

K-12 Outreach

News & Events

Photo: Carolyn Shepard, 2019

Lifting up Educators and Students

March 2019 • Vol. 3 No. 2

Our Mission

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 Place-Based Education, including Raising Educational Achievement through Cultural Heritage Up (REACH Up) and our newest award, Teacher Ambassadors Sharing Knowledge (TASK).



Educators Rising Alaska

Planning for the Educators Rising Alaska Leadership Conference has been well under way since the fall. The March 7-9, 2019 conference in Juneau brings together students and teacher leaders from across Alaska, faculty and staff from the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) and the University of Alaska Southeast (UAS).

This two-and-a-half-day event kicks off with an opening ceremony that includes presentations by UAS Chancellor Richard Caulfield, Executive Dean of the College of Education Steve Atwater, former Educators Rising Alaska student officer and current UAS education major Amanda Friendshuh, UAS Leadership Partners, and an interactive Alaska Native dance group, the Woosh.Ji.Een Dancers. Current Educators Rising Alaska student officers will emcee the opening event.

Students choose from and demonstrate their skills in performance-based competitions: Children's Literature (Pre-K or K-3), Lesson Planning (Arts, CTE or STEM), Creative Lecture (TED Talk), or Public Speaking.



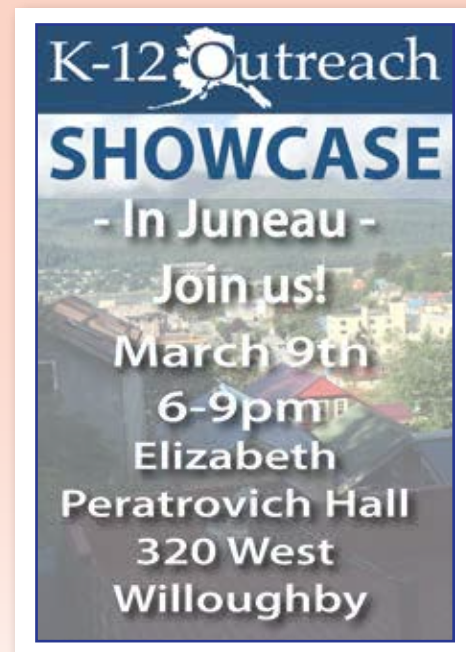
Student officers and Educators Rising Alaska program manager Barbara Wadlinger (left) and Fiscal Logistics Coordinator Mary Jo Skaggs gather during their October officer training in Anchorage. *Photo: Putt Clark.*


To accommodate student needs, competitions have a virtual attendance option. For the competitions, volunteer judges include Alaska Statewide Mentors, UAF School of Education assistant professor Douglas Cost, UAF Rural Student Services advisor Colleen Angaiak, SERRC and K-12 Outreach Cultural Advisory Board member Martha Gould-Lehe, and K-12 Outreach Staff.

Conference participants will have tours of the UAS campus, a College of Education round-robin, and will be provided with financial

aid, and recruitment and admissions information from their respective offices.

On the final day of the conference, students and teachers will visit the Alaska Capitol building, tour museums, and take part in the K-12 Showcase (see advertisement this page). This Showcase is open to the public and will provide user stories and information about K-12 Outreach's various programs. Please join us! Light refreshments will be provided.



 facebook.com/EducatorsRisingAlaska/

 educatorsrisingalaska.org

Place-Based Education

Teacher Ambassadors Sharing Knowledge (TASK) is a newly funded collaboration between the K-12 Outreach Office, Lower Yukon School District (LYSD) and Nānākuli-Waiʻanae Complex Area

place-based, culturally relevant curriculum and strengthening cultural knowledge exchange between these two regions. A major component of the project involves partnering teachers in

Alaska with teachers in Hawaiʻi and conducting joint professional development workshops.

TASK partners from LYSD and the PI and Co-PI from the K-12 Outreach



TASK planning meeting in Oahu with project leaders. Photo: Daniel Addis.

(NWCA) in Hawaiʻi. TASK seeks to increase Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian students' interest and readiness in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers by providing a

Office travelled to the Nānākuli-Waiʻanae region in Oahu for the initial executive and program planning meetings. While on Oahu our Hawaiian partners arranged a tour of several K-12 schools, and

students spoke about new and innovative educational projects they were involved in such as the Ke Kula Kaiapuni ʻo Nānākuli (an Hawaiian Language immersion program for elementary students) and an aquaculture facility where Waiʻanae high school students grow their own *ogo* (edible seaweed).

The Alaskan's shared about living and teaching in rural Alaska. They covered topics including the importance of subsistence activities and integrating Alaska Native knowledge into classroom learning. Everyone came away with exciting ideas for collaborative STEM resources and a renewed awareness of the many similarities, both beneficial and challenging, between rural Alaska and the Nānākuli-Waiʻanae region.



k12reach.org



TASK

ATP Alaska Teacher Placement

The national teacher shortage continues to make recruiting teachers for Alaska's schools challenging. Alaska Teacher Placement (ATP) works nation-wide with colleges and universities to promote teaching and living in Alaska. Using the online application system and state-wide job bank as well as hosting an informative webpage, helps candidates explore the possibilities of working in Alaska in a streamlined way.

