

OLGA Paniik SKINNER 1133 Solitude Way, Fairbanks, AK 99709 · ojskinner@alaska.edu · 907-978-4629

EDUCATION:

Ph. D. Indigenous Studies, University of Alaska Fairbanks, May 2022

Dissertation: *The STEM Trail: Alaska Native undergraduates find the right path in higher education*

M. Ed. Language and Literacy, University of Alaska Fairbanks, December 2009

Thesis: *The Life of My Grandmother: Olinka Arrsamquq Michael*

B. A. Foreign Language (Russian and French), University of Alaska Fairbanks, May 1998

LICENSURE:

Teaching Certificate (K-8), University of Alaska Fairbanks, May 2000

Bilingual/Multicultural Endorsement, University of Alaska Fairbanks, May 2003

CURRENT POSITION:

Assistant Professor, Alaska Indigenous Teacher Corps, School of Education, University of Alaska Fairbanks, March 2019 – August 2022 (Term); August 2022 - present (Tenure-track)

- Working with other School of Education faculty and staff members to recruit and retain Alaska Natives into teaching programs at UAF through programming, services, and grants.
- Teaching introductory education courses for the Elementary and Secondary Education programs and Social Studies methods for Elementary Interns.
- Supervision of interns working in dual-language (Yugtun/English) and English-speaking elementary classrooms.
- Collaborating with SOE faculty and staff, Alaska school districts, UAF rural campuses, and tribal entities to advance goals of the Alaska Indigenous Teacher Corps, Alaska Indigenous Teacher Network.
- Collaborated with Dean Amy Vinlove to author the *2022 Case Study of Indigenous Graduates of the University of Alaska Fairbanks School of Education*.
- Graduate committee member for students in Education, Indigenous Studies, and Anthropology
- SOE faculty senator and serving on Curricular Affairs Committee - Fall 2021-present
- Member of Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Native Education (CACNE)

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE:

Academic Advisor, Rural Student Services /(Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program until 2014), University of Alaska Fairbanks, July 2010-February 2019

- Appointed as Co-Director of Rural Student Services from September 2012 until March 2014. Served as leadership for a team of 5 academic advisors, an office manager, and a student employee. Responsible for a department budget of \$450,000.
- Lead Advisor for 2011-2012 school year, took on responsibilities of the Director when she was absent from the office.

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- Staff advisor for UAF Chapter of American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES).
- Comprehensive advising, including pre-admission, admission, course selection, financial aid, testing, major declaration, connecting students to academic departments and other services offered at UAF.
- Networking with departments and organizations interested in supporting Alaska Native students in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields.
- Presented RSS, ANSEP, and UAF to various audiences including prospective students, other academic advisors, and K-12 educators.
- Awarded grant from Wisconsin Space Grant Consortium to develop and sent a team from UAF AISES Chapter to compete in the 2016 First Nations Launch High-Powered Rocket AISES competition. Additional support from Alaska Space Grant Program. (\$3000+)
- Awarded grant from Alyeska Pipeline Service Company to provide scholarships for students who are members of UAF Chapter of AISES during 2014-2015 who are pursuing education, training and development that leads towards careers on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS). (\$5000)

Writer/Developer, Geophysical Institute, December 2006-July 2010

- Lead Curriculum Developer for *Uniting Native Indigenous Traditional Education and University Science* (UNITE US) from October 2009-July 2010. Collaborated with scientists, Athabascan Elders, curriculum developers, graphic designers, and web developers to design instruction that targets rural interior youth in grades 7-12. Contributed to drafting the proposal and annual reporting requirements.
- Assisted in instruction of ED 593 Science Curriculum Development for Teachers course during June 2009.
- Curriculum Developer for the *Alaska Tsunami Education Program* from January 2007 to September 2009. Collaborating with scientists, Native Elders and classroom teachers to develop lessons and online multimedia targeting students in grades K-12 in the Aleutians and Kodiak Island. Presented ATEP or selected components of ATEP at teacher workshops and conferences. Submitted annual reports.
- Reviewed and developed lessons for the *Aurora Alive Advanced* curriculum targeting rural 5th – 8th graders from December 2006-January 2007.

Teacher, Effie Kokrine Charter School/ FNSBSD, July 2006-December 2006

- Taught 8th grade at Effie Kokrine Charter School with a curriculum that focused on issues and topics connected to Alaska Native Culture.
- This job involved high levels of preparation and organization of lessons and activities that fulfilled requirements of meeting Alaska Standards, Grade Level Expectations, and Alaska Cultural Standards while differentiating to meet the developmental needs and learning styles of students.
- Collaborated with other teachers, staff, related organizations (Mapteach, Alaska Bird Observatory, Creamer's Field), and parents to meet the needs of students.

