



UNIVERSITY
of ALASKA

Many Traditions One Alaska

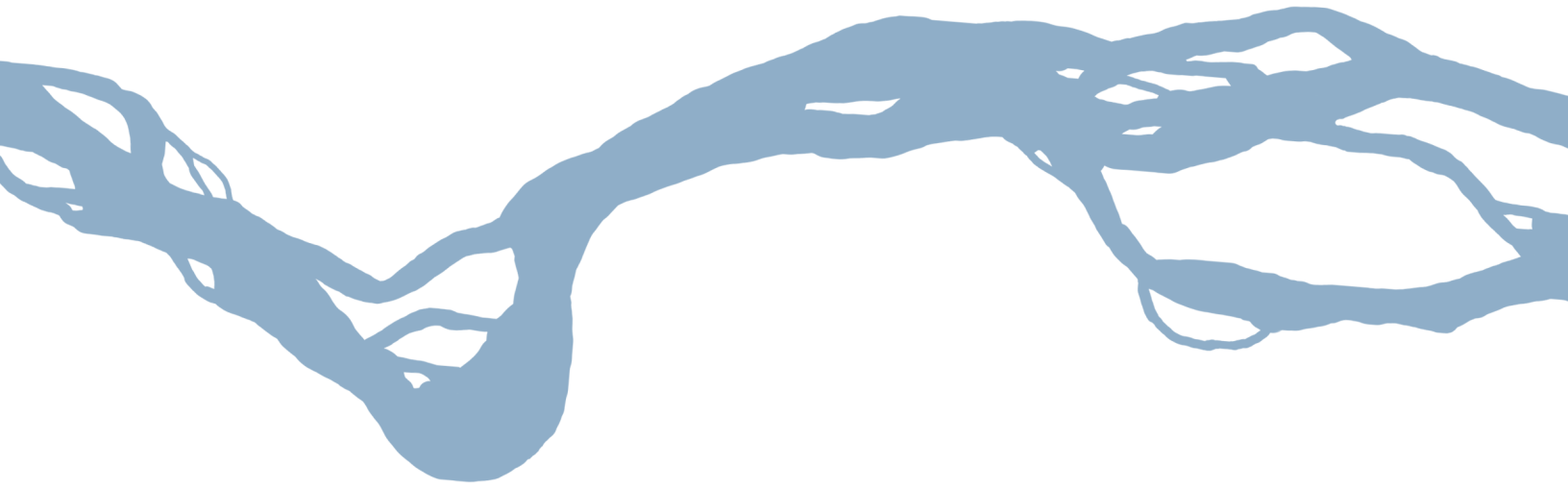


The Stories to be Told

Alaska Native Success Initiative
Annual Report to AFN | 2024

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Land Acknowledgments

As we build a more diverse, equitable and inclusive future, we acknowledge the Indigenous Peoples of the land on which we work and live. We honor our Alaska Native Peoples.

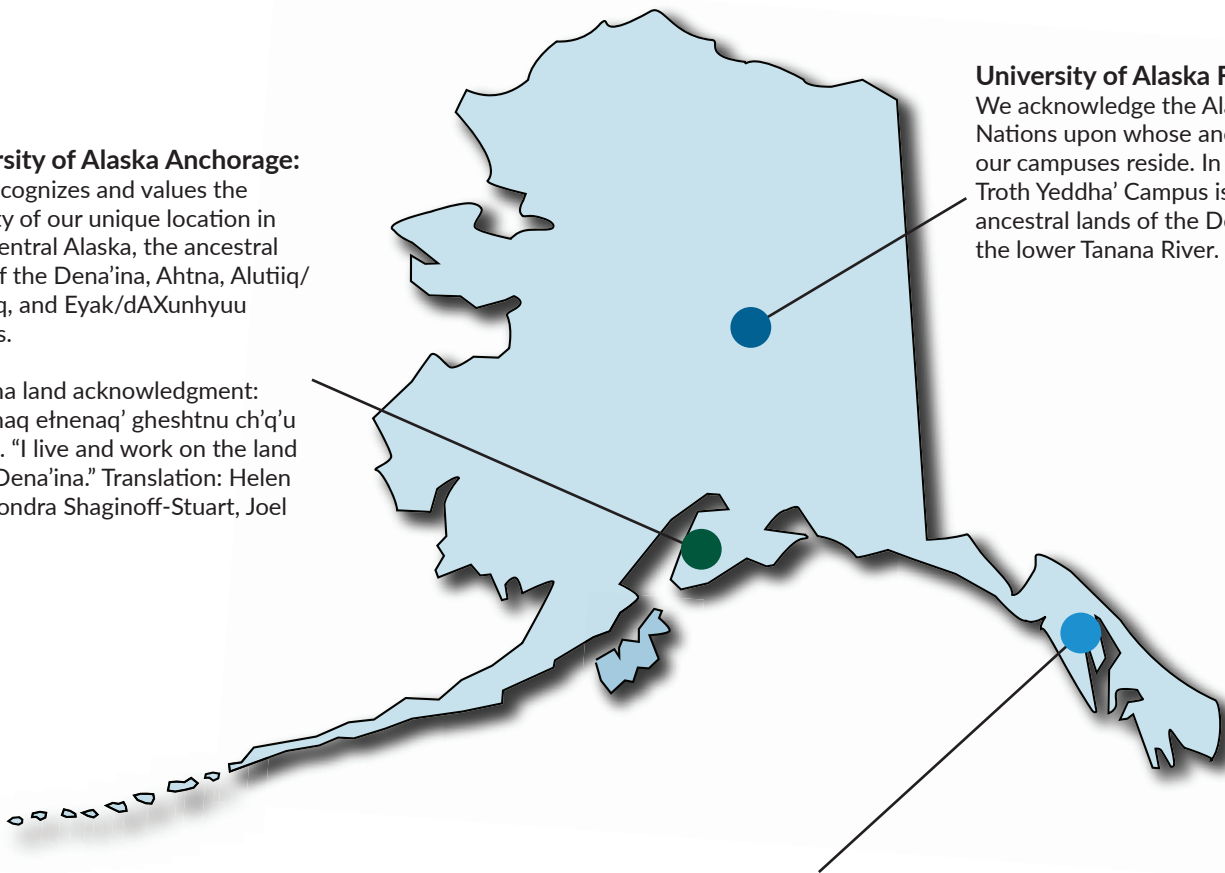
University of Alaska Anchorage:

UAA recognizes and values the diversity of our unique location in Southcentral Alaska, the ancestral lands of the Dena'ina, Ahtna, Alutiiq/Sugpiaq, and Eyak/dAXunhyuu Peoples.

Dena'ina land acknowledgment:
Dena'inaq e'nenaq' gheshtnu ch'q'u yeshdu. "I live and work on the land of the Dena'ina." Translation: Helen Dick, Sondra Shaginoff-Stuart, Joel Isaak.

University of Alaska Fairbanks:

We acknowledge the Alaska Native Nations upon whose ancestral lands our campuses reside. In Fairbanks, our Troth Yeddha' Campus is located on the ancestral lands of the Dena people of the lower Tanana River.



University of Alaska Southeast:

Our campuses reside on the unceded territories of the Áak'w K̄wáan, Taant'á K̄wáan, and Sheet'ká K̄wáan on Lingít Aaní, also known as Juneau, Ketchikan, and Sitka Alaska, adjacent to the ancestral home of the X̄aad̄as and Ts'̄msyen peoples.



Letter from the President

Dear AFN Delegates and Attendees,

I'm pleased to share the third annual report on the Alaska Native Success Initiative (ANSI) at the University of Alaska (UA). As an institution, we are empowering Alaska, and creating opportunities for future generations of Indigenous people. I'm proud of our efforts.



The theme of the report this year is “The Stories to be Told,” which highlights how our efforts across the system through ANSI are laying the groundwork for the yet-to-be-known successes of Indigenous People statewide. From community events to middle college, to certificates up through baccalaureate, graduate, and doctoral degrees, UA is proud to partner with Indigenous People and communities to create stories of success.

