

K-12 OUTREACH

NEWSLETTER



LIFTING UP EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

K-12 OUTREACH: OUR MISSION

K-12 is committed to statewide 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

EDUCATION TRENDS: THE FUTURE OF LEARNING IN ALASKA

- ◉ Alaska-trained teachers are in high demand due to the quality of their preparation and consistently higher retention rates.
- ◉ Each year Alaska school districts recruit more than 800 teachers from outside the state to fill certified teaching positions; this number could be more than halved by developing, hiring, and retaining more homegrown Alaskan educators. At the K12 Outreach Office, we are working to support future and present educators across all stages of their career.
- ◉ Educators Rising Alaska – 124 middle and high school students from Alaska competed at States, with 114 qualifying for Nationals this year.
- ◉ Alaska Statewide Mentor Project – ASMP is supporting apprentice mentor training for Education & Early Development, Sealaska Heritage Institute, and Bristol Bay Regional Career and Technical Education, who are all sponsoring teacher registered apprenticeship programs in Alaska approved by the Department of Labor.



**QUALITY
EDUCATION FOR
ALL OF ALASKA**

EDRISING



Woven Together

Educators Rising Alaska has had an exciting and impactful journey, marked by growth, collaboration, and a deep sense of community. Our 2025 State Leadership Conference held at the University of Alaska Anchorage and the Alaska Native Heritage Center was a standout event. With the theme Woven Together: Every Thread Matters, the conference was a true celebration of the strength and beauty that comes from unity and shared purpose. Over 200 students, teacher leaders, and community partners gathered to participate in breakout sessions, connect with one another, and share their passion for the teaching profession. The energy in the room was palpable, and it was clear that our program is creating a powerful impact. A special highlight of the conference was the introduction of our incoming State Student Officers: Valentina Polushkin, Lindsey Sobbe, Sara James, Amber (Sai) Sherman, Savannah Overbay, Angela Omedelina, and Aurora Rochefort. These talented individuals bring diverse skills, ideas, and dedication to the table, and we're excited to see the positive impact they'll have as they lead our student body forward.



Educators Rising Alaska seniors at the State Leadership Conference, celebrating their dedication and contributions to the program.

Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders

In addition to the leadership transitions, we're preparing for the upcoming Educators Rising National Conference in Orlando, Florida, from June 26-29th. The theme this year is Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders. A remarkable 114 of our students have qualified to compete at the national level by finishing in the top 10 at the state competition. Their hard work and determination are truly commendable, and we can't wait to see them represent Alaska with excellence!

If you are interested in Educators Rising or have any questions about our program, please contact Florence Scott at uaf-edrisingak@alaska.edu or visit alaska.edu/educatorsrising



2025-2026
Student Officers

Educators Rising Alaska 2025-2026 State Student Officers.

Growing Our Own:

Grow Your Own supports individuals from the local community to become teachers. We aim to address teacher shortages by providing opportunities for individuals, including those already working in schools as paraprofessionals or with limited teaching certificates, to become fully certified teachers. The Alaska Statewide Mentor Project (ASMP) will continue to partner with the Department of Education & Early Development (DEED), Sealaska Heritage Institute, and Bristol Bay Region Career and Technical Education to provide apprentice mentor training as part of registered teacher apprenticeships. ASMP completed four training modules this year.

ASMP



Wrapping Up

As the 2024–2025 school year comes to a close, we are able to reflect on the progress, successes, and opportunities of our mentors, mentees, and students in the Alaska Statewide Mentor Project. Mentors completed their last professional learning module in March and will be gathering for an in person wrap-up session in Fairbanks. This year we were able to serve 159 teachers across 34 school districts in Alaska thanks to our wonderful mentors and support staff. An additional thank you to Sue McIntosh for serving as program manager through December 2024 as we transition. This also marks our final year under the STARR (Supporting Teachers Across Rural Remote/Regions in Alaska) grant and the beginning of the VINE (Validated Induction Network Expansion) grant.

"I think the respect that the project has across the state, being a mentoring project since 2004, we have leadership, principals, directors, and superintendents who have all have been mentored themselves."

—Mentor, ASMP 2024–2025



Mentee Reynino Olaguir, Mentor Cheryl Childers, and Mentee Marilou Baldoza in St. Paul, Alaska.

Onward to the Future

In addition to the shift in grants, we are preparing for the upcoming 2025–2026 school year. Recruitment for new mentors (in addition to welcoming back our Veteran mentors) is ongoing to ensure our program can assist as many teachers and students as possible. We are also working with districts to prepare for next round of mentees.

