

K-12 Outreach

News & Events

Our Mission

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

Lifting up Educators and Students

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- 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 & Personnel (AT&P)**, **Educators Rising Alaska (EdRising AK)**, and **Place-Based Education**, with the current curriculum project **Teacher Ambassadors Sharing Knowledge (TASK)**.

K-12 Outreach would like to introduce and welcome its new Director, Dr. Richard Hum

Dr. Hum officially began his position as Director of K-12 Outreach on May 13th. We would like to extend a huge welcome to him. We've asked him to introduce himself:

I am honored to be the new Director of K-12 Outreach. Alaska has been my home for 25 years, where I've raised my family and dedicated my career to education. My journey began in California, Oregon, then Utah before settling here via an AT&P job fair in the late 90's. Over the years, I've witnessed the outstanding work of K-12 Outreach and am excited to be part of continuing this legacy into the future amidst our rapidly evolving educational landscape.

My career started with support from veteran teachers, which deepened my appreciation for programs like ASMP. Inspired by educators like Oscar

Kwagley and Ray Barnhardt, I focused on distance education, school reform, and fostering virtual learning communities. Recently, I've worked to develop university-school partnerships focused on paid pre-service internships and apprenticeship initiatives. This reinforces for me the transformative impact of programs like EdRising, AT&P, and ASMP helping to attract and retain new educators.

I am excited to lead these efforts and collaborate with you to enhance Alaska's educational future.

With warm regards,
Rich Hum, Director K-12 Outreach



Alaska Teacher & Personnel

Summer is here and Alaska Teachers & Personnel is working with our school districts to fill unfilled positions. Districts can work with AT&P to host a virtual chat and introduce your community, schools and district openings. You can see past virtual chats on AT&P's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/AlaskaTeacher>). Most recently, Hoonah



school district hosted a chat and has had almost 10,000 views in two weeks.

Other summer activities for AT&P are updating our candidate list, our sub list and our job postings. We

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AT&P hosted Job Fair in Anchorage, 2019. Program Manager Toni McFadden assisting an applicant. *Photo: Yuri Bulit-Ito.*

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are working with candidates and districts to ensure the most current information is available. We also update our webpages during the summer, and are always open to suggestions about topics, links and changes you might suggest for our website to make it more usable for everyone.

We continue to work with Alaska's school districts and candidates to fill classrooms and other school

hiring needs in this environment of fewer available teachers. Please feel free to reach out to our office if you have suggestions or needs our staff can help you with.

You can always find out more information about AT&P on our website: www.alaskateacher.org

Toni McFadden tlmcfadden@alaska.edu



Alaska Statewide Mentor Project-STARR



ASMP Mentors & Staff held a virtual Wrap-Up this May, to finish off the year of mentoring. Photo: K-12 Outreach Staff.

As we embark on the 24-25 school year, we want to give you an inside glimpse into ways ASMP mentors have supported early career teachers and experienced, new to Alaska teachers. In addition to instructional coaching, mentors facilitate the teachers' ability to set themselves up for success.

Mentors collaborate with teachers to encourage reflection and action that strengthens success in their new home and school environment. Below are just a few ways teachers can empower themselves for a strong start to their Alaska teaching experience.

- Show gratitude and respect to your new home community, its land, people, and worldview. Be a learner and a listener.
- Participate! If someone mentions an event, it means you're invited. Avoid the triangle trap: moving only between school, home, and post office.
- And at the same time, try not to over-commit to coaching, or other extracurricular activities
- Network: make friends with the custodian, those serving school meals, and the school secretary. Your colleagues can be a lifeline. Find a family or

individual within the community to "adopt" you, to mentor you. Attend church even if it is not your denomination or religion. It shows your care and commitment to people.

- Take time for yourself. Practice self-care to avoid burnout. Get outside no matter the weather.
- Frequently review and incorporate the Alaska Cultural Standards for Educators: your community members and elders are knowledge-bearers and your students also have funds of knowledge that bridge Indigenous and school learning. Seek that out.
- Attend any culture camp that is available to you, often offered through districts, Alaska Native corporations, or other organizations.
- Keep your expectations high: for yourself, your school, and your students.
- Before you arrive to your site, make sure you understand the ins and outs of getting groceries, medications, supplies.
- Avail yourself of the Alaska Statewide Mentor provided to you. Your mentor is a full-release Alaskan educator who meets with you weekly to assist you with ALL OF THE ABOVE items and much, much more. They are a non-evaluative instructional coach and do not work for or report to the state or the district. Alaska Statewide Mentors make site visits, too. They are well-versed in facilitating your reflection, curiosity and persistence as you navigate your first and second years of teaching in Alaska. Their goal is to put a quality teacher in front of every student. Their mission is to lift you up and move you forward. Take full advantage of the gift that is your Alaska Statewide Mentor.

For more information contact: uaf-asmpt@alaska.edu or <https://www.alaska.edu/asmpt>



Educators Rising Alaska

The K12 Outreach Office is thrilled to introduce **Florence Scott** as the new Program Manager for Educators Rising AK. Florence has been in education since 2007, beginning her career at North Pole Elementary. Her extensive experience and dedication to fostering student growth and development make her an excellent fit for our program. Florence is excited to come home to Fairbanks and lead the Educators Rising team to new heights.