In December 2023, we brought on Kristel Komakhuk (Alutiiq and Inupiaq) as our Senior Director of Alaska Native Success & Partnerships. In addition to supporting the implementation of the ANSI Strategic Plan, Kristel is also focused on strengthening relationships between UA and Alaska Native partners—that's all of you. I'd encourage you to connect with her if you haven't yet.

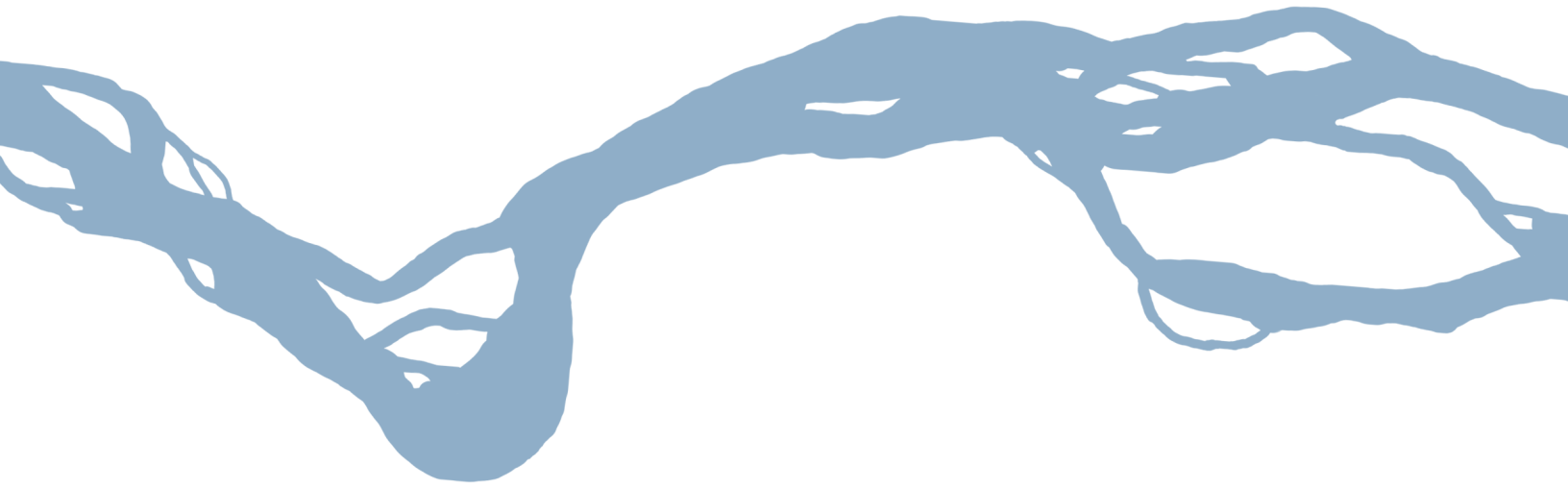
Also this summer, the UA Board of Regents voted unanimously to rename the College of Rural and Community Development to establish the nation's first College of Indigenous Studies at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF). Construction of a new home for the college—the Troth Yeddha' Indigenous Studies Center—is the system's top fundraising priority, and over \$5.5 million of the needed \$53 million has been raised so far.

UA remains a distinguished place of Alaska Native and Indigenous excellence. Programs like the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP) at the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) — now led by Dr. Matt Calhoun, one of the first graduates from the program — and Preparing Indigenous Teachers & Administrators for Alaska Schools (PITAAS) at the University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) — which prepares Indigenous teachers and administrators for K-12 schools statewide — are making a meaningful difference in countless lives.

UA leadership and the Board of Regents will continue endeavors to meet our ANSI goals by 2027. Please accept my sincerest thanks on behalf of all our institutions. We are honored to work with you and create opportunities to write the Stories to be Told.

Sincerely,

Pat Pitney
President, University of Alaska



Alaska Native Success Initiative Leads: Alaska Native Women Guiding Our Universities

These Alaska Native Women lead the Alaska Native Success Initiative at our universities and System Office, and have made access and accessibility for Indigenous people at UA a priority:



Memry Dahl

UA Chief Human Resources Officer & Senior Advisor for Alaska Native Success
madahl@alaska.edu | 907-450-8255



Kristel Komakhuk

UA Senior Director of Alaska Native Success & Partnerships
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Dr. Michele Yatchmeneff

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michele@alaska.edu | 907-786-1853



Dr. Jessica Black

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RONALDA CADIENTE BROWN

UAS Associate Vice Chancellor for Alaska Native Programs & Director, PITAAS
rcadientebrown@alaska.edu | 907-796-6058

The Alaska Native Success Initiative - 2024 Highlights



Guided by each university’s mission, these priorities place people at the center of all actions.

Throughout this initiative, UAA, UAF, and UAS developed university-specific plans to inform the selection of systemwide goals. By identifying shared goals at the System Office, UAA, UAF, and UAS, the Alaska Native Success Initiative unifies the Alaska Native voice throughout our communities across the state.

Develop and Implement Racial Equity & Cultural Safety Training

Commit to develop and implement a systemwide training module on racial equity and cultural safety, being responsive to Alaska Native cultures.

In 2023, the UA System Office hosted a training entitled, “Indigenous Peoples & Diversity Best Practices.” Building upon the premise to conduct even more racial equity and cultural safety training, UA is incorporating an inclusivity pathway in the upcoming supervisor pathway for leadership development to include, but not limited to, “Becoming an Ally to All,” “Driving Change and Anti-Racism,” “Developing Cross-Cultural Intelligence,” and “Strategies to Foster Inclusive Language at Work.”

In 2024, a training developed around the Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC) video, “[Our Future Ancestors: A Story of Education in Alaska](#),” is being developed and will be conducted. The video debuted at the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) Convention in 2023, and the goal of the training is to educate participants about how history impacts and influences Alaska’s Native Peoples’ education systems from the past to the present day.

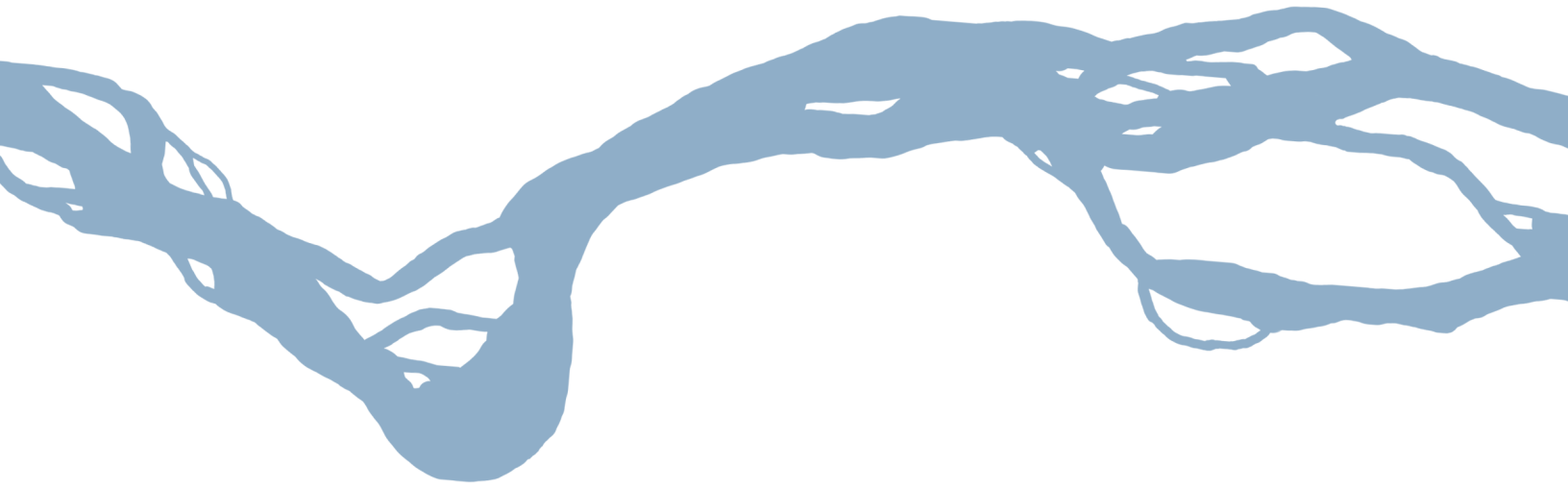
Increase Alaska Native Visual Representation

Commit to send intentional messaging of ANSI to amplify and support the universities’ work to strengthen a sense of place through art, signage, and other visible media. (See pages 6-8 for examples.)

