

OUR CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

Culturally Responsive
Education Conference
August 6–8, 2025
Juneau, Alaska & Virtual



SEALASKA
HERITAGE

OUR CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

Welcome to Sealaska Heritage's Eighth Annual Culturally Responsive Education Conference

This conference aims to develop a deep understanding of culturally responsive education among educators and administrators and equip them to transform their classrooms, pedagogy, and curricula to fully support all students' success—especially those who have been historically underserved, disenfranchised, and marginalized by colonized systems. Attendees from all backgrounds will find engaging and informative sessions to support their thinking around culturally-responsive and sustaining pedagogies for K–12 and university settings, critical theory, place-based education, and possibilities for Indigenizing curricula and building safe social environments for all learners.

Collaborations among institutions, educators, and communities are essential to sustaining cultural vitality for current and future generations. In line with SHI's mission and programming more broadly, the conference is designed to foster meaningful conversations about the integration of Indigenous culture, values, and knowledge into public policy, institutions, and programs serving Alaska Natives.

Our Cultural Landscape is part of SHI's education program Thru the Cultural Lens, which offers cultural orientations for educators in Southeast Alaska. Ample research has shown the effectiveness of using culture and place-based teaching resources and methods to improve academic achievement for Indigenous students.

Strength in Unity: Innovating Together for Culturally Responsive Education

The 2025 conference theme highlights the value and importance of collaboration, particularly in the context of the adversarial and competitive models that dominate Western educational systems. Attendees are encouraged to actively contribute to collaborative learning processes with institutions, educators, partners, and community members.

This year's conference includes a keynote address, three featured speakers, a moderated panel, and nearly 50 breakout sessions organized around four major strands: Thriving in the Arts, Thriving in Education Systems, Thriving in Language, and Thriving in Innovation.

About Sealaska Heritage Institute

Sealaska Heritage is a tribal organization founded in 1980 to promote cultural diversity and cross-cultural understanding through public services and events. SHI also conducts scientific and public policy research and advocacy that promotes Alaska Native arts, cultures, history, and education statewide. SHI is governed by a Board of Trustees and guided by a Council of Traditional Scholars, a Native Artists Committee, a Southeast Regional Language Committee, and a newly formed Education Committee.

SHI recognizes four core cultural values, as articulated by its Council of Traditional Scholars in the 1980s:

Honoring & Utilizing Our Land

Tlingit: Haa Aaní
Haida: Íitl' Tlagáa
Tsimshian: Na Łaxyuubm

Strength of Body, Mind & Spirit

Tlingit: Haa Latseení
Haida: Íitl' Dagwiigáay
Tsimshian: Na Gatlleedm

Honoring Our Ancestors & Future Generations

Tlingit: Haa Shuká
Haida: Íitl' Kuníisii
Tsimshian: Na Łagigyetgm

Social & Spiritual Balance

Tlingit: Wooch Yáx
Haida: Gu Dlíu
Tsimshian: Ama Mackshnm

KEYNOTE

9:30 am, Wednesday, August 6, Livestream, SHI YouTube



Robin Zape-tah-hol-ah Minthorn, PhD

Professor and chair of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at the University of Oklahoma, Dr. Robin Zape-tah-hol-ah Minthorn (Kiowa, Umatilla, Nez Perce, Apache, Assiniboine) is a nationally recognized scholar and author known for her work supporting Native students in higher education and for cultivating “heartwork” that centers the needs of tribal communities. She is the current president-elect of the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE), the first Native American to hold the position.

Dr. Minthorn has co-edited numerous influential publications, including “Indigenous Leadership in Higher Education,” “Reclaiming Indigenous Research in Higher Education,” and “Unsettling Settler Colonial Education: The Transformational Indigenous Praxis Model.” She has worked in New Mexico, Washington, and Oklahoma to strengthen educational systems that support Native youth.

Additional Resources



To learn more about SHI programs, visit
www.sealaskaheritage.org



For video resources, visit SHI's YouTube channel:
www.youtube.com/c/SealaskaHeritageInstitute



To learn more about the conference, visit
conference.sealaskaheritage.org

FEATURED SPEAKERS

9 am, Thursday, August 7, Livestream, SHI YouTube



Anthony B. Craig, EdD

Dr. Anthony B. Craig is a citizen of the Yakama Nation and has lived with his family in the Tulalip tribal community for the last 25 years, where he has been a teacher, instructional coach, elementary school principal, and district office administrator. He is currently a faculty member at the University of Washington, where he directs a doctoral program in educational leadership and policy studies.

