



New Alaska Native Vision at UAA

Concept June 2019

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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 Athabaskan, 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