

# Rural Alaska Honors Institute

## RAHI

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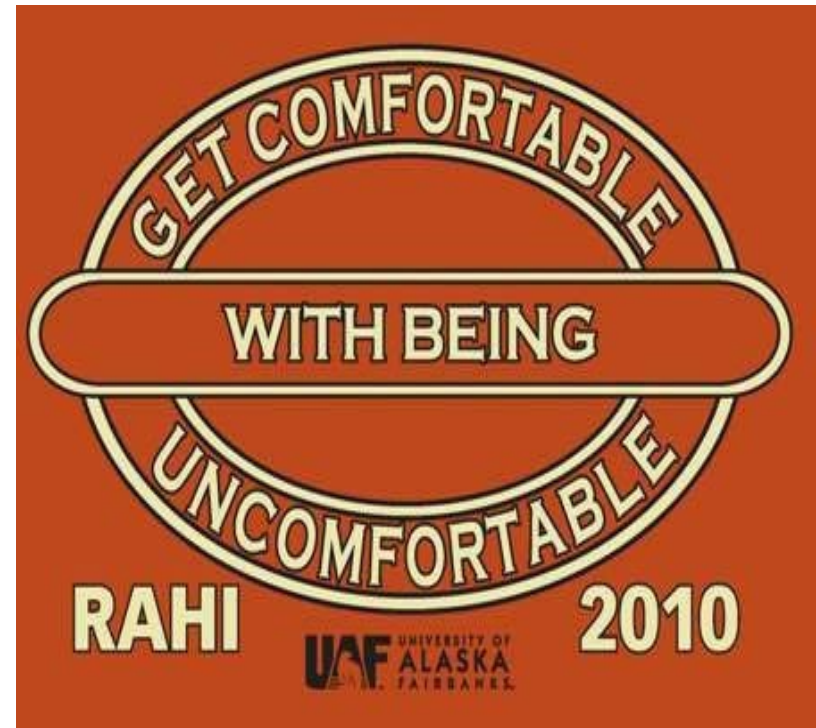


**UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA  
FAIRBANKS**

# RAHI Mission Statement

*The UAF Rural Alaska Honors Institute, known as RAHI, was established at the request of the Alaska Federation of Natives in 1982, to prepare rural and Alaska Native high school students for academic excellence and college success.*

- The Rural Alaska Honors Institute is a program of academic enrichment and preparation for traditional undergraduate life at a university campus. Students selected for the six-week academic adventure work at the very limits of their capabilities, as suggested by the Institute's motto, *Challenge Yourself!*





- RAHI's goal is to produce a group of young men and women each year who have developed skills, work habits, self-awareness, and self-confidence sufficient to enhance their success and enjoyment in higher educational pursuits.

- During the RAHI summer residency students earn as many as 9-11 university credits, thus starting a college transcript. These credits are transferable to other universities.





- Concentration is on writing and study skills, Alaska Native dance or swimming, with a choice between biochemistry, business management, pre-calculus, petroleum engineering, and education, and an optional webpage design class.

*(Course offerings subject to change)*

- Students live in a UAF residence hall with full time tutor/counselors. If needed, personal help is provided to assist with course work and practically anything else needed to be successful and comfortable at RAHI.



# RAHI's educational philosophy



- RAHI's educational philosophy is one of high expectations, intrusive intervention by academic and dorm staff, and a holistic approach to dealing with students. The program's goal is to impart the crucial lessons of academic content for college preparation in collaboration with time management and personal maturity issues.

- To apply to RAHI students must be:
  - be a rural or Alaska Native high school junior or senior who has lived most or all of their life in rural Alaska
  - have at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average
  - plan to earn a college degree
  - be willing to live in a residence hall with all required rules of conduct



# RAHI application process

The RAHI application consists of the following:

- A. Basic overview of RAHI describing the mission statement, curriculum, campus life, student selection process, dates of program, rules, staff, cost (*free to those selected!*)
- B. Student application and two essays (*essay topics change each year*)
- C. School counselor & teacher questionnaire assessment, submitted with student's transcripts and test scores
- D. Community recommendation

# *Intentional Program Design*



- The design of intensive academics couched in a culturally-supportive residence hall setting continues to produce challenged, satisfied, and better prepared students.

# Loyalty to RAHI

Students, staff, and faculty are loyal to RAHI.

The RAHI academic coordinator (Greg) has been with the program for 28 years; the program coordinator (Denise) has worked for RAHI for 22 years; and many other staff and faculty have 10-15 years of continuous service to the program.

This year (2010), three of the RAHI staff & faculty were RAHI alum.