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- Federally Highly Qualified in Middle School Content Knowledge (Math, Science, Language Arts, and Social Studies) achieved through high scores on Praxis II test, Summer 2006.

English Language Learner Teacher/Facilitator, English Language Learner Program/ FNSBSD. August 2000-May 2006

- Collaborated with teachers, staff, and parents to meet the needs of students.
- Coached teachers in use of elements related to the Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP).
- Prepared and maintained confidential files for each student on caseload.
- Taught English as a Second Language at Howard Luke Academy, Randy Smith Middle School, and West Valley High School.

Alaska Native Education Liaison, Howard Luke Academy, FNSBSD. Fall 1998-May 1999

- Collaborated with teachers to deliver instruction to students.
- Organized activities for Alaska Native Youth Leadership Club.

Student Assistant II, UAF School of Education. September 1996-May 1997

- Answering phones, filing, making copies. Helping with office tasks and accreditation preparations.

PUBLICATION:

Skinner, O. & Leonard, B. (2018). 'A world in which [Alaska Natives] make the important decisions': Re-envisioning institutional discourses and governance in higher education. *In* E. McKinley & L. T. Smith (Eds.) *Handbook of Indigenous education* (online edition: pp.1-25). Springer Nature Singapore Pte Ltd.

PRESENTATIONS:

Towards Culturally Sustainable Futures: Encouragement and Quality Preparation in Alaska Native Teacher Development. Accepted presentation April 2025. National Symposium for Educator Preparation, Policy, & Leadership. National Center for Teacher Residences: Chicago, Illinois.

Laying the Foundation for Embedded Indigenized Curriculum Through Culturally Sustaining Teacher Preparation. Presented Oct 12, 2024 with Dr. Amy Vinlove, Robin Child, and Joan Hornig. National Indian Education Association Conference: Palm Springs, California.

Laying the Foundation for Embedded Indigenized Curriculum Through Culturally Sustaining Teacher Preparation. Presented Aug 8, 2024 with Dr. Amy Vinlove and Angela Alston. Sealaska Heritage Culturally Responsive Education Conference: Juneau, Alaska.

Skinner, O. J. (2024, February). *Tumgiuq: to Make a Trail.* Alaska Statewide Special Education Conference. Anchorage. Keynote Presentation.

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Skinner, O. J., Otten-Pete, M., Andrews, B., Atchak, R., Roberts, C., & Cleveland, R. (2023, October). Tamamta Piyugngaukut: We can do this together! National Indian Education Association Convention. Albuquerque, NM: National Indian Education Association.

Tumyaraq - a Trail - and Undergraduate Decision-Making Around STEM. Presented May 10, 2023 at Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SOTL @ UAF) UAF Faculty Accelerator: Fairbanks, Alaska. Invited Presentation.

Alaska Indigenous Teacher Initiatives at UAF. Presented Apr 11, 2023 at Tanana Chiefs Conference Education Summit: Fairbanks, Alaska.

'It should be about informing and guiding Western science using Indigenous methodologies': Alaska and Aotearoa student perspectives on environmental challenges. Presented virtually and in-person September 28, 2022, with Dr. Ocean Mercier (Victoria University of Wellington-VUW), Dr. Beth Leonard (Alaska Pacific University -APU), Dr. Polly Hyslop (APU), Nayte Davis (VUW), Amber Aranui (VUW), Symon Palmer (VUW), Ani Eparaima (VUW), Stacey Lucason (University of Alaska Anchorage) at the World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education.

Alaska Indigenous Teacher Alliances: Partnership Building for High-Quality, Sustainable "Grow Your Own" Teacher Pathways. Presented August 12, 2022, with Dr. Amy Vinlove. Sealaska Heritage Culturally Responsive Education Conference: Juneau, Alaska.

For Land and Community: Alaska Native motivations and aspirations for college. Presented July 26, 2022 at Brown Environmental Leadership Lab and Cook Inlet Tribal Council: Anchorage, AK.

Educational Responsibility in Alaskan Indigenous Futures, as part of a Roundtable: Engaging Indigenous Inquiry in the academy: Relationships and responsibilities, with Dr. Beth Leonard (Alaska Pacific University), Dr. Maria Williams (UAA), and Dr. Megan McGinty (UAF). American Educational Research Association conference (AERA) online in April 2021. Chair: Olga Skinner.

Innovations in Indigenous scholar mentorship: Relationships and responsibilities, presented with Dr. Beth Ginondidoy Leonard, Dr. Sheilah E. Nicholas (University of Arizona), and Garrison Tsinajinie (University of Arizona) at the International Indigenous Research Conference (IIRC) hosted by Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga, New Zealand's Māori Centre of Research Excellence, online in November 2020. Chair: Olga Skinner.

