

# 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

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

## Alaska Statewide Mentor Project & STARR

**A** SMP is currently in its 21st year of mentoring in Alaska thanks to partnerships with districts. There are many people to thank for supporting this program over the years. We thank district personnel and superintendents for their roles in getting us the names of teachers who qualify for mentoring. They also allow permissions and arrange cost-sharing agreements with us. We thank site administrators for providing transportation, safe lodging, and access to internet for mentors while on site. We thank the teachers who trust the mentors as thought partners during their early career or early Alaska career journey. We thank each of these groups for their feedback so that we can continue to improve our instructional coaching services.

**T**his year we have 15 mentors supporting 135 teachers across Alaska. In addition to supporting early career teachers through the STARR grant, we are supporting as many



ASMP mentors and staff in Fairbanks for Start Up (training/refresher for new and returning mentors).  
Photo: K-12 Outreach Staff.

experienced yet new to Alaska teachers as we can. Next year's implementation of the VINE grant will include mentoring every experienced yet new to Alaska teacher.

**C**ulture Matters. ASMP mentors advocate connecting curriculum to students and building relationships with communities. We continuously review culturally-responsive pedagogy and place-based methodologies. Reciprocity is more than a buzz word. ASMP mentors acknowledge and emphasize the following powerful reciprocal relationships:

- Students teach Teacher
- Teachers teach Students
- Parents inform Teachers
- Teachers learn from students/parents/community

### Lessons learned over 21 years: Relationships matter at all levels.

If you would like to learn more about the Alaska Statewide Mentor Project or other programs, visit our website to contact us: [alaska.edu/asmp](http://alaska.edu/asmp)

*Sue McIntosh, ASMP Program Manager* [uaf-asmpp@alaska.edu](mailto:uaf-asmpp@alaska.edu)



# Educators Rising Alaska

**We're thrilled to celebrate our outstanding students** who competed at the National Conference in June! A special shoutout to those who placed—your hard work and dedication continue to inspire us all.

Looking ahead, we've begun planning for our 2025 Student Leadership Conference, set for February. This year promises exciting workshops, competitions, and opportunities for students to grow as future educators. Stay tuned for more details as the event approaches!

As part of our mission to strengthen student leadership, we're excited to announce a shift in focus this year to provide more robust leadership opportunities for Educators Rising Alaska students across the state. We're committed to empowering students to take on active roles in

their communities and preparing them to be future leaders in education.

**We're excited to introduce our new Educators Rising Alaska Student Officers** for this year:

- **Morgan Carson-Kelley** from Anchor Point: President
- **Savannah Overbay** from Minto: VP of Community Engagement
- **Gunther Polzin** from Palmer: VP of Events and Programming
- **Aurora Rochefort** from Golovin: VP of Communication & Outreach
- **Blaine Paje from Stebbins:** VP of Membership and Recruitment

In addition, we're excited to have **Martin Olson** from Sitka serving as our Student Networking Ambassador and **Lindsey Sobbe** from Wasilla as our Student Representative for the Conference Planning Committee. Let's give them a warm welcome as they step into their leadership roles!

## EdRising Alaska 2024-25 State Student Officers



Morgan Carson-Kelley,  
Anchor Point, President



Savannah Overbay, Minto,  
VP-Community Engagement



Gunther Polzin, Palmer,  
VP-Events & Programs



Blaine Paje, Stebbins,  
VP-Membership & Recruitment



Aurora Rochefort, Golovin,  
VP-Communication & Outreach

## EdRising Alaska 2024-25 Student Conference Planning Committee and Student Networking Ambassador



Lindsey Sobbe, Wasilla,  
Conference Planning Committee



Martin Olson, Sitka,  
Networking Ambassador

Stay connected for more updates as we gear up for an amazing year! And if you have any questions about our program, please contact me or visit our website: [alaska.edu/educatorsrising](https://alaska.edu/educatorsrising)

*Florence Scott, EdRising Program Manager*  
[uaf-edrisingak@alaska.edu](mailto:uaf-edrisingak@alaska.edu)

**W**e are busy with campus visits across the United States. AT&P continues to promote living and working in Alaska Schools, hoping to bolster the unfilled educator and staff positions in schools across our state. It has been challenging, as many states are struggling to find educators, and Alaska's challenges are greater given our geography, remoteness, and other factors. However, we continue to travel the states to find potential candidates at local job fairs. Our schedule so far includes:

- **September 23:** University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- **September 25:** Grand Valley State University, Lubbers Student Services Bldg., Allendale, MI
- **September 27:** Spokane Speech / Language Job Fair, Spokane, WA
- **October 8 :** University of Idaho, Preview Night, Education Building, Moscow, ID
- **October 9:** University of Idaho, Career Fair, Kibbie Dome, Moscow, ID
- **October 10:** Lewis & Clark Career Fair, LC State Activity Center, Lewiston, ID
- **October 15:** Arizona State University, Campus Mall, Tempe, AZ
- **October 16:** Northern Arizona University, University Union, Flagstaff, AZ
- **October 21:** AAEE Teacher Job Fair, Embassy Suites Convention Center,
- **November 6:** Emporia State Education Fair, Webb Hall, Emporia, KS

**A**T&P is constantly working on the issue of recruitment and retention of educators for Alaska's schools, and is open to feedback, ideas and suggestions. Please contact us with your thoughts and ideas: [uaf-atp@alaska.edu](mailto:uaf-atp@alaska.edu)

*Toni McFadden, AT&P Program Manager*

For more information about AT&P please visit: [www.alaskateacher.org/](http://www.alaskateacher.org/)



**Above:** The AT&P table with swag and information about Alaska's different school districts, at the job fair in the University of Idaho, Moscow Kibbie Dome. *Photo: Toni McFadden.*



## Place-based Education

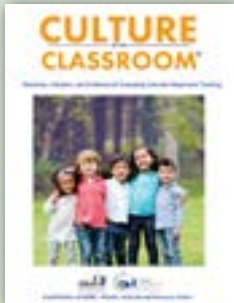
### **CULTURAL CONNECTIONS:** *How to teach through culture*

**A**re you culturally competent and you know what that means? Becoming culturally competent is reflecting routinely on your own cultural competence: study, discuss, dialogue with parents, be curious, wonder—listen and learn. A strong cultural framework for lesson planning/prep should include being respectful and always making

connections between content and student. How does what you are about to teach connect to your students? How well do you actually know each of your students? Knowing your students requires routine, ongoing observations, questions, exploration, discovery and listening—mostly listening. As a teacher, a main practice for you is to collaborate with and learn from your parents/

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families so you can come to know about the place you teach, your students, and the history of where you are situated. Having a sense of wonder about your students and their place in the world is step one to becoming a culturally competent educator: listen and learn.



**Culture in the Classroom**, a publication by the Southeast Regional Resource Center and provided by AK-DEED is the premiere cultural resource for Alaska educators.

You can download a copy here: <https://education.alaska.gov/standards/cultural>

**A** next step to cultural competence is to focus on any one of Alaska's five Cultural Standards. Standard D, for example: "Culturally-responsive educators work closely with parents to achieve a high level of complementary educational expectations between home

and school." You teach students, and you LEARN from them and their parents. Listen. Reflect on the success of a lesson taught, and adjust accordingly. You are becoming culturally competent.

**H**ere are a few **Standard D** practices to help with becoming culturally competent:

- Share grade-level content with parents at start of year, asking if any parent is interested in helping to deliver a lesson.
- Discover expertise of parents.
- Invite parental input routinely during the year.
- Ask parents what they'd like to see happen in their child's classroom (listen).
- Post local values/norms in classroom and daily have students share examples of specifics.
- Frequently share happenings with families.
- Keep Cultural Standards at fingertips, weaving one or two into every single lesson taught.
- Invite parents in to co-teach,



**The Sherman's, a Kotzebue family**, take a break from their ice fishing trip on Kotzebue Sound. *Photo Credit: K-12 Outreach Staff.*

to visit, to provide feedback on a lesson taught.

- Keep a chair/corner in classroom to welcome parents/family.
- If another language spoken in the home, label classroom in that language, and learn a few of the words that you use when teaching.
- Establish 2-way communication with parents.
- Learn about place, students, their history—then help those students make own connections to new content.
- Listen.

*Jan Littlebear, PhD.*

## K-12 Outreach

Box 755400 or  
Fairbanks, AK 99775  
(907) 450-8400

## 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:

**UAF Development**  
c/o UA Foundation  
P.O. Box 755080  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775



Postage