EdRising Student Officers: Gunther Polzin, Martin Olson, Morgan Carlson-Kelly and Ellen Redington (not pictured: Blaine Paje), 2023-24 Student Officers. *Photo: K-12 Outreach Staff.*

In other exciting news, we are proud to share that 52 of our talented students will travel to Washington, D.C. at the end of June to compete in the National Educators Rising Conference. These students have worked incredibly hard to reach this level, and their participation in this prestigious event is a testament to their dedication and skill.

We are especially proud to highlight our **1st place** finishers at the state competition in February:

Sarah Barnard & Isabelle Stryken, Kotzebue M/Sr. HS
Sophie Micciche, Nikolaevsk
Brennan Paje, Tukurngailnguq School
Moss Holm, Palmer High School
Sahara Thomas, Colony High School
Anfisa Matveev, Palmer High School
Jacob Saunders, MatSu Career Technical High School
Courtney Boskofsky, Kenai High School
Easton Wolfe, Matsu Career Technical High School
Samuel Mecham, Bartlett High School
Shi MacGregor, Bartlett High School

Daaron Buffas, White Mountain School
Gunther Polzin, Palmer High School
Blaine Paje, Tukurngailnguq School

In recognition of their 1st place finish, these students have received full funding for their travel and registration for Nationals. This achievement not only reflects their hard work and determination but also underscores the support and commitment of our community in fostering educational excellence.

At Nationals, all students showcase their talents and hard work in categories such as public speaking, lesson planning, STEM innovation, and creative arts. This conference offers opportunities for peer networking with like-minded students from across the country. They will gain valuable insights into the field of education and receive feedback from professionals, helping to shape their future careers in education.

Under Florence's leadership, we are confident that our students will continue to excel and make us proud on the national stage. Please join us in welcoming Florence Scott to the Ed Rising AK family and in wishing our students the best of luck as they prepare for this exciting journey.

You may reach Florence via email:

fscott8@alaska.edu.

For more information about EdRising please visit:
www.alaska.edu/educatorsrising/



2023-24 State Conference: Group photo at the UAS Gymnasium. *Photo: K-12 Outreach Staff.*



Place-based Education

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS – WHAT ARE THEY GOOD FOR?

We see them everywhere—in email signature lines, banners across letter-heads, openings for college classes, conferences, and often a land tribute will be the first thing spoken at workshops. The National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian, Washington, DC has this insert on its landing page:

"We gratefully acknowledge the Native Peoples on whose ancestral homelands we gather, as well as the diverse and vibrant Native communities who make their home here today."

Q: What is the purpose of such a land acknowledgement? Why take the time to acknowledge the history of the land upon which we work and live, to honor its ancestors?

A: Land acknowledgements should recognize those who were here before us. The natives whose lives were disrupted by colonization, hostile takeovers, and genocide at the hands of those invading the homelands. It is the least leaders can do today—worldwide—acknowledge the truth. And most importantly, such a gesture needs to be genuine and not a "tokenistic gesture inadvertently carried out by well-meaning leaders." Go ahead,

create and honor the indigenous folks who were here first. You should. It is respectful and the right thing to do. However, if there is no follow-through by your entity/leadership, no steps taken to address equity, opportunity and the historical invisibility of indigenous peoples, then the gesture falls short. (<https://www.indigenousperformance.org/>)

Each of K-12's programs is taking steps to make sure the educators in our state understand the significance of place and one's sense of belonging. We use Alaska's cultural standards for schools, educators, students, and communities as our guide. Respect is due the ancestors of the land upon which today we live and work. K-12 strives to make visible that history of Native peoples, from all regions, in an accurate, respectful, and meaningful manner that addresses equity and one's unique sense of belonging. K-12 recognizes the reciprocity of such a process—learning while teaching, teaching while learning. Students as teachers, teachers as learners. Respect is the foundation for all K-12 programs—we invite thinking and involvement from all Alaska people.

K-12 OUTREACH LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

We would like to gratefully acknowledge and honor the Alaska Native nations



Flying into Shishmaref Aerial photo of Shishmaref in the summer. Photo Credit: K-12 Staff.

upon which our three University of Alaska campuses reside, including the ancestral lands of the Iñupiat, Gwich'in, Han, Tanana, Tanacross, Upper Tanana, Ahtna, Eyak, Tlingit, Tsimshian, Haida, Sugpiaq/Alutiiq, UnangaX, Central Yup'ik, Dena'ina, Upper Kuskokwim, Holikachuk, Deg Xit'an, Koyukon and Siberian Yupik people of Alaska. These lands have been home to, and cared for by Alaska Native people since time immemorial. We are honored and humbled to serve from such a respected beginning, from such a blessed place: Alaska.

You can find tips here for creating your own land acknowledgements: <https://nativegov.org/news/a-guide-to-indigenous-land-acknowledgment/>

For more information, please contact: 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: <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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Postage