First-Gen Student Identity in the Classroom, presented with Ronnie Houchin, Associate Director of Student Engagement and ASUAF Advisor, and Victoria Smith, Director of Student Support Services (TRIO). UAF Faculty Training in November 2020.

Alaska Indigenous Teacher Initiatives at Troth Yeddha' Campus. Sealaska Heritage Institute's Culturally Responsive and Cultural Education Virtual Conference in August, 2020.

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Decolonizing approaches to engaging Indigenous Knowledges in the academy: Indigenist and qualitative inquiry. Accepted to the International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry. Co-presenters: Dr. Beth Leonard, Dr. Megan McGinty, and Dr. Laura Conner. May 2020 at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Postponed due to COVID-19.

The Alaska Indigenous Teacher Corps Project: Efforts to Decolonize the Teacher Workforce. Co-presented with Dr. Amy Vinlove and Dr. Carol Barnhardt, November 7, 2019 at National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME) Conference: Tucson, Arizona.

Building Alaska Native Knowledges in the Academy: The Roles and Responsibilities of Western Institutions. Co-presented with Dr. Beth Leonard of UAA and Kitty Deal of UAA-Kodiak College, October 6, 2017, at National Indian Education Association (NIEA) Conference: Orlando, Florida.

New Challenges, New Approaches: Transitions in Higher Education. Co-presented with Colleen Angaiak, April 9, 2017, at Alaska Native Studies Conference: Fairbanks, Alaska.

Sharing Our Story: AISES at UAF. Co-Presenter with Baxter Bond and Jason Slats and other UAF AISES members, April 8, 2017, at Alaska Native Studies Conference: Fairbanks, Alaska.

Placing Alaska Native and Indigenous Knowledges in the Academy. November 20, 2016. Maamwizing Indigeneity in the Academy L'université à L'heure de la Réconciliation: Sudbury, Ontario.

Building Bridges: Voices from College. Co-Presenters C. Angaiak, C. Stern, C. Edwin, and J. Nelson, October 17, 2016, at First Alaskans Institute Elders and Youth Conference: Fairbanks, Alaska.

Finding Strength in our Roots: Indigenous presence in STEM. October 16, 2014. Presented as part of the panel session titled *Reclaiming Indigenous spaces in higher education: Examining recruitment, retention and mentoring of Alaska Native students at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.* National Indian Education Conference: Anchorage, Alaska.

Indigenous Studies Ph.D. Faculty & Student Panel. October 9, 2014, at RD492/600 Circumpolar Indigenous Leadership Symposium: Fairbanks, Alaska.

Indigenous Students Accessing Post-Secondary Education in the STEM Fields. March 15, 2014, at the Alaska Native Studies Conference: Juneau, Alaska.

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From Registration to Residence: a Cohesive approach to Indigenous Success. Co-presented with Carol Murphrey and Tim Murphrey of Rural Student Services and the Eileen Panigeo MacLean House, March 16, 2014, at the Alaska Native Studies Conference: Juneau, Alaska.

Gathering Resources for a Fit Financial Future. Co-presented with Colleen Angaiak, Dr. Liz Ross, and Wells Fargo staff, October 21, 2013, at First Alaskans Institute Elders and Youth Conference: Fairbanks, Alaska.

Culturally Relevant Advising Techniques. Co-presented with Colleen Angaiak and Carol Murphrey of Rural Student Services, May 1, 2013, at NACADA Region 8 Conference: Anchorage, Alaska.

Access to Higher Education: College Applications, Writing College Essays, Financial Aid and Putting Your Best Foot Forward. Co-presented with Holly Stebing of Yale University, at the 2011 First Alaskans Institute Elders and Youth Conference: Anchorage, Alaska.

Maintaining our Commitment to Native Student Success. Co-presented with Colleen Angaiak of Rural Student Services, at 2011 Annual Conference on the First Year Experience: Atlanta, Georgia.

Alaska Tsunami Education Program. 2009 Bilingual Multicultural Education Equity Conference: Anchorage, Alaska.

Alaska Tsunami Education Program. 2009 Alaska Society for Technology in Education Conference: Anchorage, Alaska.