Publish an Annual Report on Alaska Native Success

Commit to publish an annual report on Alaska Native success at UA, to capture qualitative and quantitative measures, to ensure transparency and accessibility.

2024 marks the third edition of this report, provided to AFN leadership, attendees, and delegates in recognition of our support and partnership. As the initiative has progressed, the report will continue to grow to include additional metrics, information, and highlights of Alaska Native and Indigenous excellence at UA.



Increase Awareness of Institutional Change in Messaging

Commit to promote ANSI efforts and progress, and work with each university to share successes within the university system and greater Alaska community.

All three universities continue to support and expand their programs and academic offerings emphasizing Alaska Native and Indigenous knowledge, including new programs and certificates in Alaska Native Business Management, Arts, Languages, and other studies.

UAF's College of Rural and Community Development also became the College of Indigenous Studies in May 2024. This is the first such college in the nation, and will help set UA apart as a center of national Indigenous excellence. The UA System has integrated the Alaska Native Success Initiative into strategic plans, ranging from facilities to accreditation planning, to make Indigenous education and accessibility an embedded and ongoing part of our universities.



Establish a Cabinet-level Alaska Native Position within the Office of the President

Create an executive-level position to support Alaska Native success, with the goal of building a sustainable and functional department.

Following an extensive search process, Kristel Komakhuk joined UA's leadership team as Senior Director of Alaska Native Success & Partnerships on December 4, 2023. Kristel is of Alutiiq and Inupiaq descent, and was born and raised in Anchorage on Dena'ina Athabascan land. Her maternal family is from Tatitlek, and her paternal family is from the Nome area; her Grandma would identify from her home fish camp in Solomon. A first-generation graduate on both sides of her family, she is a proud UA alum, holding a B.B.A. in Business Management from UAA.

Before joining UA, Kristel worked at the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) as the Alaska Pacific University (APU) Senior Liaison for Development and External Relationships. In that role, she aided APU in its journey toward Indigenization by developing and maintaining relationships, and liaising with external entities. She's also served on Shell Exploration & Production Company's stakeholder management team, and as the Development Director at First Alaskans Institute. Kristel's background of making positive, meaningful impacts in our communities by bridging projects and campaigns across a broad suite of industries with Indigenous stakeholders makes her the perfect fit for this role.

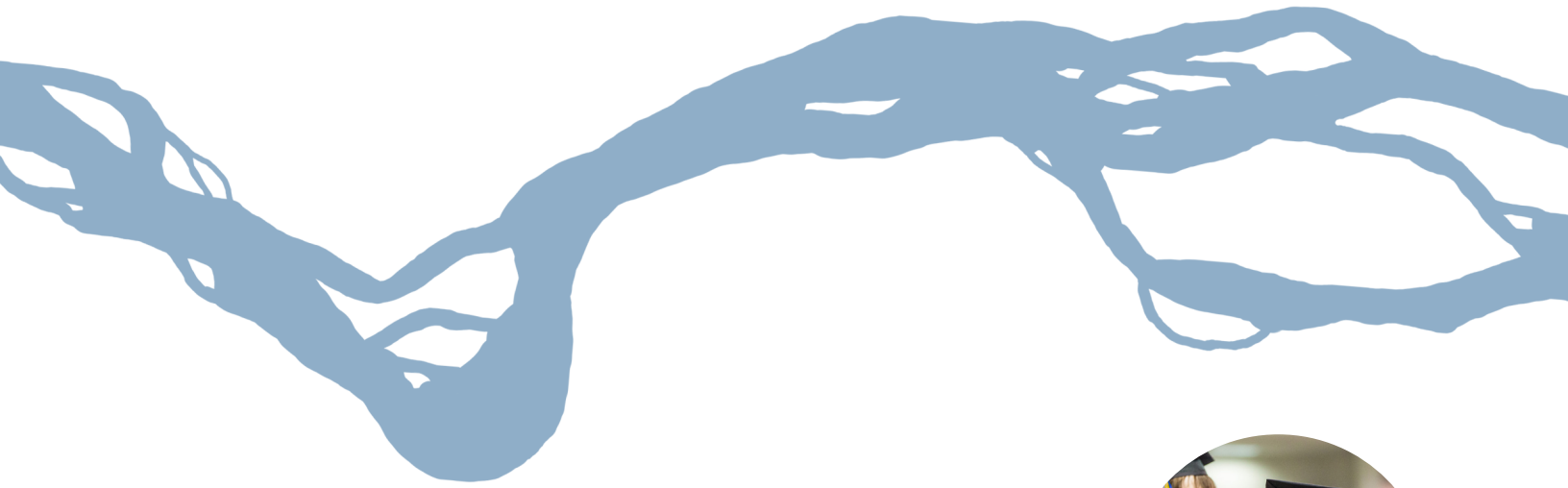
In addition, UA Chief Human Resources Officer Memry Dahl continues to serve as President Pitney's Senior Advisor for Alaska Native Success, working closely with Kirstel and the ANSI leads at each university to advance progress for Indigenous People across the system.

University of Alaska Anchorage:

The University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) works to implement Alaska Native Success into the fabric of everything we do. Alaska Native academic programs provide an in-depth perspective on contemporary languages, cultures, history, politics, art, government, and corporations. Similarly, Alaska Native student support programs provide centers for belonging across the institution. Indigenous faculty are increasing the number of academic programs we offer at UAA!



- Professors Panigkaq Agatha John-Shields and Ginger Blackmon at UAA launched courses on Indigenizing Education within its School of Education to help administrators and teachers implement Indigenous educational methods in their classrooms.
- UAA's Human Services department supports students seeking to earn an Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) occupational endorsement certificate. They and professor Jessica Ross developed the Nughejagh Project to preserve and share Alaska Native culturally responsive and trauma-informed (CRTI) health practices with Alaska Tribal health organizations.
- The Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program (ANSEP) partnered with the Baird Foundation to help catapult ANSEP Business, supporting our students in obtaining degrees within the College of Business and Public Policy and our Alaska Native Business Management program. ANSEP also celebrated its largest-ever graduating class of full-time Acceleration Academy students. 52 students from communities across the state - including Anchorage, Matanuska-Susitna, Bethel, and Kotzebue - earned their high school diplomas and an impressive total of 3,336 college credits.
- UAA received \$46M from the Department of Homeland Security for its Arctic Domain Awareness Center for Addressing Rapid Changes through Technology, Innovation, and Collaboration or ADAC-ARCTIC. Its mission is to create tools, technologies, knowledge products, and highly qualified persons to serve the Homeland Security Enterprise to improve Arctic homeland security. Each research project incorporates Indigenous Knowledge through its Indigenous Elder, Knowledge Keeper, and Leadership-In-Residence educational project.
- Alaska Native Art classes teach our students about Indigenous Alaskan art history, skills, methodologies, and traditions with renowned Alutiiq/Sugpiaq artist, June Pardue. The art classes made snow goggles, carved masks, weaved baskets, dolls, tanned fish skins, beaded pouches, alcohol ink paintings, and much more.
- UAA's Alaska Native Studies has partnered with The Aleut Foundation to support its shareholders and descendants in taking Unangam Tunuu language courses. Alaska Native Studies, with Alaska Native Business Management Program, held a 2-day gathering on *Alaska Native Values in Modern Governance*.