Dr. Craig believes in the power of tribal lifeways to answer all of our questions and guide us to more just and abundant realities. His work as an educator has focused on reimagining the possibilities of formal education as we simultaneously dismantle the harmful systems as we know them while building more humanizing, culturally based schools that truly serve all of our young people, families, and communities.



Chelsea Craig, EdD

Dr. Chelsea Craig, a citizen of the Tulalip Tribes of Washington, believes that all her work in education and in her family and community must be pleasing to her ancestors. She works every day to help create a beautiful life for her grandchildren and the generations to come. Chelsea believes she has been called to contribute to the healing of her community through education.

Dr. Craig has been an elementary school librarian, classroom teacher, literacy specialist, and cultural specialist, and is now a principal. All of Dr. Craig's work over the last 25+ years has been in her home community of the Tulalip Tribes.



Irene Anderson-Bare, EdD

Dr. Anderson-Bare, a Sugpiaq Alaska Native and enrolled member of Koniag and Afognak Native corporations, has been an educator for three decades. She has dedicated the vast majority of her career to the young people and families of the Tulalip tribal community. Her work in Tulalip is shaped by the teachings of her own people, especially her parents, but also by the young people, families, and Native educators she has come to know and love in Tulalip and broader Coast Salish territories.

Dr. Anderson-Bare is an innovative leader who has extensive experiences as a classroom teacher, art teacher, literacy specialist, and data/intervention/academic acceleration leader. Dr. Anderson-Bare has deep respect for what we can and must learn from and alongside young people and through creating communities the way our ancestors did. Through relationality, Irene leverages the voices of students and families to shape learning spaces that are humanizing, affirming, and rich in culture.

PANELISTS

2–3 pm, Friday, August 8, Livestream, SHI YouTube

This year's conference theme—Strength in Unity: Innovating Together for Culturally Responsive Education—highlights the power of collaboration in the field of education. The relationships between students, school staff, families, tribes, governments, nonprofits, community organizations, school districts, universities, and other partners are central to educational systems and outcomes. Bringing these perspectives into conversation is essential to the future of culturally responsive education.

This moderated panel features diverse educational stakeholders and provides a space to consider what strong partnerships look like and how to build them. This session includes time for audience Q&A.

Moderator: Keiyawjeewu.á – Michelle D. Martin (Tlingit, T'akdeintaan clan; Navajo, Edgewater People clan), Program Manager, Cultural Warriors Program, Sealaska Heritage Institute



Olga Paniik Skinner, PhD

Dr. Olga Paniik Skinner serves as an assistant professor at the University of Alaska Fairbanks School of Education, leading initiatives through the Alaska Indigenous Teacher Corps to recruit and support Alaska Native students working to become certified teachers and the Alaska Indigenous Teacher Network to support and retain Alaska Native alumni in the teaching workforce. Dr. Skinner's work continues to advocate for culturally responsive education and the integration of Indigenous knowledge in academic settings. She lives and works in Fairbanks in the land of the Lower Tanana Dena, and she is a tribal member of the Village of Kwethluk.



Teresa Dl'a Gwa T'awaa Varnell

Teresa Dl'a Gwa T'awaa Varnell is a teacher and cultural coordinator for the Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District. She received her bachelor's degree in education at the University of Alaska Southeast after attending Haskell Indian Nations University and is a graduate of the Preparing Indigenous Teachers & Administrators for Alaska Schools (PITAAS) teacher preparation program. She is the granddaughter of Haida master weaver Delores Churchill, and Haida values remain at the core of her everyday life and shape her passion and perspectives about modern education. Varnell received SHI's Teacher of Distinction award at the 2022 conference.

PANELISTS



Ethan (Coven) Petticrew

Ethan (Coven) Petticrew is a dedicated Alaska Native educator and cultural advocate. Born in Wrangell, Alaska, Petticrew is Unangaʔ with maternal roots tracing back to Southeast Alaska following the World War II Aleut internment. He is an original Sealaska shareholder and a proud member of the Kiks.ádi clan (Raven/Frog) of the Gagaan Hít (Sun House). His Tlingit name is Daayóosh.

