



KENAI PENINSULA COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE

KPC is a UAA community campus on the Kenai Peninsula. We offer the Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education Degree, the Early Childhood AA degree, and Post Baccalaureate teacher certification, and the Bachelor of Liberal Studies degree and so, work very closely with College of Education and College of Arts and Sciences.



St. Paul Island

We are committed to culturally responsive teaching. Two people were able to participate in the Alaska Rural Experience this year. Education faculty Jane Pitcock traveled to St. George and St. Paul Islands from November 15th through November 20th to interface with elementary teachers in their schools and share her expertise classroom management. Student intern, Jessica Martin spent a week in Port Lions on Afognak Island (Kodiak) where she attended the local school.

In the planning stage: an Alaska Native Education workshop for KPC faculty, education students, and invited faculty from Alaska Christian College. Many of our Alaska Native students come to this area initially to take classes at ACC and then move to KPC to get their degrees. Work on this project toward culturally responsive teaching has been initiated.



Afognak Island

In order to best meet the needs of our students in our very large borough, we are actively engaged in enhancing both the quality and quantity of our distance courses. We offer intensive workshops and personal one-on-one help to all education and liberal studies faculty as they plan and deliver their distance courses.



The AEIN grant has given us the opportunity we needed to move toward providing quality distance education. What we have found over the five year span of the grant is that our faculty has become increasingly capable with technology. The workshops through the College of Education provided much needed initiation into the online teaching environment. Many of our faculty were able to attend, some multiple times. With that, their comfort allowed them to assume leadership roles as they began to expand their spheres of influence: helping other, less confident faculty members; offering ideas to peers; experimenting (taking risks!) with innovative ways of conducting online classes. Further, we no longer go to Anchorage for our workshops, but lead them here ourselves. Once a month we conduct distance education meetings to exchange ideas and solve problems and discuss issues. We continue to benefit from the leadership of others across the UAA system, with regularly scheduled eLive! sessions open to all previous workshop participants. Committed faculty have teamed with the College of Arts and Sciences to solve network-wide liberal studies course and scheduling issues as well.

Because of our efforts to move toward innovation and quality for our online teaching, and through our ongoing efforts in professional development, our faculty has not only become very good at distance delivery, but more faculty has been willing to venture into the online world. And, as a result of that, our enrollment this year has increased nearly 20 percent! Most of the increase is due to our distance courses that meet the needs of students on all UAA campuses. Additionally, we have observed that our Alaska Native students are spending more free time on campus and are more engaged in campus activities.

Excellence in Distance Education, Kenai Peninsula College!

