



2024 Education Summit Agenda

Our Legacy: Preserving Heritage, Building Futures

Tuesday, April 9th & Wednesday, April 10th
Wedgewood Resort, Fairbanks

The Education and Indigenous Learning Department aims to establish essential educational pillars, beginning from pre-kindergarten and extending throughout life. Our goal is to empower Alaska Natives in the TCC region by fostering collaboration, innovation, and community involvement. We strive to enhance educational achievements, safeguard indigenous culture, and nurture upcoming leaders.

Day One - Tuesday, April 9

All Sessions will be in the Borealis Ballroom

8:00-8:45 AM *BREAKFAST (Executive Boardroom)*

9:00 AM **Welcome**
Brian Ridley, Tanana Chiefs Conference Chief/President

9:15 AM **TCC Division Introduction and Introduction of Speakers**
Amber Vaska, Executive Director of Tribal Government & Client Services, Jason Johnson, Division Director for Family Services & Support, and Stephanie Hinz, Education & Indigenous Learning Manager

9:30 AM **Tribal Compacting of Education**
Joel Isaak, Deputy Commissioner, AK DEED

10:15 AM *BREAK*

10:30 AM **Indigenous Teacher Education across the Arctic**
Dr. Diane Hirshberg, Director & Professor of Education Policy for the Institute of Social and Economic Research at the University of Alaska Anchorage & Vice-President Academic, University of the Arctic, and Dr. Kirk Anderson, Professor of Educational Administration at the Faculty of Education, Memorial University of Newfoundland — Roundtable Discussions re: Educational Challenges

12:00 PM *LUNCH (Executive Boardroom)*

1:30 PM **The Boarding School Era, Structural Violence & Education in Alaska**
Emily Edenshaw, President & CEO, Alaska Native Heritage Center, and Benjamin Jacuk, Indigenous Researcher, Unguwat Program Manager, Alaska Native Heritage Center

3:00 PM *BREAK*

3:15 PM **“Kohtr’elneyh” (We remember forward): Rites of Passage for Native Youth**
Meda DeWitt, Lingít traditional healer, Indigenous studies doctoral student at Te Whare Wananga o Awanuiarangi, New Zealand

4:00 PM *BREAK*

- 4:15 PM** **Programming for Student Success**
Kerry Boyd, *Superintendent, Yukon-Koyukuk School District*
- 4:45 PM** **Summit Day One Review, Question & Answer Session**
- 5:00 PM** *DINNER*
- 5:00 – 7:00 PM** **Cultural Night – Dene Eslaanh’ Dance Group, sneak peek of “Coming Home” - Poetry Readings of Mary TallMountain, and WEIO Native Games Demo**
*(hosted by **Frank Yaska**, TCC Cultural Program Coordinator)*

Day Two - Wednesday, April 10

Yellow – Educator audience | **Blue** – Tribal/community audience/parents | **Green** – General audience

8:00-8:45 AM *BREAKFAST (Executive Boardroom)*

9:00 – 10:15 **Alaska Native Language Guidebook**
Joel Isaak, *Deputy Commissioner, AK DEED*

10:15-10:30 *TRANSITION/BREAK*

10:30 – 11:00 (30-minute session)

Title	Speaker	Location
Alaska Indigenous Teacher Initiatives at UAF	Dr. Olga Paniik Skinner , <i>Assistant Professor, Alaska Indigenous Teacher Corps, School of Education, UAF</i>	Borealis Ballroom
Supporting Families Under Stress (via Zoom)	Dr. Jared Parrish , <i>Senior MCH Epidemiologist, Alaska Division of Public Health</i>	Gazebo Room
Tribal College – Focus Group Discussion (Outcomes & Resources)	Amber Vaska , <i>Executive Director, Tribal Government & Client Services, Tanana Chiefs Conference</i>	Garden Room

11:00-11:15 *TRANSITION/BREAK*

11:15-12:00 PM (45-minute session)

Bringing a Trauma Informed Lens to Your School	Sharon Fishel , <i>Education Specialist II, School Health, Safety, and Alternative Education Team, DEED</i>	Borealis Ballroom
Teacher recruitment and retention in Alaska: Why Alaska needs Alaskan teachers	Dayna DeFeo , <i>Director, Center for Alaska Education Policy Research, Institute of Social and Economic Research, UAA</i>	Gazebo Room
GOTNV’s Civic Engagement for Rural Alaska Students (CERAS)	Michelle Sparck , <i>Director of Strategic Initiatives, Cook Inlet Tribal Council: Get Out the Native Vote (GOTNV)</i>	Garden Room

12:00-1:00 PM *LUNCH (Executive Boardroom)*

1:00-1:30 PM (30-minute session)

Community Health Aide Program – prepare students for health careers	Kimberly Sonderland, PA, TCC Community Health Aide Program	Borealis Room
Alaska School Board Association – Roles and Responsibilities	Kerry Boyd , Superintendent, Yukon-Koyukuk School District	Gazebo Ballroom
Effie Kokrine Charter School – student moose hide project	Nahshon Attla, Nekoya Wiehl, Andrea Moses, Neveah Opferman (students) & Josh Snow, Principal, Effie Kokrine Charter School	Garden Room

1:30-1:45 PM TRANSITION/BREAK

1:45-2:15 PM (30-minute session)

The Literacy Council of Alaska – GED Preparation and Testing Services	Lucie Magrath, Executive Director, Sarah Perez, GED Director, and Shelby Cook, Pathways Director, The Literacy Council of Alaska	Borealis Ballroom
Johnson O'Malley (JOM) Program	Spike Bighorn (via Zoom) and Angela Barnett, Bureau of Indian Education	Gazebo Room
Tribal Compacting – Knik Tribe's Demonstration Project	Carl Chamblee, Knik Tribal Government	Garden Room

2:15-2:30 PM TRANSITION/BREAK

2:30-3:30 PM (hour session)

Fostering a Positive Cultural Identity to Improve Mental Health & College Readiness	Dr. Janelle Vanasse, Alaska Pacific University President, and Emily Ferry, Transition and Collective Impact Coordinator, Alaska Association of School Boards	Borealis Ballroom
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3:30-3:45 TRANSITION/BREAK

3:45-4:15 (30-minute session)

Current Challenges Facing Rural Teachers and Strategies to Provide Support	Tom Klaameyer, President, National Education Association (NEA)-Alaska	Borealis Ballroom
Pediatric Obesity Crisis: Supporting Student Success through Health	Dr. Stephen Gerrish, physician, and Jennifer Prewitt, Quality Analysis/Quality Improvement Specialist, Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center	Gazebo Room
Rural Student Services at UAF	Gabrielle Russell, Executive Director, Rural Student Services, UAF	Garden Room

4:15-4:30 *TRANSITION/BREAK*

4:30-5:00 (30-minute session)

Fairbanks North Star Borough School District, Student Support Services	Brianna Gray , <i>Director of Student Support Services, FNSBSD</i>	Borealis Ballroom
Tribal Education Programs – helping tribes improve their processes for managing scholarship programs	Stephanie Hinz and Blanche Murphy , <i>TCC Education Program</i>	Gazebo Room
Brainstorming Session: Strategies for change (identifying barriers and addressing attendance/absenteeism)	Facilitated by TCC staff	Garden Room

5:00 Survey/closing remarks