Petticrew has served in various roles throughout his career, including teacher, administrator, and curriculum coordinator. He spent over 21 years in the classroom and has held leadership positions such as curriculum coordinator for the Aleutian Region School District and vice president for cultural and educational services at the Alaska Native Heritage Center. Most recently, he served as executive director for Cook Inlet Native Head Start and currently holds the position of senior director of early education for Tlingit & Haida. He holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Alaska Southeast and a master's in education with a focus on curriculum and instruction from Ball State University.

Deeply proud of his heritage, Petticrew is committed to ensuring that all students' cultures are honored and represented in education. He believes strongly that every child deserves an appropriate, positive, and culturally relevant education. His vision for the future is one in which Native children are empowered to thrive in both traditional and contemporary worlds, advocating that progress comes from doing what is in the best interest of every child—without exception. Petticrew is the father of two adult children, Nikolai and Tatiana, and continues to use his experience and cultural insight to strengthen education across Alaska's diverse communities.

FEATURED DANCE GROUP



Eagle Raven Dancers

Eagle Raven Dancers was first established in Juneau in 1980 by Agnes Bellinger, who was the instructor/director until her passing on Valentine's Day 2006. Bellinger previously had other dance groups in Seattle, Portland, Haines, and Klukwan. She was proud to say that she taught many others who have gone on to form their own dance groups or joined other groups.

The Eagle Raven Dancers are made up of a wide range of relatives, mainly from the Chilkat area and members of the Geisán Dancers of Haines. Their songs are all from the Chilkat area, taught to them by Bellinger, and Geisán songs were taught by Rachel Johnson.

Leona Lindoff Santiago led the Eagle Raven Dancers until her passing in November 2024. The current leaders are Jackie Taalkutláa Pata, Cassandra Naa Tláa Croypley, and Taija Neilgáa Koogéi Revels.

VIRTUAL SCHEDULE



Scan the QR code
to download the
conference app.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6

| CONFERENCE WELCOME & KEYNOTE | | |
|------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| 8:30 am | Centennial Hall open to attendees | |
| 9:30-11:30 am | Welcome and Conference Opening Keynote, <i>Dr. Robin Zape-tah-hol-ah Minthorn</i> | Livestream, SHI YouTube |

Color key for breakout session schedule:

ARTS

INNOVATION

EDUCATION
SYSTEMS

LANGUAGE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7

| FEATURED SPEAKERS | | | |
|--------------------|---|-----|-------------------------|
| 9–10:30 am | huyadadcəł: Our lifeways light the way toward justice, abundance & beauty, <i>Anthony B. Craig, EdD, Chelsea Craig, EdD, Irene Anderson-Bare, EdD</i> | | Livestream, SHI YouTube |
| BREAKOUT SESSION 1 | | | |
| 11 am–12 pm | Elder-Led Education, <i>Anna Neelaatughaa Clock</i> | La. | Livestream, SHI YouTube |
| | Culturally Relevant Career Exploration through High School Internships in Alaska, <i>Elle Gray-Smith, Adriana Northcutt</i> | Ed. | Zoom Room 2 |
| | Tléix’ Yaakw: One Canoe – Paddling as One to Help Revitalize the Lingít Language thru Music, <i>Meghan Johnson, Koolyeik Roby Littlefield, Yuxgitsiy George Holly, Lorrie Gax.áan.sán Heagy</i> | Ed. | Zoom Room 3 |

VIRTUAL SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, CONTINUED

BREAKOUT SESSION 2

| | | | |
|--------------|---|-----|-------------------------|
| 1:15–2:45 pm | The “Why” and “How” of Making your Reading Curriculum Place-based and Culturally Relevant, <i>Lucy Potter, Elizabeth Brennell</i> | Ed. | Livestream, SHI YouTube |
| | Resisting Erasure: Using Alaska Cultural Standards to Empower Learning in an Anti-DEI Climate, <i>Katie Archer Olson</i> | Ed. | Zoom Room 2 |
| | Aligning and Integrating Alaska Language with Science of Reading for our kids and families, <i>X'unyél Lisa Worl, Ts'qalts'ema Dek'isen Kari Shaginoff, Chookán Lakrishia Brady</i> | La. | Zoom Room 3 |

