



ALASKA NATIVE SUCCESS INITIATIVE (ANSI) UPDATE

September 2022

VISION

Build an Alaska Native community within UAA and be a global leader in Alaska Native student success, teaching, and scholarship.

UNIT STRATEGIC PLANS

UAA Administration is working with Units to develop, implement, assess, and update unit-level plans to 1) increase Alaska Native Student preparation, recruitment, retention, and graduation rates; 2) increase Alaska Native Faculty and Staff recruitment and retention; and 3) create a culture of belonging for Alaska Native Students, Faculty, Staff, and community organizations utilizing the [ANSI Strategies](#). Units developing individual ANSI Strategic Plans:

Campuses:

- Kenai Peninsula (KPC): Cheryl Siemers, KPC Director
- Kodiak (KoC): Jacelyn Keys, KoC Director
- Matanuska Susitna (Mat-Su): Talis Colberg, Mat-Su Director
- Prince William Sound (PWSC): Dennis Humphrey, PWSC Interim Director

Colleges & Schools:

- College of Arts & Sciences (CAS): Jenny McNulty, CAS Dean
- College of Business & Public Policy (CBPP): John R. Nofsinger, CBPP Dean
- Community & Technical College (CTC): Ray Weber, CTC Dean
- College of Engineering (CoEng): Kenrick Mock, CoEng Dean
- College of Health (COH): Debbie I. Craig, COH Dean
- School of Education (SOE): Tonia Dousay, SOE Director
- Graduate School: Mary Jo Finney, Dean of Graduate School

Other Units:

- Academic Affairs: Denise Runge, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
- Administrative Services: Ryan Buchholdt, Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services
- Advancement:
 - Weston Eiler, Executive Officer & Director of Government Relations
 - Austin Osborne, Director of Public Relations
 - Tanya Pont, Director of Alumni Engagement
 - Bobi Rinehart, Associate Vice Chancellor for Development
- Athletics: Ryan Swartwood, Director of Athletics
- Student Affairs: Deanne Woodard, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

PRIORITY 1: ALASKA NATIVE STUDENTS

Increase Alaska Native Student preparation, recruitment, retention, and graduation rates.

Goal 1: Eliminate the need for remediation and reduce the time to earn their degree for graduated high school Students.

Progress:

- Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program (ANSEP) Acceleration Academy: Students go from eighth grade to a Bachelor's degree in five years.
 - Spring 2022 (Anchorage, Mat-Su, & Bethel): 100 Students participated who completed 1,099 credits.
 - Summer 2022 (Anchorage Residential): 74 Students participated who completed 222 credits.
 - Fall 2022 (Anchorage, Anchorage Residential, Mat-Su, Bethel, & Kotzebue): 144 Students are participating, which is the largest incoming group.
 - 2021-22 Academic year (Anchorage & Mat-Su): 12 Students graduated who completed 755 credits. The average number of credits completed was 63 credits, with one Student completing 112 credits.
 - Fall 2022 (Anchorage, Anchorage Residential, Mat-Su, Bethel & Kotzebue): 160 Students are participating, which is the largest incoming group.

Goal 2: Have 15% of the total enrolled Students be Alaska Native.

Progress:

- Alaska Native Student enrollments increased to 11.9% for Fall 2021 from 11.4% for Fall 2020.
- ANSEP K-8th Grade: 433 Students participated in 14 different Anchorage Residential camps to recruit Students to attend UA.
- ANSEP Summer Bridge (Anchorage Residential): Students completed industry internships and transitioned to being college Students.
 - 20 Students participated with 14 Students going to UAA and 2 Students going to UAF.
- ANSEP University Success (UAA & UAF): Undergraduate and Graduate Student community.
 - Spring 2022: 90 Students participated at UAA and 32 Students participated at UAF.
 - Fall 2022: 79 Students participating at UAA and 24 Students participating at UAF.
- Native Student Services (NSS): Indigenous and rural student community.
 - Fall 2022: 29 Students are participating in the Native Early Transitions (NET) program which supports Native and rural Students as they transition to being college Students and to the UAA campus with preparatory, academic, and cultural support.
- Recruitment & Retention of Alaska Natives into Nursing (RRANN): Indigenous nursing Student community.
 - Fall 2022: 20 Students currently participating.

Goal 3: Increase Alaska Native retention and graduation rates.

Progress:

- During the 2021-22 Academic Year: 28 Alaska Native Students graduated with certificates, 53 with associate degrees, 57 with bachelor's degrees, 13 with master's degrees, and 3 with doctoral degrees.
- ANSEP University Success (UAA & UAF): Undergraduate and Graduate Student community.
 - Spring & Summer 2022: 12 Students graduated from UAA and 6 Students graduated from UAF.

PRIORITY 2: ALASKA NATIVE FACULTY & STAFF

Increase recruitment and retention of Alaska Native Faculty and Staff.

Goal: Increase the percentage of Alaska Native Faculty from 6% and Alaska Native Staff from 7.5% to 20%.

Progress:

Faculty

- Alaska Native/American Indian Faculty numbers have improved to 6.1% for Fall 2021 from 6.0% for Fall 2020.
- Alaska Native Business Management hired a tenure-track Faculty member.
- Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program (ANSEP) has 1 Grow Our Own PhD scheduled to start a tenure-track position in mechanical engineering in 2023-24.
- Alaska Native Studies (AKNS) promoted 2 Alaska Native term Faculty to tenure-track Faculty.