"If you want to teach in rural or bush Alaska, ATP should be your first stop...it is most definitely ours!" —Scott MacManus, Alaska Gateway

ATP works with all Alaskan school districts to provide efficient, welcoming, online and in-person opportunities for school districts to interact with potential candidates. We host 5 in-person job fairs, support district personnel with technical assistance for our job bank and application system and

offer virtual job fair opportunities where school districts can highlight their programs and district needs.

"I always appreciate the personal assistance of the ATP staff in working with such diverse districts and still knowing our specific needs." —Molly Sipe, Kashunimut

Our spring job fairs, both in state and out of state, are scheduled and candidates are registering. We have virtual chats scheduled on topics such as "Living in Rural Alaska," "Getting Ready for a Job Fair," "Getting Certified in Alaska," and "Online Application Tips and Tricks." Anchorage School District hosted a virtual job fair in February and we are scheduling more districts with virtual job fairs for later this spring.

"Very happy with ATP staff and their efforts. Getting candidates

is tougher every year with the improving economy down south. ATP works hard to look out for our interests." —Lauren Burch, Southeast Island School District


We are committed to supporting school districts in their search for quality teachers for their students, and the candidates that are looking for their new home in Alaska.

"Thanks for the assistance I appreciate it!" —Connie Newman, Iditarod School District

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



Alaska Statewide Mentor Project

Early Career Teachers (ECT), administrators and students share their perspective about ASMP:

ECT's: New teachers are often overwhelmed by the challenges of running their own classrooms and can struggle with an unfamiliar culture and a new village life. Mentors provide practical, personal guidance both

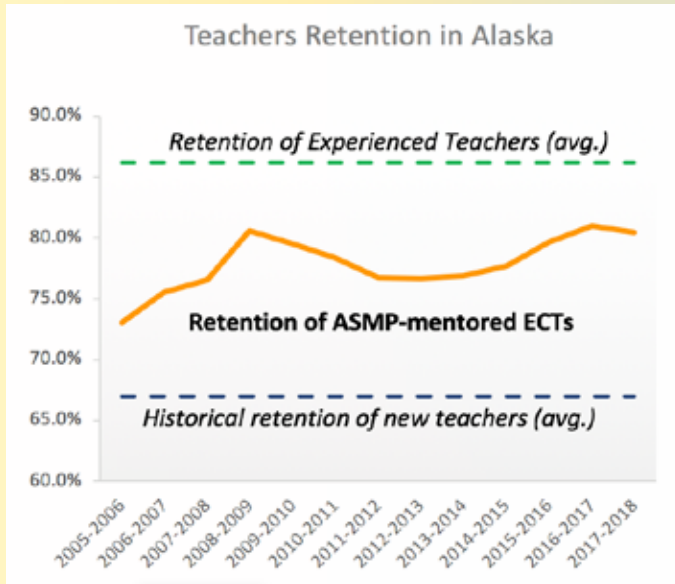
in and out of the classroom, a non-evaluative perspective, and the confidentiality of an advocate from outside the school district.

"My mentor is always quick to give feedback that is meaningful to my successes and challenges. Her observations of my classroom provide me with a different perspective which pushes me to be a better teacher."

"Without my ASMP mentor, I would have left last year for sure and wouldn't have returned to help my students. I have been able to reflect on myself and my teaching practice to become a more effective educator."

Administrators: There is a growing camaraderie between mentors and site administrators as ASMP continues

to communicate effectively with principals while keeping ECT confidentiality.



“Because of the mentoring program, my first- and second-year teachers are the ones that become my best team leaders at the school-wide level.”

“First- and second-year teachers are treading water, just trying to stay afloat/sane. AK Statewide



Mentors give them an incredible amount of support/mentorship that saves our state lots of money in the long run, keeps great potential in our state, and improves teacher retention and quality.”

“The personalized attention given to each early teacher is one of the most important aspects of the ASMP Project. Mentors are often honest and can dwell into areas some administrators are cautious to get into especially for weak teachers. Mentors assist early teachers in all areas. The personal relationships built with early teachers make the program very successful.”

Students: With the high rate of administrative and teacher turnover, ASMP mentors are often the stable influence for students. One mentor recently shared a moment at a school she has mentored in for several years when one student (now in fourth grade) looked up and asked, “Ms. Liz, how long have I known you now?” ASMP is a stable, contributing educational asset in AK.

www.asmp.alaska.edu / email: uaf-asmp@alaska.edu



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alaska.edu/k12outreach/



*Great teachers help
Alaska's future
generations*

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.