BREAKOUT SESSION 3

| | | | |
|--------|--|-----|-------------------------|
| 3–4 pm | Lifelong Learning and Cultural Responsiveness, <i>Kaakasgooxú Peter Stanton</i> | Ed. | Livestream, SHI YouTube |
| | Baby Raven Reads, <i>Molly Briggs & Rosemary Kiessling</i> | La. | Zoom Room 2 |
| | Indigenizing Pedagogy: Cultivating a Tribal Community Consciousness in Education, <i>Robin Zape-tah-hol-ah Minthorn, PhD</i> | Ed. | Zoom Room 3 |

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8

BREAKOUT SESSION 1

| | | | |
|---------|---|-----|-------------------------|
| 9–10 am | Digital Storytelling for Sovereignty: Preparing Indigenous Youth to Lead America's Next Revolution, <i>Andrei Jacobs</i> | In. | Livestream, SHI YouTube |
| | Braiding Design: Weaving Stories, Systems, and Stakeholders in SUNRAE, <i>Tonia Dousay, Nicole Endsley, Kitty Deal</i> | Ed. | Zoom Room 2 |
| | Teaching Through the Language of Love: Learning from the Experience of Roger White Academy, <i>Farzaneh Peterson, Dr. MaryAnne DeWolf</i> | Ed. | Zoom Room 3 |

BREAKOUT SESSION 2

| | | | |
|----------------|---|-----|-------------------------|
| 10:30 am–12 pm | Cultivating Purposeful Language Spaces: Indigenizing Classrooms through Community Voice and Teacher Empowerment, <i>Azul Cortés, Loretta Booker</i> | La. | Livestream, SHI YouTube |
| | Bridging Knowledge Systems In Science Education, <i>Wendy Kah Skahluwáa Todd</i> | Ed. | Zoom Room 2 |

AWARDS, PANEL DISCUSSION, CLOSING

| | | |
|-----------|---|-------------------------|
| 1:30–2 pm | Culturally Responsive Educator Awards, <i>Indigenizing Education for Alaska (IEA)</i> | Livestream, SHI YouTube |
| 2–3 pm | Panel Discussion: Partnerships in Culturally Responsive Teaching, <i>Dr. Olga Paniik Skinner, Teresa D'l'a Gwa T'awaa Varnell, and Ethan (Coven) Petticrew</i> Moderator: Keiyawjeeuwá – Michelle D. Martin | |
| 3–3:30 pm | Closing Ceremony | |

2025–2027 COURSES

K–12 Educators & Administrators

Culturally Responsive Orientation

Fall 2025, Spring 2026, Fall 2026 and Spring 2027
3 UAS credits | Partially synchronous

Culturally Responsive Community of Practice

Fall 2025, Spring 2026, and Spring 2027
1 UAS credit | Synchronous

Culturally Responsive Understanding by Design (UbD): Native Literature

Summer 2025, Summer 2026, and Spring 2027
1 UAS credit | Partially synchronous

Culturally Responsive Understanding by Design (UbD): Alaska Native History

Fall 2025 and Fall 2026
1 UAS credit | Partially synchronous

K–12 Paraeducators & Support Staff


Culturally Responsive Introduction

Spring 2026, Fall 2026, and Spring 2027
1 UAS credit | Asynchronous



To learn more about
Thru the Cultural Lens
course offerings for
2025–2027 visit:
bit.ly/SHI-TCL25-27



A stylized map of Alaska is shown in dark blue, set against a background of lighter blue concentric arcs and radial lines emanating from the center, creating a sunburst effect. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

Gunalchéesh
T'oyaxsut 'Nüüsm
Háw'aa'uu
Thank you

conference.sealaskaheritage.org

The Thru the Cultural Lens program is supported by the Alaska Native Education (ANE) program of the US Department of Education PR# S356A240009, as part of a \$1.9 million award, which pays for 100 percent of the total cost of the program. The contents of this program do not represent the policy, views, or endorsement of ANE, DOE, or the US Government.