

FOUR-THOUSAND MILES FROM HOME

Alaska Natives at Carlisle Boarding School and Beyond

From 1879 to 1918, Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, instituted an educational curriculum dedicated to the erasure of Indigenous children's ties to their communities – effectively an agenda to destroy the lifelines of Indigenous people's culture and nationhood. During this period, at least 125 Alaska Native students attended the school. Presumably, the 4,000-mile journey between Alaskan communities and Carlisle and the separation of Alaska Native children from their families would encourage their total absorption into American society. However, the experiences of Alaska Native students at Carlisle and their decisions to return to their communities stymied the assimilationist agenda. Students used their education to create new economic, educational, and political lifelines for Alaska Native nations.



PIZZA, DRINKS AND BROWNIES PROVIDED!

Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2026

1:00pm–2:30pm

Gruening 503H (or join us via Zoom!)



The Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania around 1890. (Photo from the Library of Congress)

RSVPs are encouraged but not required. Contact Dr. Carol Gray at cjgray5@alaska.edu.



Dr. Mary Ludwig, Assistant Professor of History and faculty member in the Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, specializes in Indigenous History and the history of the North American West, with a focus on carcerality in Indian policy.



**WOMEN, GENDER,
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STUDIES**