Our Mission
Great teachers help Alaska’s future generations

K-12 Outreach at the University of Alaska Fairbanks is committed to partnerships that support quality education for Alaska. We endeavor to do this by:

- Helping to grow our own educators
- Supporting educational agencies to recruit quality educators
- Providing individualized support to new teachers
- Supporting place-based education
- Helping to increase the effectiveness and retention of teachers

Our programs include the Alaska Statewide Mentor Project (ASMP), Alaska Teacher Placement (ATP), Educators Rising Alaska (EdRising AK), and Raising Educational Achievement through Cultural Heritage Up (REACH Up).

Educators Rising Alaska

Educators Rising Alaska (EdRising AK) just wrapped up registration for the Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSO) Conference to be held in Anchorage on March 22-24, 2018. We have registered 75 students, and they will compete in at least one Educators Rising competition. Students can sign up for one to two competitive events from the following choices: Creative Lecture, Lesson Planning (STEM or Arts), Children’s Literature K-3, Inside our Schools, and Exploring Support Services Careers.

EdRising AK is still recruiting students to attend the state conference in Fairbanks at UAF on March 25-26, 2018. Conference attendees will go on campus tours, meet School of Education faculty and staff, tour Rural Student Services offices, and learn career-orienting skills during the full two-day experience.

In addition to the conferences, teachers and students can make use of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathway materials and courses. Students are also able to complete the Educators Rising micro-credentials at no cost this year.

EdRising AK State Officers, clockwise from left: Elizabeth Lisenby, Historian, Karri Montero, Vice President, Pauline Catcutan, Secretary and Emma Shelton, President. Photo credit: Rafael Bitanga.

Visit us on Facebook: facebook.com/EducatorsRisingAlaska/
Visit our website: www.educatorsrisingalaska.org

www.uaf.edu/soe/k12_outreach/
REACH Up offers professional development support to science teachers in the Bering Strait School District. Currently REACH Up staff are expanding the number of lessons available for hands-on, place-based curriculum, developing and planning for a Science and Culture Workshop to be held in Anchorage this February, and conducting multiple Scientist Site Visits to teachers’ classrooms.

Giving students an opportunity to interact with experts, and teachers the opportunity to learn new hands-on approaches to engage their students.

Supporting continued professional development (such as Site Visits for rural teachers) contributes to teacher retention, provides educators access to collaboration with professionals in the science field, and the opportunity to learn about new topics in the realm of science education. REACH Up Scientist Site Visits are a popular professional development activity for both teachers and their students. REACH Up brings scientists into the classroom, giving students an opportunity to interact with experts, and teachers the opportunity to learn new hands-on approaches to engage their students.

“Great teachers help Alaska’s future generations learn, grow, and thrive, resulting in a greater Alaska.”

Late fall colors and the beginnings of winter form on Unalakleet river and surrounding hills. Photo credit: Yuri Bult-Ito.

Alexis Will, a sea bird scientist with the National Institute of Polar Research and University of Alaska Fairbanks, describes the food chain and leads a discussion on murres’ diet during a REACH Up school visit in Savoonga. Photo credit: Yuri Bult-Ito.

Lindsey Parkinson with the University of Alaska Fairbanks, demonstrates cloud observations to a kindergarten class in Koyuk. Photo credit: Yuri Bult-Ito.

www.k12reach.org
Prior to the implementation of ASMP, the historical retention rate for new teachers in the districts we serve averaged about 68% over five years (Hill, 2008). Since implementation in 2004, teachers lucky enough to be mentored by ASMP are retained at 75-85%, rates, much higher than non-ASMP mentored teachers.

Considering the high cost of recruitment over retention, ASMP is strongly value-added when it comes to improving teacher retention across the state in ways that save our state money AND contribute to improved academic achievement. Mentoring works, and ASMP has the research evidence to prove it.1

http://asmp.alaska.edu/researchsummaries.

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Students from Little Diomede Island hike to the top of the island to take in the view of Big Diomede Island, Russia. *Photo credit: Mentor Laurie Leonard, 2006.*