



Alaska Native Teacher Initiative

Mission

The mission of the Alaska Native Teacher Initiative (ANTI) is to increase the number of Alaska Native teachers in rural Alaska. Through the development of a statewide consortium, Avant-Garde Learning Foundation (AGLF) seeks to improve Alaska's ability to recruit, support and graduate our own teachers. This process creates long-term stability and improves educational quality, key components to turning around underperforming schools. AGLF is currently supporting teacher candidates across the state, all at various stages moving toward graduation and certification. AGLF is working to grow and sustain this initiative, cementing it permanently as part of Alaska's educational system.

Need

Rural Alaska is facing serious challenges when it comes to education. Teacher turn-over is high. The number of Alaska Native teachers is low. And teacher recruitment is increasingly difficult.

- Alaska imports its teachers at an alarming rate.
 - Nearly 70% originate from out-of-state, while only 5% are Alaska Native.
 - Meanwhile, almost 90% of rural students are Alaska Native.
- Research has identified a correlation between high teacher turnover and low student achievement.
 - The average teacher in rural Alaska remains working in the community for less than two years.
- Alaska ranks last in the country for first-time college freshmen returning as sophomores and last for freshmen earning a BA within six years.
 - Only 10% of Alaska Natives who start college earn a BA within six years. A majority of the remaining 90% never return.

The need in Alaska for more Native teachers has never been greater. Educators and educational researchers widely agree that Alaska Native students would be best served by increasing the number of Alaska Native teachers. The presence of Native teachers in classrooms and in communities reinforces the continuing vitality of Native cultures, encourages Native students to excel in school, increases student success, and provides positive cultural role models.

ANTI SUCCESS STORIES



**CANDIDATE FROM
CHEVAK PASSED
ALL THREE
SECTIONS ON
PRAXIS I EXAM.**



**CANDIDATE FROM
TOGIK EARNED AA
DEGREE.**



**CANDIDATE FROM
SELAWIK EARNED
AA DEGREE.**



**CANDIDATE FROM
KIVALINA EARNED
MA DEGREE AND
HAS BEEN HIRED AS
ASSISTANT
PRINCIPAL IN A
RURAL COMMUNITY.**

Services

Preparing an Individual Plan

With the assistance of the ANTI coordinator, teacher candidates develop an outline of individual needs and goals, which is used as a foundation and support guide. Additionally, AGLF developed a Basic Skills Test to more accurately target key areas for growth and improvement.

Financial Coordination

Based on the needs identified in the Individual Plans, teacher candidates are connected with appropriate scholarships, grants and/or financial counseling.

Navigation

ANTI is working with Alaska higher education institutions to establish a central point of contact at each campus to act as a consistent resource for teacher candidates. This “navigation guide” assists teacher candidates in charting a path through a complex and often confusing college and university system.

Tutoring

Tutoring is available to all candidates, whether requested by the teacher candidate or required by the Individual Plan or the Basic Skills Test results. Group or individual tutoring addresses subject-specific needs, as well as offers Praxis exam preparation.

Advocacy

AGLF partners with school districts, colleges and universities, local and state governments, as well as tribal organizations to serve teacher candidates—as individuals and as a collective whole—to improve the process of both earning a teaching degree and of obtaining teacher certification.

Mentoring

Based on needs identified in the Individual Plans, AGLF facilitates connections between teacher candidates and a local mentor, who can offer necessary support and guidance.

Networking

AGLF promotes opportunities for teacher candidates to connect online and in-person, in an effort to foster a real sense of alliance and involvement among future colleagues.

Learn More

For more information or to join the ANTI, please contact Anishia Elbie, ANTI Coordinator, at 907-444-4100 (phone), 907-246-3743 (fax) or anishiae@avantgardealaska.org.

About Avant-Garde Learning Foundation

Founded in 2005 by former Alaska State Commissioner of Education and Early Development Dr. Shirley Holloway, AGLF is committed to serving Alaska communities, families and students to prepare young people for bright and successful futures. For more information about AGLF, visit www.avantgardealaska.org.