Staff

- Alaska Native/American Indian Faculty numbers have improved to 7.7% for Fall 2021 from 7.5% for Fall 2020.
- Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program (ANSEP) hired the below Indigenous Staff members during the Spring, Summer, & Fall 2022 semesters:
 - Assistant Senior Director, Acceleration Academy
 - Residential Director, Acceleration Academy
 - Acceleration Program Coordinator, Acceleration Components
- Native Student Services (NSS) received funding to employ an Advisor to start in Fall 2022.
- Recruitment & Retention of Alaska Natives into Nursing (RRANN) hired a new director that started in Fall 2022 (the position was vacant since Spring 2022).
 - Currently recruiting for a Student Coordinator to start in Fall 2022.

PRIORITY 3: INSTITUTION (Internal & External)

Create a culture of belonging for Alaska Native Students, Faculty, Staff, and community organizations.

Goal 1: Resource Alaska Native Academic Departments and Student Support Programs.

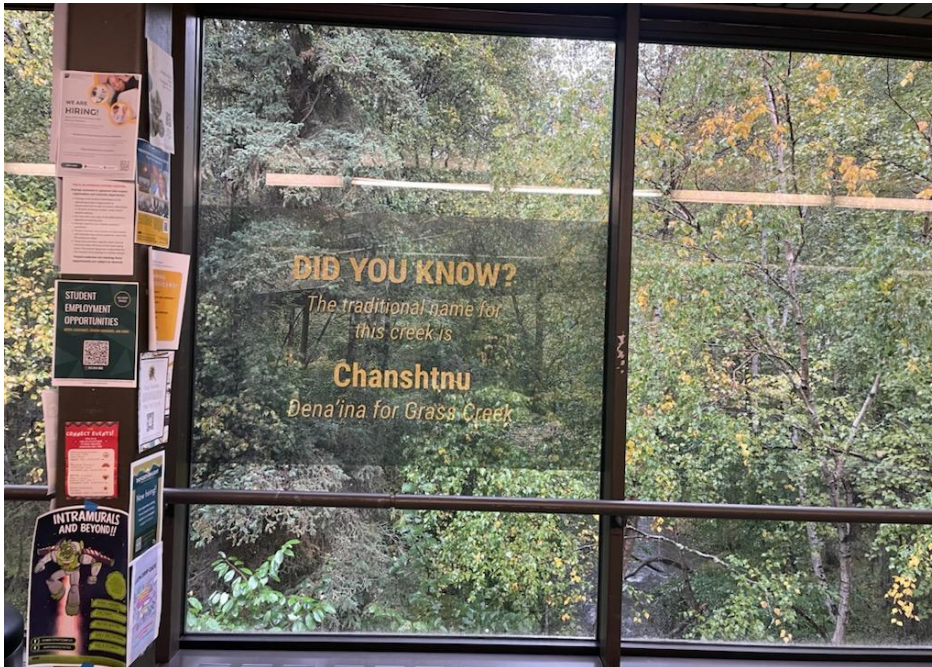
Progress:

- The Aleut Foundation provided \$25,000 (or 21 Students) for its shareholders/descendants to take the AKNS 101C Unangam Tunuu (Unanga language) course.
- Moved the Alaska Native Studies (AKNS) classroom to be near the AKNS Faculty offices and in a centrally trafficked location.
- Submitted a Rasmuson Foundation grant to hire a consultant to conceptualize the plan for at least one gathering place consistent with the Indigenous Place Names (IPN) strategy.

Goal 2: Increase Alaska Native representation both internally and externally.

Progress:

- The Chancellor is developing an Education Advisory Council that will provide guidance and advice to the Chancellor on educational issues and improve Student, Faculty, and Staff success.
- Alaska Native place and space names and histories were included within the Facilities Master Plan.
- Surveyed Alaska Native Students, Faculty, and Staff about their Alaska Native representation priorities.
 - Incorporated these into the Facilities Master Plan.
- Kenai Peninsula College (KPC) implemented an Elder Parking Space.
- Residential Life developed a smudging policy that was implemented in Fall 2022.
- Posting signage that includes Alaska Native place and space names.



Picture of new signage in Anchorage Spine showing Dena'ina place name.

- Working on having land acknowledgements at all roadway entrances to the Anchorage campus.
- Developing an Anchorage campus Alaska Native history video that will include Dena'ina place, space, plant, and animal names.
- Some Amazing Stories:
 - [Mission Unstoppable](#) with Miranda Cosgrove on CBS featured UAA Summer Bridge Students Amara Sanguni and Maya Woods who were interning with the U.S. Forest Service to survey the land and restore the wetlands at Moose Flats.
 - Haliehana Alaġum Ayagaa Stepetin was featured in a KTOO article titled, "[Unangax instructors use traditional methods to teach university language course](#)" on March 2, 2022.
 - Janelle Anausuk Sharp, UAA ANSEP Regional Director for the Anchorage Acceleration Academy, and a team of scientists researched a large lake in Alaska that is bubbling with methane. PBS's Nova television science series "[Arctic Sinkholes](#)" showcased this research (to see Janelle's research fast forward to 9:22) and how it relates to the Siberian craters.
 - Michele Yatchmeneff participated in Alaska's News Source live interview on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) on May 5, 2022.



- Alaska's News Source story on Alaska Native Faculty, Michele Yatchmeneff, and UAA Student Katherine Sakeagak: "[Alaska Native Students strive for representation in engineering programs](#)" broadcasted on February 3, 2022.

Goal 3: Improve Human Resources' policies and practices.

Progress:

- Developed and vetted a UAA Onboarding Alaska Natives presentation for all new employees. Will begin conducting presentations later in Fall 2022.
- UAA Talent Acquisition Specialist is posting job announcements on [AlaskanNativeHire.com](#).
- ANSI Leads developed a list of [ANSI & HR Partnered Tasks](#).