The Morgan Project: A Bilingual/Multicultural Teacher Education Mentoring Program. Panel presentation at the 2000 Native Educators' Conference/Bilingual Multicultural Education Equity Conference: Anchorage, Alaska.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

- Alaska Native Studies Council - member since 2013
- American Educational Research Association (AERA) - member December 2020 to 2022
- American Indian Science & Engineering Society (AISES) – member since August 2010
- National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) – member August 2010-2019
- National Indian Education Association – 2014, 2017, 2023-2024
- Alaska Association of Bilingual Educators (AKABE) – member from 2000- 2009
- Association of Interior Native Educators – member from 2004-2006
- Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Honor Society for Women Educators, member since 2005

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:

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- Board Secretary for Effie Kokrine Charter School Academic Policy Committee, September 2013 to Present.
- Judge for Educators Rising Competition at CTSO Conference and Academy in Anchorage, Alaska, March 23-24, 2017.
- Co-chairperson for First Alaskans Institute Elders and Youth Conference Volunteer Planning Committee, 2013.
- Co-chairperson for outreach committee for Local Volunteer Committee of the American Indian Science & Engineering Society in preparation for the National Conference in November 2012.
- Staff Advisor for the UAF chapter of the American Indian Science & Engineering Society since 2010. This chapter was awarded a Professional and Chapter Development award in November 2011 and Stelvio J Zanin Chapter of the Year 2018.
- Urban-Fairbanks Representative for Alaska Association of Bilingual Educators Board 2009-2010
- Teacher Reviewer of MapTEACH curriculum in 2006. MapTEACH was funded through an NSF ITEST program.
- Member of review team for Alaska State Standards for English Language Learners in 2005

COURSES TAUGHT:

- ED 193: Teaching for Alaska's Future (ED 111). Spring 2019
- ED 201: Introduction to Education. Summer 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022
- EDSC 205: Introduction to Secondary Education. Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021
- ED 295: Place and Arts-Based Teaching (ED 206). Summer 2020
- ED 412, stacked with ED 602: Integrated Social Studies and Language Arts: Methods and Curriculum. Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2024
- EDSC 415: Foundations of Modern Educational Practice. *Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2024*
- ED/ANS 420, stacked with ED 606: Alaska Native Education. *Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Summer 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Summer 2023, Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Summer 2024, Fall 2024*

GRADUATE STUDENT COMMITTEES:

Currently serving as a Co-Chair on 4 committees for students pursuing PhDs in Indigenous Studies and Interdisciplinary studies. I am serving as a committee member for 5 other students pursuing PhDs in Indigenous Studies and Interdisciplinary Studies. I am currently a member of 6 committees for students pursuing Master's degrees in Secondary Education, Indigenous Studies, and Anthropology.

LANGUAGES:

- Yup'ik Eskimo - Proficiency in receptive language skills, moderate proficiency in productive language skills. Home language and took ESK 101, 102, 201, and 415
- Russian – RUSS 101, 102, 201, 202, 295, 301, 302, 431, 432, and 482

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- French – Advanced Placement to FREN 302

HONORS AND AWARDS:

- 2024/2025 Arctic Fellows Award, *Connectivity across distance-dispersed communities: Bridging within flexible course structures.*
- Faculty Fellowship through the UAF Faculty Accelerator and the MIX. Funded by Office of Naval Research, RISE-UP (Resilient Innovative Sustainable Economies via University Partnerships Program). May 22, 2023-Aug 13, 2023
- Selected as a Fellow for 2022-23 Institute for Teachers of Color Committed to Racial Justice (ITOC)
- Participant of UAF Provost Academic Leadership Institute (ALI) for 2021-2022 Academic year.
- Admitted to “Lighting the Pathway to Faculty Careers for Natives in STEM” 4th Cohort. An AISES program funded by NSF. August 2017 – present.
- Andrew W Mellon Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, June 2017-May 2018 and January 2022-June 2022.
- UAF Pathfinder Award, 2017. Nominated by students and colleagues to honor one outstanding University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) staff member that exemplifies the compassion and dedication to student success.
- Chapter Advisor of the Year for the American Indian Science and Engineering Society National Conference, 2013. Nominated by students in the UAF Chapter of AISES.
- Recipient of the Geophysical Institute’s 2010 Outstanding Staff Performance Award. Nominated by colleagues for exemplary service and dedication in using cultural knowledge and educational background to develop high quality educational products.
- Selected to participate in the Morgan Project, a career ladder grant sponsored by the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District and the University of Alaska Fairbanks, 1999.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- Leaders in Native Education Convening hosted by Region 16. 2022-2024.
- Tribal Sovereignty: Why it Matters for Teaching and Learning about Native Americans hosted by National Museum of the American Indian.
- Alaska Suicide Prevention and Intervention Training/The QPR Approach
- Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP) - coaching and collaborating with teachers to ensure that students are learning language in the classroom.
- Kagan Cooperative Learning Structures
- CRISS Strategies (Creating Independence through Student Strategies)