In addition, Alaska has a Guide for Implementing the Cultural Standards, published in 2012, which can be found as a PDF and free download at: [https://www.asdn.org/wp-content/uploads/Implementing-AK-cultural-](https://www.asdn.org/wp-content/uploads/Implementing-AK-cultural-standards-1.pdf)

[standards-1.pdf](https://www.asdn.org/wp-content/uploads/Implementing-AK-cultural-standards-1.pdf). And, finally, there is a site through Alaska Department of Education & Early Development (DEED) that provides a detailed guide for teachers using the cultural standards in their classroom instruction: <https://education.alaska.gov/akreads/Culture-in-the-Classroom-No-AK.pdf>. This final resource provides ideas for how to use the standards, alongside indicators for what the teacher is doing and what the students are doing. There are many resources available for folks wanting to better engage their students in learning by simply connecting the lessons to student backgrounds and unique experiences. This book, *Culture in the Classroom*, published by SERRC, is also available through Amazon.com if you'd like your own hard copy.

The bottom line for teaching through culture and using place-based methodology to engage students really can be summed up in one word:

RESPECT

RESPECT the people and place where you teach.

Janice Littlebear, PhD
jjlittlebear@alaska.edu

ASMP/STARR/VINE Cultural Advocacy Lead



K-12 students in Akiak participating in processing moose meat. Yupiit School District incorporates cultural knowledge in their curriculum, including spring and fall moose hunts. Photo: Hal Neace.

Donating to K-12

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. Checks may also be mailed to:

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