What immediately strikes me about CBSM is a profound sense of pride. I have always felt welcomed by students, staff and faculty. It is my firm belief that the positive and inclusive culture at CBSM is the bedrock of its success, and enhances the overall student educational journey.

I am awestruck at the number of CBSM alumni with whom I have worked in our community. They work in many different sectors and contribute significantly, not only to the Interior, but to communities across the state and beyond. In addition to the significant positive impacts created by alumni, CBSM also hosts cornerstone events that build a sense of community. Annually, the Business Leader of the Year honors and recognizes leadership at a community event. Another eagerly anticipated event is the Arctic Innovation Competition, Alaska’s original idea contest, rewarding innovative ideas with cash awards to competitors of all ages.

There is no way for me to capture all of the many great opportunities afforded to students and the accomplishments of CBSM. I hope that my fellow council members and I have done some justice to advancing the mission of CBSM and its influence on students and our community.

Mark S. Young
CBSM Business Advisory Council Chair

Quality Programs

At CBSM, we go the extra mile for our students to help them succeed in the classroom, in the workforce and in life. The CBSM Peer Mentoring program matches experienced students with new students in the college.

Mentorship is a unique coaching relationship. It allows students to ask questions in a setting that differs from typical student-to-student conversations in class, or student-to-faculty conversations. The mentor isn’t expected to have all the answers, but can share their experiences and connect mentees to resources. For the mentors, it allows the opportunity to share their successes and struggles, and to support the growth of a fellow student. By serving as a peer mentor, students build the in-demand soft skills employers want.

Amanda Langhorst
CBSM Faculty

Opportunities Outside the Classroom

CBSM provided numerous opportunities beyond the classroom to network and discover my career options. Through events like the Professionally Polished Program, I was able to build a professional wardrobe and gain confidence in my personal brand.

As a member of the Associated Students of Business student organization, I traveled to San Francisco for the National Millenial and GenZ Community. We met with business executives across the country and had open conversations with leaders from Google, Bentley’s Coffee, and Wells Fargo. It was encouraging to hear successful entrepreneurs share their hardships alongside their successes. It inspired me to try new ventures and take leaps of faith as I move forward as a young professional in the real estate industry.

Ian Ludwig
CBSM ‘22 Alumnus

Sense of Community

I felt so lucky to attend a university that provided so many opportunities for students. I’ve attended other universities, and when it came to UAF, feeling comfortable was effortless.

I loved being a part of the student organizations because I connected with others who understood my academic journey and had similar interests. How unique to have professors reach out to me about various opportunities, which ultimately lead me to a professional track with KPMG. The community at CBSM has been a life changer.

Jenifer Garcia
CBSM ‘22 Alumna
The Arctic Innovation Competition rewards creativity and entrepreneurship. Alaska’s original idea contest, now having completed its 13th year, invites innovators of any age to propose new, feasible and potentially profitable ideas for solving real-life problems and challenges. Youth and adults presented their novel ideas and competed for over $40,000 in awards and prizes.

Keeping it fresh for AIC 2022, the Classroom of the Future award was established to incentivize K-12 teachers to teach creative and analytical thinking. Additionally, the Sustainability Kicker prize was revived, and a new Climate Adaptation Kicker prize was added to the Main Division prize line up. The spirit of innovation thrives as AIC continues to support competitors who apply great ideas to deliver solutions for our future.

“We have partnered with AIC for many years. What a great fit, because at Usibelli Coal Mine, innovation is what we do. We solve everyday problems. The world is changing every single day. We must adapt to the problems that challenge us and force us to step out of our comfort zone. The youth competitors bring a fresh perspective to problem solving. It is inspiring to watch these talented young people, who are going to be the leaders of tomorrow, as they present their ideas and are so proud of what they have done.”

Lisa Cassino
Vice President of Public Relations
Usibelli Coal Mine

Journey to CBSM Student Success

- $102,100 Awarded in scholarships
- 62 Students received CBSM scholarships
- 27+ Donors made this possible
- 167 Students graduated

CBSM Student Organizations

- Associated Students of Business
- Cadet Club
- Esports Club
- Great Alaskan Accounting People
- International Association of Emergency Managers
- Native Alaskan Business Leaders
- Society for Human Resource Management

UA is an AA/EO employer and educational institution and prohibits illegal discrimination against any individual: www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination.

Photos: Front: (top left) Photo by Karalee Watts; (top right) Courtesy of Amanda Langhorst; (bottom left) Photo by Jillian Bjornstad; (bottom right) Courtesy of Ian Ludwig. Back: Courtesy of CBSM.