University of Alaska Fairbanks:

The University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) has continued advancing towards our strategic goal of “strengthening our position as a global leader in Alaska Native and Indigenous Studies.”



- The future Troth Yeddha’ Indigenous Studies Center remains our #1 capital priority. As we work towards completion of the design and advance to construction, this facility will serve as a flagship for integrating education, learning, and research, which engages Indigenous knowledge in solving global issues across the Arctic.
- Tamanta, a graduate program focused on elevating and integrating Indigenous knowledge with Western science, is now in its fifth year with 19 fellows. These fellows are changing the landscape of their classes and the entities they work with. In August, our first Tamanta fellow, Dr. Janessa Esquible (Ojibwe, Walpole Island Band), defended her dissertation titled *Salmon Stewardship and Indigenous Livelihoods: Bridging Knowledge Stems and Reshaping Research Relationality in the Kuskokwim Region of Southwestern Alaska*.
- The Center for One Health Research (COHR) also came under the College of Indigenous Studies in 2023. The UAF COHR seeks to engage participants from UAF, Alaska, and the circumpolar North to collaborate on building multidisciplinary research programs that integrate person, environment, and animal health. In particular, the COHR seeks to partner with tribes and tribal organizations on health-related research. This year, the COHR came under the leadership of Dr. Alisa Alexander, a Vuntut Gwich’in and Medical Doctor who has extensive experience in tribal health and cultivating community and tribal partnerships. Her research spans the intersections of public, environmental, and animal health, emphasizing food security and sovereignty, climate change, human health, and collaborations with Indigenous communities. Also, the COHR brought on Dr. Jordan P. Lewis, an Aleut/Sugpiaq from Naknek and a trained Cross-Cultural Psychologist and Gerontologist. Lewis brings vast experience and funding to UAF in Gerontology and community-based research. His research looks at what it means to age in a healthy way, especially as it relates to Alaska Native Peoples.
- UAF’s Rural Alaska Honors Institute (RAHI) celebrated its 42nd year this past summer, with all 52 students completing the six-week program. This year’s cohort, which came from 39 communities across the state, earned 485 credits (9.33 average) with an average GPA of 3.59. Thirty-eight students (73%) earned academic honors (3.5 GPA or higher). Since the program started in 1983, 1,948 students have graduated from RAHI and earned more than 1,450 credentials ranging from certificates to PhDs.



University of Alaska Southeast:

The University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) educational landscape enhances learning opportunities by weaving in this region's environment, industry, and economic priorities.



- The new Environmental Sciences building officially opened in the fall of 2024. Faculty and staff's vision for the new learning space is amplified by the selected name Áak'w Ta Hit: House at the Head of the Little Lake. Its Tlingit name builds on the historic significance of responsible stewardship of the land with care and responsibility.
- UAS is grateful for the innovative partnership with Sealaska Heritage Institute. Northwest Coast Arts and Indigenizing Education for Alaska Schools provide faculty, instruction, professional development, and student support. The Juneau campus hosted a range of spring and summer opportunities, including space for culturally rich high school camps and a convening of educators for its annual conference.
- The School of Education 2024 Educational Leadership degree program wrapped up in June 2024 and included almost 50% Indigenous Alaska Native graduates with high career preparation and readiness for Alaska K-12 schools. Additionally, UAS School of Education, in collaboration with Arts & Sciences and the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED), is developing a Master of Arts in Teaching Indigenous Languages Studies course sequence of study leading to a professional teaching certificate.
- The new Career Services website, launched in August, is designed to provide students and alumni with improved access to services and highlight Alaskan statewide and regional employment opportunities.
- The Native & Rural Student Center (NRSC) embodies its theme "A home away from home." Its reach includes networking with faculty, campus-wide events including Community Feast, career development, and networking with community agencies in support of students. In the past year the NRSC expanded its reach by hosting student clubs, including NYO, Wooch.een, sewing and beading clubs.

University-specific ANSI Action Plans

Each university has an action plan to address and overcome challenges and institute the changes we want to see to address the equity gaps in the data on our Native students, and increase the diversity of our entire system. The more integrated we are -- the more diversity that we have in all of our programs -- the stronger we become. View the plans at www.alaska.edu/redis/ansi/index.php



2024 Stories of

Honorary Doctorate Recipient - Della Sdaahk'awaás Cheney

Master weaver and Indigenous knowledge bearer Della Sdaahk'awaás Cheney received an honorary UAS Doctor of Fine Arts degree this spring. Born and raised in Kake, she learned the art of weaving and the importance of sharing traditional knowledge from her grandmother. Cheney has practiced and taught weaving for decades, combining ancestral wisdom with contemporary concerns about environmental stewardship. She has documented her knowledge through photos and videos, and in 2017 published a book, *Weaving Our World*. Cheney has received many awards, including the Alaska Federation of Natives' Culture Bearer Award, the Juneau Arts and Humanities Council's Mayor's Award, and the President's Everyday Hero Award from the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. She was executive secretary in the Office of the Governor, tribal administrator for the Qutekcak Native Tribe, cultural educator at Floyd Dryden Middle School, and external relations coordinator for Sheldon Jackson College. She also completed the Community Fellows Program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



Faculty - ANSEP Director Matt Calhoun



Matt Calhoun, PhD (Deg Xit'an Athabaskan) was selected as the new full-time executive director of the Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program (ANSEP) earlier this year. A graduate of ANSEP, former program assistant director, and associate professor of civil engineering at UAA, Calhoun had led ANSEP as interim executive director since spring 2023.

Calhoun credits ANSEP as essential to his academic and professional success. In 2002, he became one of the first students to graduate with ANSEP after earning a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from UAA. After working as a project/field engineer across Alaska, he returned to ANSEP as a director to inspire more Alaska Native students to pursue an education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Fully committed to his passion for education and educational equity, Calhoun decided to obtain a master's degree in civil engineering, which he earned from the University of Colorado at Boulder, then followed by a PhD in civil engineering from UAF. Notably, Calhoun was among the first students to earn a doctorate through ANSEP and the first Alaska Native in the world to earn a PhD in civil engineering. In 2015, Calhoun was appointed as assistant director of ANSEP and assistant professor of civil engineering at UAA, making him one of the university's first Alaska Native tenure-track engineering faculty members.



Indigenous Excellence

UAA Student: Michael Martinez

Michael A. Martinez is a PhD Chemistry student at the University of Alaska (Fairbanks/Anchorage) and an ANSEP student. His research focuses on extracting and separating Rare Earth Elements, which are used in advanced technologies such as medicine, electronics, and magnets. He obtained his B.S. in Chemistry from UAA and works with Dr. Brandon Briggs' Lab Rare Earth Team. Martinez is a tribal member of the Village of Kotlik in Alaska and is Otomi. In 2021, he was recognized as a next-generation inventor at the National Academy of Inventors conference. He is determined to see Alaska, an Arctic state, as a key contributor to global innovation and novel technology production.



