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Alaska Humanities Forum connects Alaskans through stories, ideas, and experiences that positively change lives and empower communities. Our work is focused in three main areas: cross-cultural learning for educators and youth, leadership development, and public programming.

In the past two decades, the Forum has worked with more than two-dozen partners – including school districts and universities, Native corporations, and Native nonprofit organizations – to operate five separate but interrelated cross-cultural programs for educators and youth:

- Creating Cultural Competence (C3)
- Educator Cross Cultural Immersion (ECCI)
- Take Wing Alaska
- Sister School Exchange
- Alaska History Day



ALASKA HUMANITIES FORUM

Funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Alaska Native Education Program

ALASKA HUMANITIES FORUM

Sister School Exchange



Application deadline: September 4th, 2018

Building connections between Alaskans

"It wasn't the amenities, it wasn't the roads and cities, it was the people they met who made the biggest impact."

— Jeffery Robinson
Noorvik School
Teacher

"It was a true joy to take part in the program. I made connections with my students outside of the classroom that helped me build stronger relationships with them. I got to be part of the ups and downs of their experiences, and to watch them learn, grow and try things they never imagined they would do."

— Jeffery Smith
SERRC Juneau

"I am so impressed with this program. We have been involved with the Sister School Exchange for many years and the experiences that are offered to the students and staff participating are truly life-changing. I am grateful this program happens in our state so that we can learn about and love Alaska through a lens of diversity and unity."

— Mary McMahon
Colony Middle School
Principal

"It made me close to my students and helps me understand them and the way they look at life. It gives me a lot of insight into life where I live and teach, and helps me create more partnerships with folks in my community."

— Tammy Schneider
Akiuk Memorial School
in Kasigluk

Look below to see some of 2017 program locations.



Discover a new Alaskan community by living it!

The Sister School Exchange program builds connections between Alaskan communities through a reflective experiential-based curriculum that culminates with an exchange.

The program operates through the school year, pairing a teacher and five students from two different communities. The teams work through an online curriculum focused on cross cultural understanding and then take turns visiting and hosting each other.

This program, made possible through a US Department of Education grant, has been in operation since 2001.

Step Outside Your Classroom

This experience brings students beyond classroom walls, into the heart of communities through experiential projects.

Orientation

You will attend an orientation in October to meet your partner and learn more about the program.

Culture

Lead students through learning activities to discover their own as well as other cultures in Alaska.

Leadership

Your students will grow their leadership skills when they represent their community as a cultural ambassador.

Travel Expenses Paid

Cost of airfare, meals, and accommodations are covered by the program.

Network

Connect with educators, students, and community members.