Families have sent several of their children to RAHI, including one family with all five of their children.

In addition, there have been twenty-nine 2<sup>nd</sup> generation RAHI students, where one of their parents has attended RAHI.

# Alaska's Future Leaders

- RAHI's process of helping to prepare the next generation of rural leaders is an ongoing investment. Just as with investing in a financial institution, the interest accrues slowly, but after twenty-nine years, it amounts to something significant. There is great satisfaction in the realization that RAHI has helped in some small way to forge the next generation of educators, business leaders, tribal officials, and scientists serving the peoples of rural Alaska.



# RAHI Alum work in jobs as diverse as:

- 44 teachers
- 34 Native administrators
- 14 engineers
- 10 accountants
- 9 biologists
- 8 nurses
- 6 city managers
- 5 lawyers
- 5 hospital administrators
- 5 artists
- 5 education administrators
- 4 principals
- 4 health administrators
- 4 counselors
- 3 magistrates
- 3 legislative liaisons
- 2 chemists
- 1 medical doctor
- 1 Vista volunteer
- 1 pharmacist
- 1 flight attendant
- 1 geologist
- 1 oceanographer
- 1 New York City budget analyst

*Content Reading Class: Grade Equivalents on  
Nelson-Denny Tests for Last Five Years*

| • Year | Pre-test | Post-test | Avg. Increase |
|--------|----------|-----------|---------------|
| • 2006 | 8.42     | 10.13     | 1.71          |
| • 2007 | 8.31     | 9.80      | 1.49          |
| • 2008 | 7.90     | 10.10     | 2.20          |
| • 2009 | 8.18     | 9.86      | 1.68          |
| • 2010 | 8.54     | 9.89      | 1.35          |

*(RAHI academic coordinator's 2010 annual report)*





## Credits and Grade Point Averages (2010)

Twenty-two freshmen earned 180 credits (average of 8.14) and a g.p.a. of 2.83.

Forty seniors earned 319 credits (average of 7.98) with a g.p.a. of 2.70.

In summary, sixty-two RAHI students earned 499 credits (average of 8.05) with an overall g.p.a. of 2.75.

*(RAHI academic coordinator's 2010 annual report)*

# Credit and Grade Point Average Comparisons

| Year   | Total Credits | Avg. Credits | Avg. G.P.A. |
|--------|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| • 2006 | 374           | 8.31         | 2.67        |
| • 2007 | 534           | 8.34         | 2.78        |
| • 2008 | 420           | 8.94         | 2.98        |
| • 2009 | 559           | 8.87         | 3.01        |
| • 2010 | 499           | 8.05         | 2.75        |

*(RAHI academic coordinator's 2010 annual report)*



# Gender Ratio



- The gender ratio for RAHI 2010 was 46 females and 16 males. The nationwide trend shows females taking the lead in higher education, and RAHI has experienced a similar reality over the life of the program.

*(RAHI academic coordinator's annual report)*

- Fall Semester 2010, RAHI students attending the University of Alaska (including students taking distance delivery classes at home)
  - »UAF - 115
  - »UAA - 64
  - »UAS - 21

## **RAHI compared to all Alaska Native/American Indian bachelor's degrees**

- Percentage of Alaska Native/American Indians in Alaska 25 years of age or older who have earned a bachelor's degree (ISER UAA 2009) 8%
- Percentage of former RAHI Alaska Native/American Indians 25 years of age or older as of June 22, 2010 (214 out of 863) who have earned a baccalaureate degree 24.8%
- Percentage of former RAHI students 25 years of age or older who have earned a bachelor's degree (238 out of 863) 27.6%
- Percentage of RAHI baccalaureate degrees earned by Alaska Native/American Indians (214 out of 238) 89.9%
- Percentage of all RAHI students in 2008 who are Alaska Native/American Indians (1027 out of 1133) 90.6%

Between 1983 and 2010, over 1,323 students have attended the RAHI program. To date, RAHI students have earned the following:

Certificates: 61

Associate Degrees: 121

Baccalaureate Degrees: 277

Masters Degrees: 44

Law Degrees: 6

Ph. D: 1

Doctor of Pharmacy: 1

Doctor of Physical Therapy: 1

Medical Degree: 1

*Over 250 RAHI students are currently enrolled in colleges throughout Alaska and the U.S.*



# Reason to attend the program

- When just comparing minority students, RAHI rural Alaska Natives are nearly twice as likely to successfully complete a Bachelor's degree program than other rural Alaska Natives (19% vs. 10%).

*American Institutes for Research*

## RAHI works!

# RAHI 2010 Graduates



# For more information, contact:

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*(all photos by Sam Chanar)*