UAF Student: Janessa Esquible

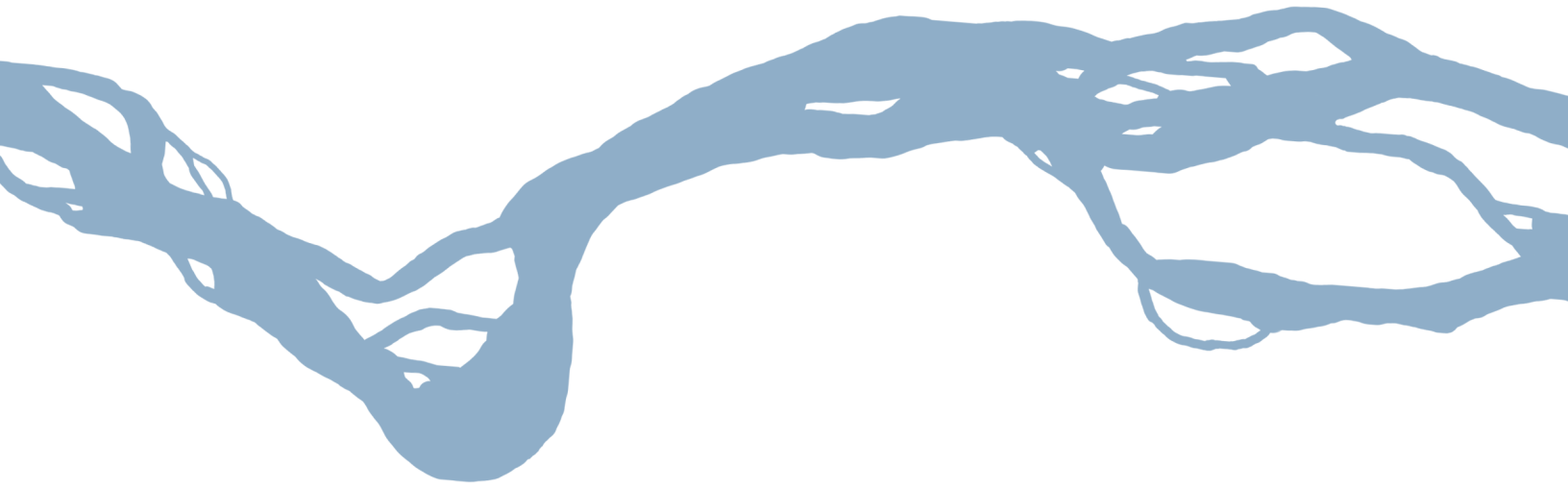
Janessa Esquible (Ziibi) grew up in Anishinaabe territory in southeastern Michigan, and moved to Alaska in 2014. Esquible is a Tamamta fellow (tamamta.org) and defended her dissertation on August 27, 2024. Her work and research have brought her all over Alaska to gather Indigenous knowledge that can help address the inequities in salmon science and management. Her goal is to continue working with the Kuskokwim Region in some capacity through the Association of Village Council Presidents, and eventually return back home to Michigan to serve the Great Lakes Tribes and Nations once she graduates.



UAS Alumni: Michael Hoyt

Michael Hoyt is a Preparing Indigenous Teachers & Administrators for Alaska Schools (PITAAS) Program participant and UAS graduate living in Wrangell. Hoyt was unsure about his future in teaching until he heard about the PITAAS Program, which allowed him to return to school to get his master's. He has taught in classrooms throughout Alaska, like Juneau, Nome, Wrangell, and more. His passion lies in administration - he aims to become a superintendent one day so he can make an even more significant impact on Indigenous students. He is a long-distance biker, having ridden around Iceland, from Alaska to San Francisco and more. This passion has led him to be the Activities Director at Wrangell Public Schools, where he also teaches. He is also very involved in his community as one of the youngest Tlingit Clan Leaders ever and is currently tasked with helping carve new totem poles for the city.





Resources for Current/Prospective Students

Scholarship Support

Across the UA System, 35 scholarships have a preference for or are limited to students from Federally recognized tribes, which have awarded nearly \$750,000 in financial aid. See the full list at alaska.edu/redis/ansi/fin-aid.php.



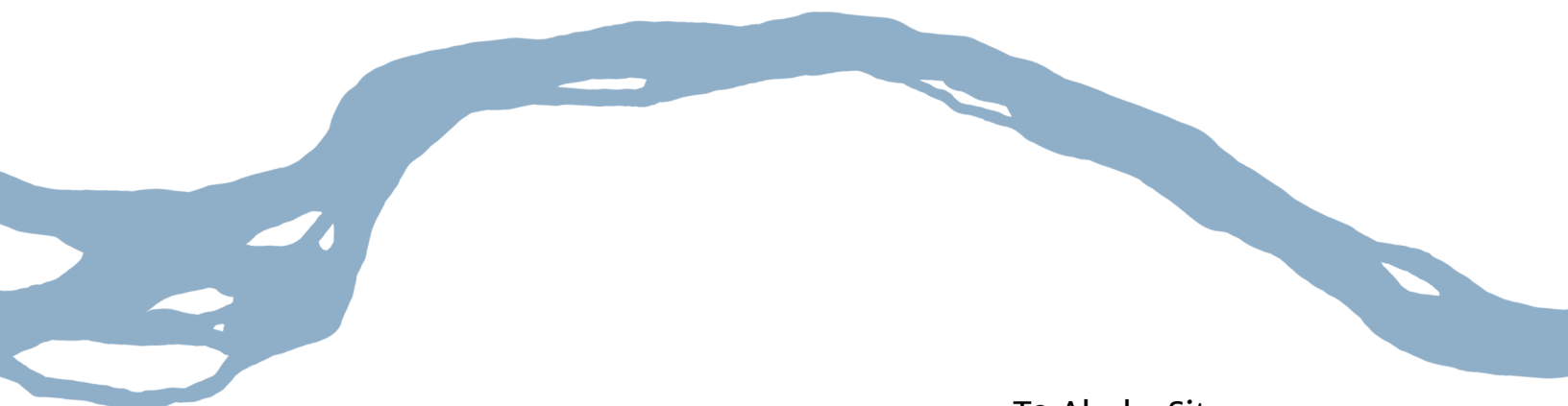
View scholarships

Expanding Student Support Services

UAA reopened the Della Keats program, which brings junior and senior high school students on campus during the summer to live and participate in medical and healthcare professional job shadowing. The Alaska Traditional Kitchen was also launched, which promotes traditional foods, stories, and Alaska Native Ways of Knowing. UAA's Alaska Native, Indigenous & Rural Outreach Program (ANIROP) continues to partner with the Alaska Native Heritage Center to co-host cultural programming within the Unguwat Club, which means "coming together for a purpose" in Sugpiaq. UAA is also working to build an Alaska Native Gathering Space to serve all students, employees, and community members.

UAF is committed to providing holistic student support services, which include a focus on wellness and cultural outreach. To enhance these efforts, UAF has hired two dedicated staff members: Taniesha Moses and Siqiñiq Maupin, both UAF graduates. Taniesha was brought on board in 2021 as the Indigenous Wellness and Outreach Coordinator, and Siqiñiq joined in Fall 2024 as the Indigenous Wellness Advocate. Together, they bring a wealth of experience and have profoundly impacted our students by offering wellness activities, personal coaching, overall support, and positive affirmations. While Siqiñiq will work on the Troth Yeddha' campus, she will also extend her reach to rural campuses, providing guidance and wellness activities to students across Alaska.

UAS launched a new Virtual Career Center! UAS has built a new web-based platform for students to explore career opportunities, connect with employers, and effortlessly access career resources of Southeast Alaska and beyond, promote faculty connection with employment in specialized fields, and access to career readiness opportunities. Coaching Services will be piloted this year by the ANSI Retention Specialist. This service will assist students in defining their educational goals and interests and networking with external and internal resources to impact student retention positively.



