New Alaska Native Vision at UAA

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Our shared vision

● In all that we do, we honor that UAA’s campuses are located on the traditional homelands of the Dena’ina and Ahtna Athabascan, Alutiiq/Sugpiaq and Eyak peoples, and acknowledge our institutional strengths and values are drawn from this history.

● UAA supports and contributes in meaningful ways to constructive action in the spirit of reconciliation and in support of self-determination of Alaska’s Indigenous peoples.

● UAA’s Alaska Native students access, persist and complete our certificate and degree programs at rates higher than their peers.

Overall objectives

● Improve education access and attainment outcomes for UAA Alaska Native students through evidence-based student success practices

● Create a culturally appropriate, inclusive environment at UAA where Alaska Native students feel a sense of welcoming and belonging and thrive

● Develop and implement ongoing processes to ensure broad input from the Alaska Native community

● Reinforce UAA as a “university of place” by embracing and actively promoting the Native cultures of our state throughout our university

● Emphasize Alaska Native students, programs and culture as a campus priority under the direct leadership of the chancellor

Cabinet-level position (revised, recruitment pending budget decisions)

Associate Vice Chancellor for Alaska Native Education and Engagement

● Reports to the chancellor

● Manages ongoing engagement and communication with broader Alaska Native community

● Ensures the appropriate level of input on issues and decisions impacting Alaska Native students and programs

● Coordinates chancellor’s Alaska Native councils

● Coordinates and collaborates with Vice Provost for Student Success and Director of (former) Native Student Services unit (new name TBD)

● Coordinates the presentation of an institution-wide view of Alaska Native programs and services (i.e., uaa.alaska.edu/alaska-natives and resource guide)

● Ensures search committees for faculty and management seek out qualified Alaska Native applicants
Serves on the Diversity and Inclusion Action Committee
Serves as the chancellor’s principal advisor on Alaska Native programs and initiatives, authors a biennial status report on the state of Alaska Native education and engagement at UAA

**Chancellor’s Alaska Native Council (new)**
- A group of high-level Alaska Native leaders who will meet with the chancellor as a group at least four times per year
- Will consult one-on-one in small groups with the chancellor as needed

**Chancellor’s Extended Alaska Native Advisory Council (new — mostly external)**
- A group of up to 100 statewide Alaska Native leaders, faculty and staff
- Will convene at a UAA summit once per year
- Agree to provide “just-in-time” feedback and input via email requests and web surveys as needed on issues pertaining to Alaska Native students and programs

**UAA Alaska Native Program Leaders Council (new — internal)**
- Convened on a monthly basis by the chancellor to foster greater understanding and collaboration across Alaska Native programs
- Will include directors of ANSEP, RRANN, ANCAP, Native Student Services (new name TBD), Alaska Native Studies, and the Alaska Native Management minor
- Related program directors (e.g., Student Success, Student Affairs, etc.) will be invited as needed
- An additional goal will be to leverage across programs for grant funding

**Re-imagined Native Student Services (new name TBD)**
[Note: two thirds of UAA Alaska Native Students are not connected with an Alaska Native student-serving program. This central unit is being reimagined as a community center for drawing in student success service providers (e.g., first year advisors, financial aid counselors, admissions counselors, peer mentors, tutors, etc.) and campus programmers. Creating a safe, inviting and culturally affirming space for Alaska Native, Indigenous and rural students to belong and engage — and receive support services that matter most.]

**Components of program**
- College access and summer academic and social bridging program
- First-year transition and academic advising
- Pathways plan (predetermined first-year schedule based on student’s background and interests)
- Opportunities for co-enrollment in Alaska Native learning communities in each of the academic colleges
- Peer tutoring and opportunities for upper division students to be tutors
- Student services concierge to connect, advise and advocate for students who need various campus-level student services
- Cultural programming
Faculty-in-residence
Elder-in-residence
Respite for Alaska Native students
Help students feel a sense of welcoming and belonging
Comfortable space for gathering

New name for unit
- In fall 2019, we will crowdsource the name of this new unit, asking students, staff and the broader Alaska Native community for suggestions
- New name, new start, new vision

Placement in organization
- Reports to the Executive Director of Student Outreach and Transition, serves on the UAA Alaska Native Programs Leader Council and coordinates with the Vice Provost for Student Success
- Director recruitment, fall 2019
- Alaska Native leader/manager who can oversee various components and recruit staff to deliver programs

Community campuses
- Complete an inventory of Alaska Native programs on UAA community campuses
- Conduct a needs assessment
- Implement new programs as needed
- Collaborate across UAA campuses on Alaska Native programs as much as possible