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DEPARTMENT OF ALASKA NATIVE STUDIES AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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STRENGTH. RESPECT. EXCELLENCE.

DANSRD’s mission is to increase cultural awareness and strengthen leadership capacity for rural and Indigenous communities in Alaska and the Circumpolar North. Our degree programs promote academic excellence, personal development, professional skills, global awareness and respect for Indigenous cultures and commitment to community.

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“I cannot thank DANSRD enough! If it wasn’t for great organizations like DANSRD, I wouldn’t have been able to make it through college. I was so glad UAF offered degree programs that fit my interests. The staff and faculty of DANSRD are so supportive and I’m thankful for that! I am now on my way to law school to study Native Law.”

— Sarah Walker, class of 2014

M.A. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

• Educate leaders with a broad understanding of interrelationships between rural communities and the dynamic global economy;
• Offer a quality program of advanced study for place-committed students in rural Alaska, combining personal networking with cutting-edge distance course delivery;
• Build strong ties to employers and leaders in rural Alaska to support program relevance and student success;
• Create an innovative model for circumpolar graduate study with an emphasis on international indigenous leadership development.

PREPARED TO SHAPE MANY WORLDS

The Department of Alaska Native Studies and Rural Development M.A. program is designed to educate leaders who understand the dynamic relationship of rural Alaska with the global economy and who have professional skills in areas of leadership, business development, administration and conflict management. Graduates typically take positions with tribal and municipal governments, fisheries, tourism, Native corporations, regional health corporations or non-profits, state/federal agencies, or other private businesses.

Graduate degree students gain a broader theoretical understanding of development processes in Alaska and the circumpolar North. Graduate students complete a thesis or applied community development project, and have opportunities for international study and research.

Students can earn the M.A. degree either on the Fairbanks campus or through distance delivery.

INSPIRING LEADERSHIP.
Power to make a difference.

Alaska Lieutenant Governor Byron Mallott (center), Assistant Professor Diane Benson (fourth from left) and RD students attending the Juneau seminar.

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