T3 Alaska Sites

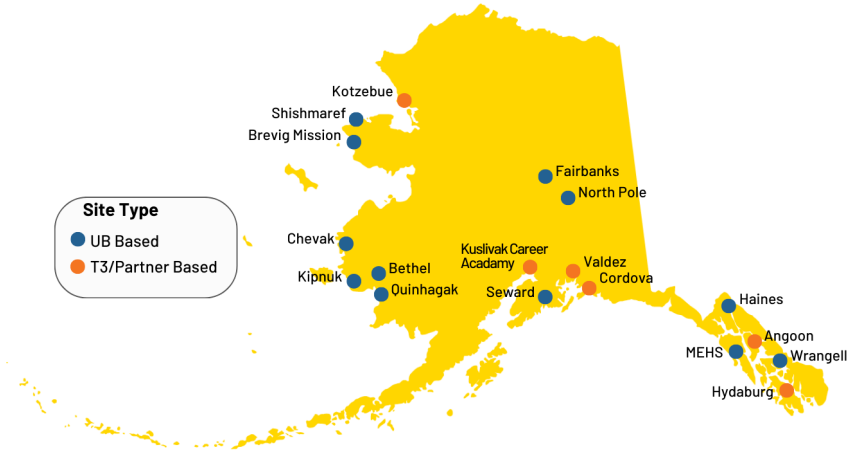
T3 Alaska - When students flourish our communities are stronger

The Teaching Through Technology Alaska program, T3 Alaska, is an alliance of students, educators, and community partners who are dedicated to collaboration, empathy, and equity in learning.

In high school, T3 Alaska students explore STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics) studies through focused curriculum, problem-based learning, and service projects relevant to their communities.

In post-secondary education, T3 Alaska connects students with community partners' research, career, and internship opportunities. Statewide, T3 Alaska students gain access to curricula, mentorship, peer and professional networks, training workshops, travel opportunities, project funding, and STEAM technology. 75% of T3 students are American Indian/Alaska Native, and 44% are low-income and first-generation.

The T3 Alliance Alaska program is open to all students at participating schools. Learn more at t3.alaska.edu.

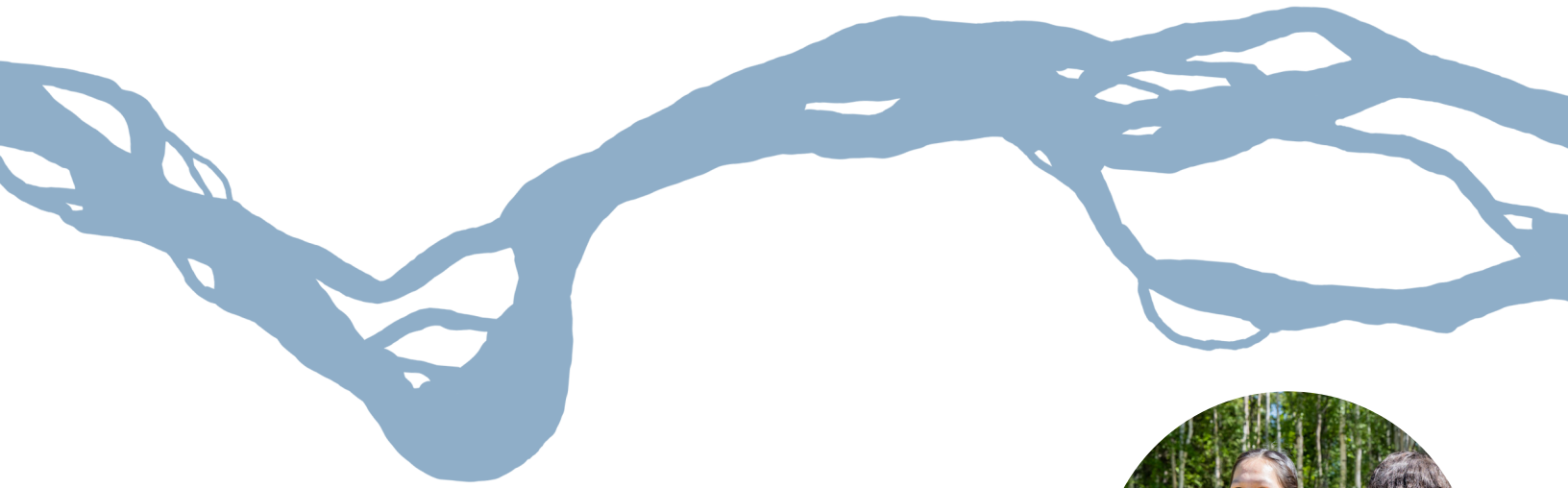


ANC Direct Support

As of fiscal year 2021-2022, 42 Alaska Native corporations and organizations from across the state donated \$16,767,078.21 in direct revenue to the University of Alaska.

Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program (ANSEP)

ANSEP started as a college scholarship program in 1995 and has grown to include a middle college component through its Acceleration Academies, in addition to hands-on science programs for kindergarten through graduate studies and PhDs. ANSEP's holistic approach consistently outperforms national and state success rates, inspiring students from over 100 Alaskan communities. ANSEP has proven how effective early exposure to challenging STEM curriculum is for improving educational outcomes. In 2023, every ANSEP component experienced record-breaking student participation, reflecting a surge in engagement and influence across educational levels. Learn more at www.ansep.net.



Rural Alaska Honors Institute (RAHI)

Established at the request of the Alaska Federation of Natives, RAHI has been preparing rural and Alaska Native high school students for academic excellence and college success since 1983. RAHI is a competitive program that gives rural and Alaska Native students a chance to discover what it's like to be a college student.



For six weeks, students live in dorms on UAF's Troth Yeddha' campus, take an average of nine college credits, explore interior Alaska through various outdoor activities, and volunteer in the Fairbanks community. This year marked RAHI's 42nd anniversary, and since the program started, 1,948 students have graduated from RAHI and earned more than 1,450 credentials ranging from certificates to PhDs. Learn more and apply at uaf.edu/rahi.

Preparing Indigenous Teachers and Administrators for Alaska Schools (PITAAS)

Alaska is diverse, and so are our educators. The PITAAS program is a scholarship housed at UAS that supports students who are members of federally recognized tribes in Alaska and who want to become teachers and administrators in Alaska's schools. A total of 267 degrees and certificates and five superintendent endorsements were awarded to 172 Alaska Native students with PITAAS scholarship support. PITAAS graduates are serving in 57 communities across Alaska.



Thanks to PITAAS support in academic year 2024, 50% of the M.Ed in Educational Leadership program graduates at UAS were Indigenous. The M.Ed. program prepares candidates to become school administrators in Alaska, equipping future leaders with the skills necessary to excel in both rural and urban districts, and addressing the unique challenges of the state's educational landscape.

Where We Are Now (Data & Metrics)

The following data sets illustrate the most recent reports of Indigenous students, faculty, staff, and executive populations. These provide UA with accountability and historical baselines to measure progress.



Students of Indigenous Heritage*

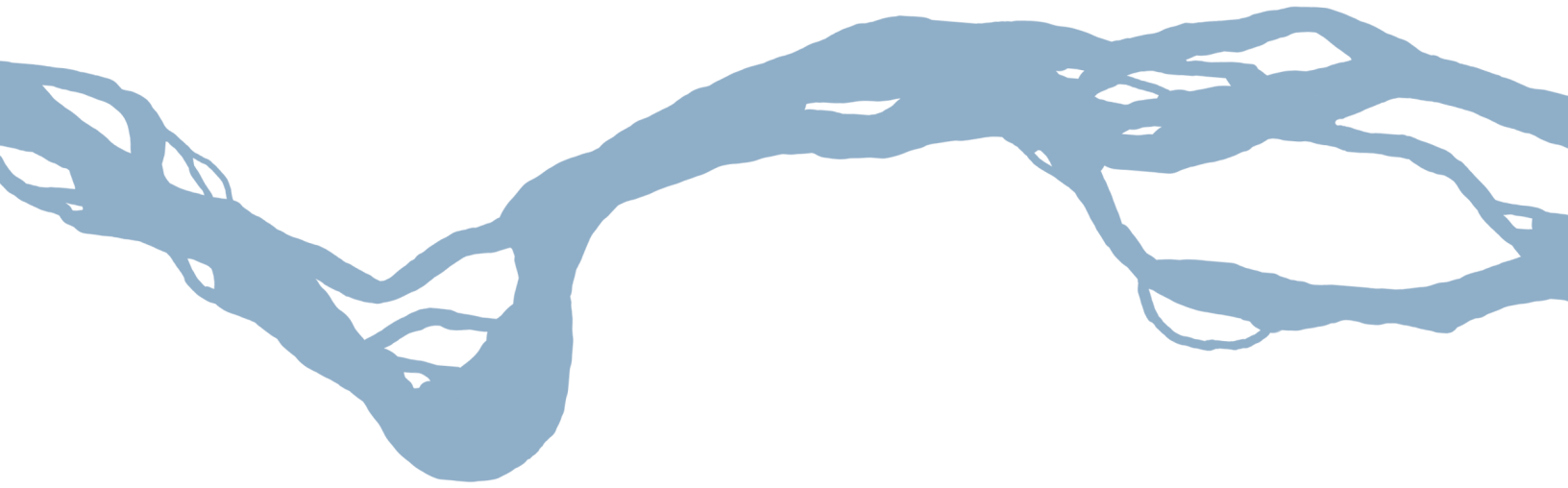
| Measure | FY19 | FY20 | FY21 | FY22 | FY23 | FY24 |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Increase Indigenous student # as a % of total | | | | | | |
| University of Alaska Anchorage | 12.6% | 12.3% | 11.4% | 11.9% | 11.3% | 11.0% |
| University of Alaska Fairbanks | 21.0% | 21.0% | 19.7% | 20.9% | 20.3% | 20.2% |
| University of Alaska Southeast | 21.2% | 21.1% | 20.4% | 22.8% | 21.0% | 22.6% |
| University of Alaska System Total | 16.0% | 15.9% | 15.1% | 16.2% | 15.6% | 15.3% |

