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 four separate but interrelated cross-cultural programs for educators and youth:

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

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

Application deadline: February 28, 2019

For information and applications:
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Building connections between Alaskans
Educator Cross-Cultural Immersion (ECCI) is an experiential program to help public school educators in urban Alaska better serve their Alaska Native students, communicate across cultural differences, and incorporate Alaska Native ways of knowing and learning into their classrooms.

During the program, educators undertake coursework in cross-culturally competent pedagogy, enhanced by a one-week immersion experience at a rural Alaska Native culture camp. Educators attend a 1.5 day orientation in early May, travel to a culture camp during the summer, attend a 1.5 day debrief in September, and submit reflective coursework.

“Teachers gain insight into the ways of teaching, learning, and knowing of Alaska’s Native people and develop relationships that bridge urban and rural communities. After cross-cultural immersion camp, educators return to a diverse district better prepared to support Alaska Native students and families.”

— Rea Bavilla
President/CEO, Calista Education and Culture

“I am not different because I have tried seal meat or octopus or because I have made a crooked little basket. I am different because I was given a rare and wonderful opportunity to stretch myself, see the world from a different vantage point, and then come back to my world and see how to apply what I learned to what I do every day.”

— Christine Terry
Nunaka Valley Elementary School
Anchorage

“Through the immersion experience I became more aware of the importance of culturally responsive teaching and learning. I gained deeper respect toward the Alaska Native history, culture and their ways of knowing.”

— Kanji Nagaoka
Austin E. Lathrop High School
Fairbanks

“My 2015 ECCI experience continues to benefit me in my daily practice. Sometime just being able to talk to a child who misses his village makes a huge difference. ECCI gave me a frame of reference that I can use to build relationships that my students need.”

— Jenifer Singleton
Campbell STEM Elementary School
Anchorage

**Successful Record**
ECCI has operated across the state of Alaska for the last seventeen years.

**Urban Educators**
Teachers from Anchorage, Fairbanks, Mat-Su, Juneau, and Kenai Peninsula school districts are eligible.

**Cross-Cultural**
ECCI satisfies the cross-cultural education course requirement for new Alaska teachers.

**Earn Graduate Credit**
Educators enroll for free and receive credit for a 3.0 graduate-level course from UAA.

**All Expenses Paid**
Airfare, meals, materials, and accommodations are covered by the program.

**Look Inward**
ECCI participants reflect deeply on their own cultures and practices.