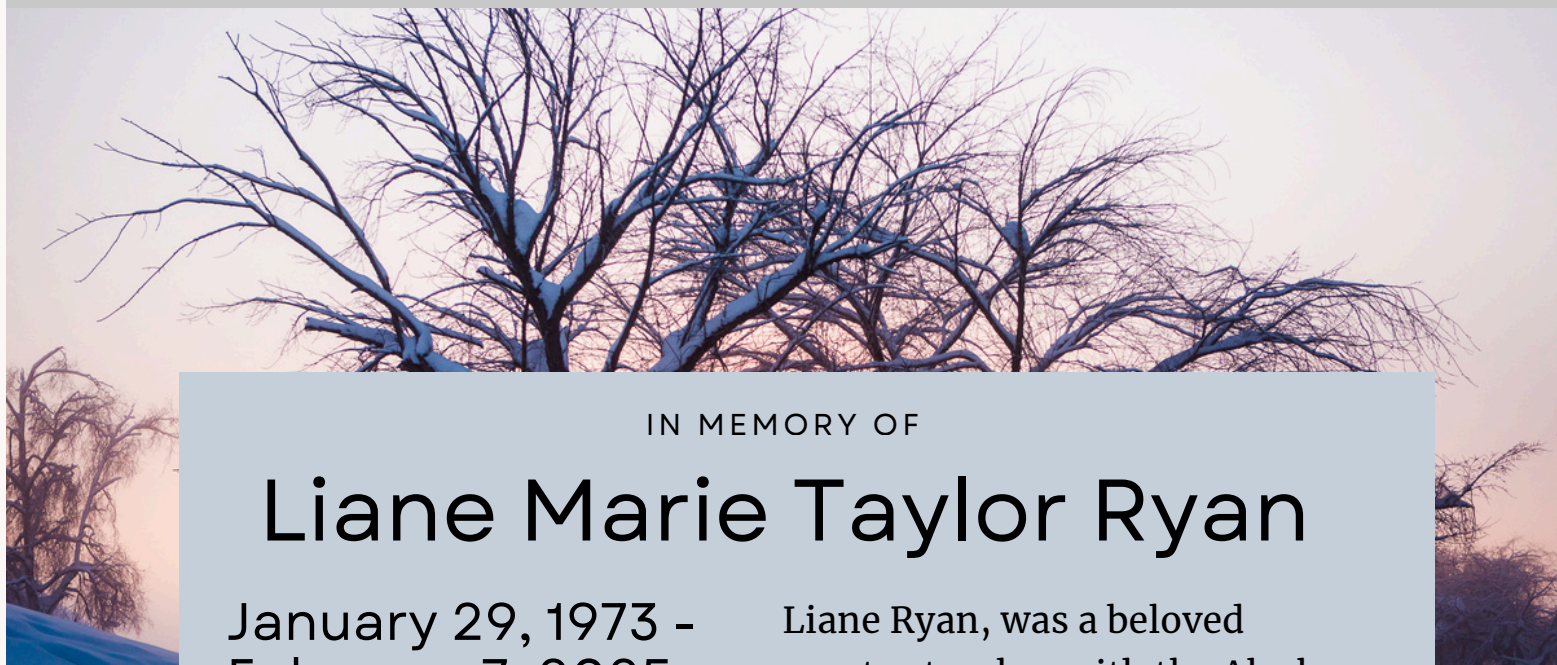
If you are interested in ASMP or have any questions on our program, please contact Kristy Parrish at kcparrish@alaska.edu or visit alaska.edu/asmp



Mentees in Pilot Station, Alaska receiving their Cultural Connections books.

Sustainable Teaching in Alaska

We continue to explore how Educators Rising Alaska and the Alaska Statewide Mentor Project can provide support for prospective, pre-service, and early career teachers in an intentional way and to contribute to a sustainable model of providing supported and quality teachers statewide. If you are interested in GYO or have any questions about our programs, please contact Kristy Parrish at kcparrish@alaska.edu or visit alaska.edu/k12outreach



IN MEMORY OF

Liane Marie Taylor Ryan

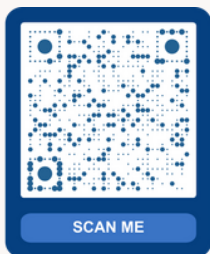
January 29, 1973 -
February 7, 2025



Liane Ryan, was a beloved mentor teacher with the Alaska Statewide Mentor Project since 2022.

In addition to her time at UAF, Liane taught in the Matanuska Susitna School District for 27 years. Throughout three decades as an educator in Alaska, Liane's work inspired numerous teachers and students. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Donate to K-12



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