

**WILLIAM G. DEMMERT**

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

This Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is designed to further the communication and collaboration between Sealaska Heritage Institute, Juneau School District, and the University of Alaska Southeast – Juneau Campus.

Our intent is to work together to provide enhanced cultural, instructional, academic, and career placement opportunities for Juneau’s students and when deemed appropriate to extend to other students in the southeast Alaska region. This MOA will be used to support, design, implement, and sustain existing and new projects, grants, and programs. The Partners agree that supplemental agreements or letters of support may be developed for specific projects.

**A. PARTNERS**

***Sealaska Heritage Institute (SHI)***

Sealaska Heritage Institute (SHI) is a regional, non-profit organization serving the indigenous people of Southeast Alaska. SHI’s mission is to perpetuate and enhance the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian cultures with a goal to promote cross-cultural understanding. Its programmatic activities and exhibits focus on the arts, culture, history, language and education. It also maintains an archives and ethnographic and art collections. SHI activities have expanded to include statewide activities in social scientific and public policy research and analysis related to Alaska Natives. SHI operates from its new 29,000 square foot facility in downtown Juneau, Alaska’s capital city.

SHI is governed by a Board of Trustees representing our region and, for more than thirty (30) years, SHI Council of Traditional scholars, which is compiled of Clan Leaders and elders who have deep knowledge of our culture, provide advice on cultural and educational programming. Its Native Arts Council provides advice on art programming.

***University of Alaska Southeast (UAS), Juneau Campus***

The mission of the University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) is student learning enhanced by faculty scholarship, undergraduate research and creative activities, community engagement, and the cultures and environment of Southeast Alaska. As a university, UAS is recognized as a destination of choice for students seeking excellent academic programs and equally as important, we are dedicated to collaborating to increase engaging learning opportunities that integrate the environment and cultures of Southeast Alaska.

Our core values include diversity, sustainability, and collaboration and our four core themes are student success, teaching and learning, community engagement, and research and creative expression. Therefore, in addition to providing an excellent liberal arts education, our faculty

and staff believe in bringing you out of the classroom to gain experience in your chosen field. Our location in Alaska's capital gives us access to internships with governmental agencies and unique internships such as those that Sealaska Heritage Institute can offer in its education, archives and collections, indigenous languages, and traditional arts programs.

### ***Juneau School District***

The Juneau School District is comprised of six elementary schools, two middle schools and two high schools serving approximately 4,900 students and their families. Other District programs include Montessori, home school, a charter school, and a Tlingit Culture, Language and Literacy program.

Our District operates under the Mission that: "In Juneau we are all partnering in providing each student with the skills, knowledge, and attitudes to be a contributing citizen in a changing world." Further, one of the eleven identified objectives in our 2015-2020 Strategic Plan is to "engage . . . community members to collaboratively participate in education our student and leveraging community resources."

## **B. VISION**

To empower educators and administrators of Alaska Native students to be culturally aware and relevant in their instructional materials and methods while striving to exceed required educational standards, improve graduation rates, and provide for a seamless transition and completion of a higher educational experience.

## **C. SCOPE**

### ***Sealaska Heritage Institute agrees to:***

1. Pursue opportunities to partner with UAS to increase the number of interns participating in career placement opportunities at SHI to include interns in its William L. Paul, Sr. Archives, ethnographic and art collections and exhibits. Research, Education, Language, Culture, and Arts Departments.
2. Partner with the Juneau School District and University of Alaska Southeast to coordinate an annual teacher in-service training on cultural awareness and opportunities available to teachers and students currently and those that will become available when SHI's Walter A. Soboleff Building is opened.
3. Provide professional development on cultural awareness, including the arts, language, and history, to all employees of the University of Alaska Southeast and the Juneau School District, especially new employees.

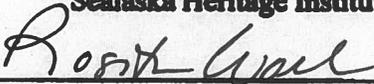
4. Work with administrators, instructors, and students at both at the University of Alaska Southeast and the Juneau School District to design structured learning opportunities for Juneau School District students and career placement opportunities for college interns.

***University of Alaska Southeast agrees to:***

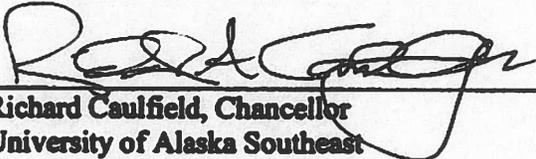
1. Encourage students and professors to utilize SHI's Walter Soboleff Building for learning, language revitalization, research, internship opportunities, and other scenarios as available while integrating projects into class curriculum whenever possible.
2. Partner with Sealaska Heritage Institute to provide cultural expertise on grants that target Alaska Native youth or require an Alaska Native Organization partnership.
3. Partner with Sealaska Heritage Institute to develop and implement language, culture, and education programs that allow Native students of all ages to have a "campus experience" and to work to make this experience as affordable as possible.

***Juneau School District agrees to:***

1. Ensure every student has had the opportunity to visit the Walter Soboleff Building in their grade school, middle school, and high school years, for a total of three visits over their educational life and work with SHI to develop programs specific to those grades.
2. Continue supporting the integration of Native arts, language and culture in the classroom and to partner with Sealaska Heritage Institute to develop and implement curriculum wherever possible.
3. Work towards increasing the number of Native teachers in the district to match the Native population percentage of Juneau.
4. Ensure that Tlingit Language is taught at all high schools every year.
5. Invite a member of the Native community with education experience, to be identified by Sealaska Heritage Institute, to participate in all hiring processes where practicable.

  
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Rosita Worl, President  
Sealaska Heritage Institute

6/17/15  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Caulfield, Chancellor  
University of Alaska Southeast

Date

6/16/15

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Miller, Superintendent  
Juneau School District

Date

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