Graduate Students of Indigenous Heritage*

| Measure | FY19 | FY20 | FY21 | FY22 | FY23 | FY24 |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Increase Indigenous Graduate Level student # and as a % of total | | | | | | |
| University of Alaska Anchorage | 11.0% | 12.7% | 12.3% | 11.4% | 9.0% | 9.7% |
| University of Alaska Fairbanks | 11.2% | 11.2% | 11.4% | 10.7% | 11.3% | 13.1% |
| University of Alaska Southeast | 11.1% | 10.9% | 9.5% | 12.0% | 12.6% | 14.2% |
| University of Alaska System Total | 10.7% | 11.4% | 11.5% | 10.9% | 10.7% | 12.3% |

6-Year Graduation Rate (Any Award) for All Indigenous Undergraduate Degree-/Certificate-Seeking First-time Freshmen**

| Measure | FY19 | FY20 | FY21 | FY22 | FY23 | FY24 |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Undergraduate Degree-Seeking Indigenous First-Time, Full-Time Freshman Six-Year Graduation Rates | | | | | | |
| University of Alaska Anchorage | 22.1% | 16.0% | 16.0% | 15.4% | 16.5% | 17.0% |
| University of Alaska Fairbanks | 20.0% | 28.4% | 19.1% | 26.9% | 23.2% | 25.0% |
| University of Alaska Southeast | 7.1% | 9.4% | 19.2% | 11.1% | 32.4% | 20.9% |
| University of Alaska System Total | 22.7% | 23.1% | 18.7% | 21.1% | 21.9% | 21.0% |



Faculty of Indigenous Heritage*

| Measure | FY19 | FY20 | FY21 | FY22 | FY23 | FY24 |
|-----------------------------------|-------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| % of Indigenous faculty | | | | | | |
| University of Alaska Anchorage | 6.3% | 6.4% | 6.0% | 6.1% | 6.2% | 6.9% |
| University of Alaska Fairbanks | 5.11% | 5.8% | 5.4% | 5.8% | 6.3% | 7.4% |
| University of Alaska Southeast | 5.1% | 7.3% | 6.8% | 7.4% | 8.4% | 10.6% |
| University of Alaska System Total | 5.8% | 6.2% | 5.8% | 6.1% | 6.5% | 7.5% |

Staff of Indigenous Heritage*

| Measure | FY19 | FY20 | FY21 | FY22 | FY23 | FY24 |
|--|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|------|
| % of Indigenous staff | | | | | | |
| University of Alaska Anchorage | 7.8% | 8.2% | 7.5% | 7.7% | 9.7% | 9.5% |
| University of Alaska Fairbanks | 9.7% | 9.9% | 9.7% | 9.5% | 9.0% | 9.1% |
| University of Alaska Southeast | 14.0% | 11.8% | 11.1% | 8.4% | 10.7% | 8.8% |
| UA System Office Enterprise Entities | 6.1% | 7.1% | 5.2% | 6.1% | 8.6% | 8.1% |
| University of Alaska System Total | 9.1% | 23.1% | 8.7% | 8.5% | 9.3% | 9.2% |

*Those who self-identify as having at least some Indigenous heritage.

**Most recent national average 150% baccalaureate graduation rate data by race and institution type is for fall 2015 cohort, for students graduating by FY22. Source: [National Center for Education Statistics](#).

Minority Serving Institution Status

Each of our universities holds a designation of Minority Serving Institution. UAA is a Strengthening Institutions Program grant recipient which is based on the proportion of low-income students served, and UAF & UAS are Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions as well as Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions.

Indigenous Languages Currently Taught

University of Alaska Anchorage

Visit uaa.alaska.edu/academics/college-of-arts-and-sciences/departments/alaska-native-studies for more information.

- Ahtna - online
- Alutiiq - online via Kodiak College
- Sugpiaq - online via Kodiak College
- Dena'ina - online
- Inupiaq - online
- Yup'ik (Central) - online via Kenai Peninsula College
- Tlingit - Anchorage
- Unangam Tunuu - online

University of Alaska Fairbanks

Visit www.uaf.edu/anlc/languages-move/languages.php for more information.

- Dene/Athabascan
- Lower Tanana Athabascan
- Upper Tanana Athabascan
- Gwich'in
- Inupiaq
- Yup'ik

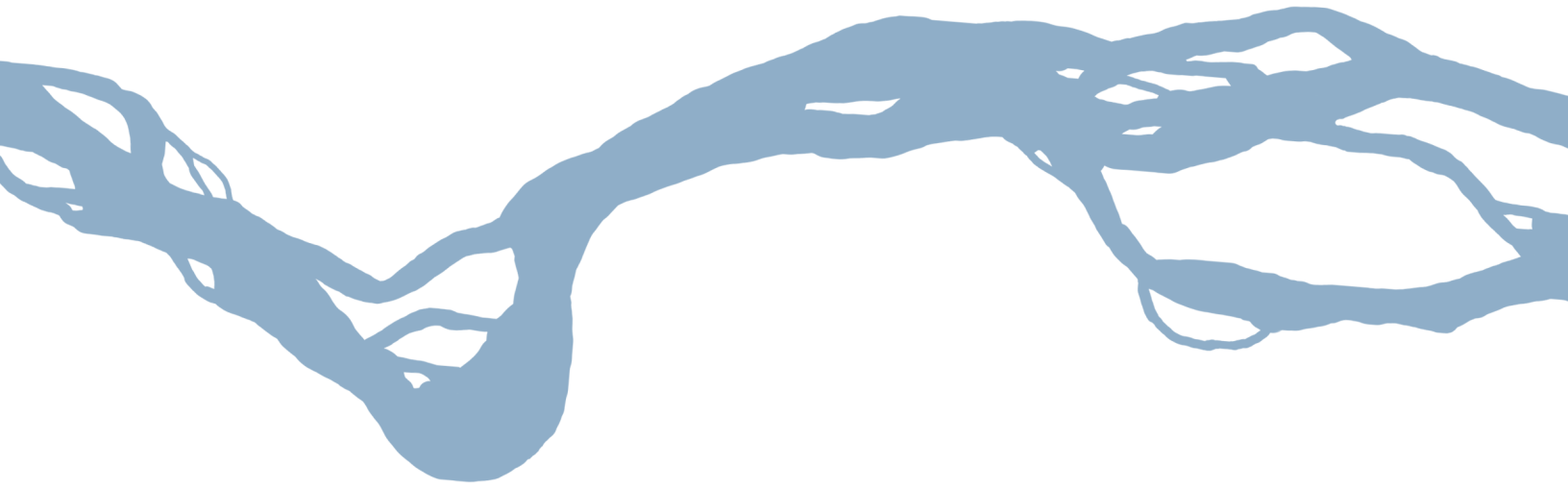
University of Alaska Southeast

Visit uas.alaska.edu/apply/programs/alaska-native-northwest-coast.html for more information.

