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

Application deadline: September 4th, 2018

Building connections between Alaskans
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.

Discover a new Alaskan community by living it!

"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

[Map with locations marked]

Look below to see some of 2017 program locations.

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.