



MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Between

SEALASKA HERITAGE INSTITUTE and

ANNETTE ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

This MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA) is designed to further the communication, collaboration, and partnership between SEALASKA HERITAGE INSTITUTE and ANNETTE ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT.

a. PURPOSE

Sealaska Heritage Institute (SHI) received a U.S. Department of Education's (DOE) Alaska Native Education program grant. The purpose of the ANE program funding is to support the *Haa Latseen Initiative: Culturally Responsive College & Career Readiness Programming in Southeast Alaska* project. The three-year Haa Latseen Initiative will allow SHI and eight partnering school districts to work toward these goals: (1) Native students in SE Alaska set & pursue their post-secondary education & career goals; (2) Native students in SE AK enhance their cultural knowledge & social-emotional wellbeing; and (3) Alaska Native students in Juneau's high schools will increase their academic proficiency and graduate from high school.

Execution of this MOA will allow **SHI** and the **Annette Island School District** to enact the partnership necessary to implement the goals above. Therefore, Alaska Native students attending **Charles R. Leask Sr. Middle School** and **Metlaktla High School** will directly benefit from this partnership and the three-year *Haa Latseen Initiative*.

b. PARTNERS

Sealaska Heritage Institute (SHI) was created by Sealaska Corporation Inc. (Sealaska) in 1980 as a nonprofit 501(c)(3). Sealaska recognizes SHI as its tribal organization established for the purposes of applying on its behalf for grants and contracts – and to administer programs and funding – to enhance the culture, education, heritage, and well-being of its tribal members. Further, SHI is sanctioned by Sealaska to apply for and operate projects that are funded by the U.S Department of Education's Alaska Native Education program to serve its tribal members.

SHI is governed entirely by Alaska Natives and operates with a mission to “*Perpetuate and enhance the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian cultures.*” SHI is located in Alaska's capital city of Juneau and it serves the region of Southeast Alaska. SHI has 39 years of experience partnering with Alaska Native parents and youth, tribal Elders, educators, leaders, local communities, and

school districts to develop and collaboratively manage educational programming that meet the: (1) State of Alaska Content and the Performance Standards for Alaska Students and (2) Alaska Standards for Culturally Responsible Schools.

Annette Island School District operates with a mission that: “*We will work together with the community to support students by promoting high academic expectations, cultural opportunities and mentorship.*” The Annette Island School District follows a vision that: “*Our students will become independent, contributing citizens in a local and global community.*” The community of Metlakatla is located on Annette Island and is home to over 1,400 individuals. The Charles R. Leask Sr. Middle School and Metlakatla High School each serve approximately 70 students annually, of whom over 90% are of Alaska Native heritage.

Recognizing our collective responsibilities to those that we serve, and that through the combined efforts, knowledge, and resources of our organizations we can better achieve our common goals and initiatives, SHI and Annette Island School District will partner to achieve two goals identified in the Haa Latseen Initiative: 1) *Native students in Southeast Alaska set and pursue their post-secondary education & career goals*; and 2) *Native students in Southeast Alaska enhance their cultural knowledge and social-emotional wellbeing.*

The third goal for the Haa Latseen Initiative is: 3) *Alaska Native students in Juneau’s high schools will increase their academic proficiency and graduate from high school.* This goal is specific to adult mentoring and individual learning plans. These programs are being piloted in partnership with the Juneau School District. Independently evaluated objective outcome data for these model programs will be shared with all school districts partnering in the Haa Latseen Initiative.

c. VISION

Annette Island School District and SHI have a common vision for the *Haa Latseen Initiative*: Alaska Native middle and high school students who are supported by their schools, families, and their local and regional tribal communities in setting, refining, and strategically pursuing their college and/or career goals will graduate from high school with enhanced cultural knowledge and social-emotional skills. As a result, students will be better prepared to achieve their full potential.

d. SCOPE

SHI agrees to work on behalf of its *Haa Latseen Initiative* project to support Alaska Native students in grades 6-12 to increase their college and career readiness and to assist them and their families to identify specific postsecondary goals & career paths and navigate post-secondary processes.