- Xaad Kíl (Haida)
- Sm'algyax (Tsimshian)
- Lingít yoo X'atáŋgi (Tlingit Language)

Alaska is home to at least 20 Native languages belonging to four distinct language families. As the term implies, a language family is a group of languages descended from a common ancestor. Language relationships are often represented on a language map. The standard map of Alaska Native languages, Michael Krauss' Native Peoples and Languages of Alaska (1974, revised 1982), shows language relationships as shades of colors.





Indigenous Language Instructor Spotlights

UAA: Maria Arnaq Meade

Marie Arnaq Meade was born and raised in Nunapiciaq. She helped found the Alaska Native Studies program at UAA in 1993 and teaches Yup'ik (Central) Language, Dance, and Orthography courses. She is also the author of many books on Yup'ik Culture and Peoples, including *Yup'ik Words of Wisdom: Yupiit Qanruyutait*, and is a 2015 inductee to the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame.



UAF: Bruce Ervin

Bruce Ervin is from Northway, Alaska, and lives in Tok. Bruce is a Term Assistant Professor of Language and Culture at UAF. He teaches the Upper Tanana Language and Dene Arts, such as sewing, caribou tufting, and birch bark baskets. Bruce started working with UAF during the Fall 2022 semester, and began teaching during the Spring 2023 semester. He is a second language learner of the Upper Tanana Dene Language, and he is grateful for his mother, elders, and other relatives and friends who have helped him on his language journey.



UAS: Éedaa Heather Dawn Burge, B.L.A., M.A., PhD, Indigenous Studies

Heather Burge was born in Dallas, Texas, and lived in New Mexico, Arizona, and Southern California before moving to Juneau in 2010 as a teenager. She pursued her Master's and PhD in Vancouver, British Columbia, in 2015 before moving back to Juneau in 2019. Heather began her teaching career as a lecturer for Simon Fraser University, teaching an introduction to language revitalization course in 2018. In 2020, she was hired as an adjunct at the University of Alaska Southeast to teach Lingít before becoming a term assistant professor in 2021. She has been a tenure track assistant professor of Alaska Native Languages since 2023. She teaches Lingít, language revitalization, and Indigenous language teaching courses. Dr. Burge was adopted by Ḡuneiwṯí Marsha Hotch in 2013. She's been learning the Lingít language since 2011, and is also ancestrally Mohawk. Burge is also a UAS graduate and part of the second cohort of students to earn a BLA in Alaska Native Languages & Studies in 2015.

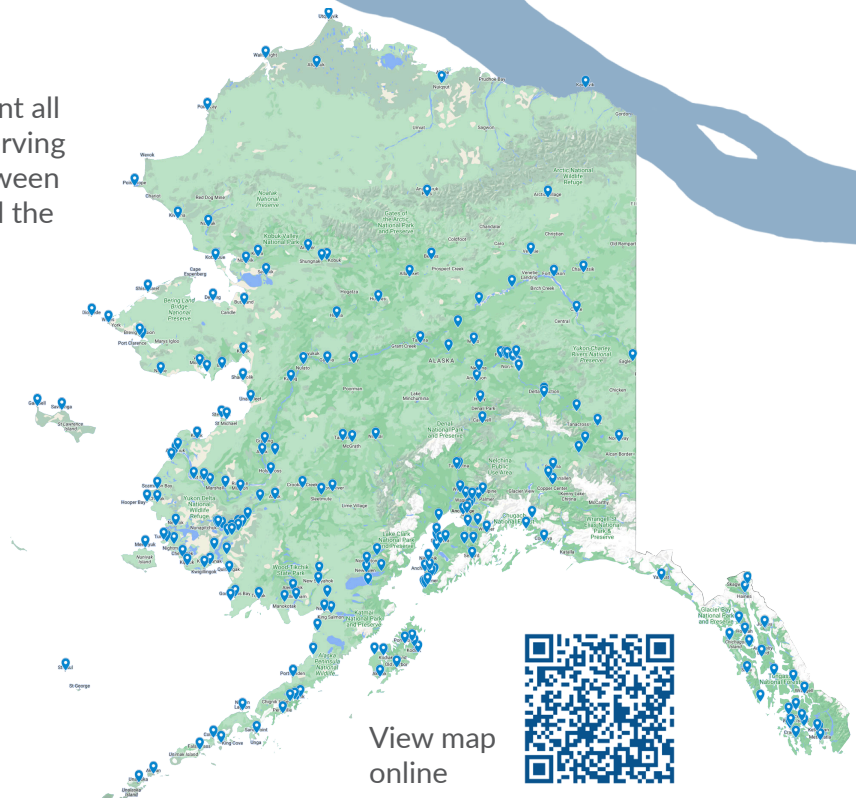


UA Scholars represent all corners of Alaska, serving as ambassadors between their community and the university.

Celebrating 25 Years of UA Scholars

The UA Scholars Award is awarded to the top ten percent of each Alaska high school graduating class.

More than 10,450 students from over 220 Alaska communities have benefited from the UA Scholars Program since 1999. This summer, the UA Scholars Program and Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) expanded eligibility and increased award size. Students eligible for both awards who complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) can receive up to \$43,000 for their college education. APS can now be used for certificates, workforce credentials, and job training. Visit alaska.edu/scholars and acpe.alaska.gov/FINANCIAL-AID/AK-Performance-Scholarship to learn more.



Troth Yedda' Indigenous Studies Center

After the University of Alaska Board of Regents unanimously established the nation's first College of Indigenous Studies in May 2024, construction of a new home for the college - the Troth Yedda' Indigenous Studies Center - is the university's top fundraising priority.



At the direction of UA President Pat Pitney, the goal is to raise \$53 million to construct the Troth Yedda' Indigenous Studies Center on the west ridge of the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus. To date, \$5.5 million has been raised, with construction ideally beginning in 2025.

The Troth Yedda' Indigenous Studies Center is more than just a building; it will be a home away from home for Indigenous students. A place where they feel connected, inspired, and supported as they pursue their educational goals. With a student body that is 24% Alaska Native/American Indian, Troth Yedda' represents UAF's vision and deep commitment to leading the pathway forward in preparing the next generation of Indigenous scholars, researchers, and thought leaders.

Troth Yedda' offers an opportunity to address systemic equity gaps that have historically disadvantaged Indigenous students. Becoming the first-ever College of Indigenous Studies housed within a facility designed by and for Indigenous students is a huge step forward.

To learn more or support this critically important opportunity, please contact Charlene Stern, PhD, Vice Chancellor for Rural, Community & Native Education, University of Alaska Fairbanks: cbstern@alaska.edu or 907-474-1865.

Celebrating Áak'w Tá Hit

University of Alaska Southeast has a new center for environmental science research and student learning. Áak'w Tá Hít, which translates to House at the Head of Áak'w (Bay) in Lingít, opened fall 2024 as an additional home to the Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center, water and soil ecology lab and forest ecology, glaciology, geophysics lab, and geographic information systems (GIS) faculty.

The building is designed to integrate research facilities with faculty offices, classrooms, collaborative spaces and other amenities designed to support and enrich the student experience. It provides an immersive environment for students to live, learn, and be inspired.

“This building stands as a commitment to the vital research conducted by our faculty and its importance in advancing the mission of student learning and success,” said UAS Chancellor Dr. Aparna Palmer.



UNIVERSITY
of ALASKA