SHI will partner with the **Annette Island School District** to implement biannual post-secondary readiness programming and educational activities, which includes social-emotional wellbeing and prevention activities, over the proposed three-year *Haa Latseen Initiative*. To accomplish this scope of work, SHI will:

1. Ensure that the project's **College & Career Specialist** and **Wellness and Prevention Specialist** initiates contact at least quarterly, and as needed throughout the three-year project, with the point of contact identified by the Annette Island School District for Charles R. Leask Sr. Middle School and Metlakatla High School.
2. Coordinate with Charles R. Leask Sr. Middle School and Metlakatla High School to deliver best practice college & career programming that will allow Native students in grades 6-12 to:
 - a. Participate in 6 hours of biannual (12 hours/year) college and career readiness programming at their school; and
 - b. Set, review, refine, and share their evolving post-secondary goals and pathway plans biannually with their teachers, peers, and families.
3. Coordinate with Charles R. Leask Sr. Middle School and Metlakatla High School to co-host biannual gatherings for students and their families to discuss and learn more about:
 - a. Observations and research demonstrating the positive outcomes associated with students identifying, sharing, and pursuing their post-secondary goals; and
 - b. General and specific admissions processes for college and vocational programs and the steps to take to apply for federal, state, and private financial aid; and
 - c. Social-emotional wellbeing through culturally affirming activities.
4. Develop and implement annual region-wide events and provide Charles R. Leask Sr. Middle School and Metlakatla High School with information to advertise these opportunities for their Alaska Native students. Funding support will be available for Native students for the following:
 - a. 10-day Latseen Leadership, College & Career Academies; and
 - b. Annual Native Post-Secondary Fair
5. Plan, coordinate, and chaperone the Haa Latseen Initiative's annual, 7-day tour of postsecondary educational programs in urban locations.
 - a. To be eligible to participate in the group of 12 high school students who will travel to post-secondary institutions annually, a student must have successfully graduated from one of SHI's high school Academies and have collaborated with the **College & Career Specialist** to design and deliver a presentation about the Academy for their peers, teachers, etc.
6. Assist Charles R. Leask Sr. Middle School and Metlakatla High School to identify youths' social-emotional support networks and strengthen their connectivity to their culture, community, and their school, through activities conducted at in-person or virtually by the **Wellness and Prevention Specialist**, which includes but is not limited to:
 - a. Providing youth-facing adult mentors, such as coaches, teachers, and instructors, workshops on supporting students' social-emotional wellbeing; and
 - b. Hosting activities and events that increase Native students' cultural knowledge.

Annette Island School District enacts its partnership with SHI through agreeing to the following activities to support the collaborative *Haa Latseen Initiative* project:

1. Identify the appropriate individual to be the point of contact for the Haa Latseen Initiative's **College & Career Specialist** and **Wellness and Prevention Specialist** discuss the project with at least quarterly, and as needed throughout the three-year project, at:

- a. Charles R. Leask Sr. Middle School
 - b. Metlakatla High School
2. Allow the **College & Career Specialist** and **Wellness and Prevention Specialist** to coordinate with the point/s of contact to schedule and to personally deliver the Haa Latseen Initiative's 6 hours of school-based college and career readiness programming and social-emotional wellbeing activities biannually (12 hours/year) for:
 - a. 6-8th grade students at Charles R. Leask Sr. Middle School
 - b. 9-12th grade students at Metlakatla High School
3. Provide locations, without a fee for rental, for the biannual, afterschool, family-based college and career information-sharing and social-emotional wellbeing gatherings that the **College & Career Specialist** and **Wellness and Prevention Specialist** will coordinate, in consultation with Charles R. Leask Sr. Middle School and Metlakatla High School.
4. Assist SHI to advertise the opportunity for Native high school students to participate in the Annual Native Post-Secondary Fair (early fall) and 10-day Latseen Leadership, College & Career Academy (takes place in summer).
 - a. Allow Latseen Academy graduates to give a presentation to their peers, teachers, etc. about the Academy. This allows them to apply to participate in the Initiative's biannual tours of postsecondary educational programs outside Alaska.
5. Allow eligible students to coordinate with their teachers to make-up course work, etc., to attend:
 - a. The Annual Native Post-Secondary Fair; and/or
 - b. Complete a 7-day tour of postsecondary education programs in an urban location.
6. Allow staff, including coaches and teachers, to receive training from SHI's **Wellness and Prevention Specialist** on supporting students' social-emotional wellbeing.
7. Administer annual post-participation surveys to students participating in Haa Latseen Initiative activities and send the completed surveys to SHI in years 1-3 of the project.

This MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT hereby supports efforts between SEALASKA HERITAGE INSTITUTE and ANNETTE ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT for the *Haa Latseen Initiative: College and Career Readiness in Southeast Alaska* project submitted in response to the U.S. Department of Education, Alaska Native Education Program funding opportunity.

Rosita Worl, PhD, President
Sealaska Heritage Institute

Date

Taw Lindsey, Superintendent
Annette Island School District

Date