

# First Alaskans Institute

FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE  
2021 ANNUAL ELDERS AND YOUTH  
RESOLUTION 21-01

**TITLE:** Alaska Native Regional and Village Corporation Investing in Alaska Native Led and Owned K-12 Education Infrastructure and Support

**WHEREAS:** The First Alaskans Institute Elders and Youth Conference is the largest statewide convening of Alaska Native Elders and youth representing our diverse Alaska Native cultures and language groups in order to enhance and perpetuate the unique spirits and identities of our peoples; and

**WHEREAS:** The purpose of the Conference is to connect Elders and youth for cultural knowledge transmission, strengthen statewide relationships, amplify the power of our participants as leaders today, and advance solutions to challenges faced by our Native peoples and our communities; and

**WHEREAS:** Alaska Native Regional and Village Corporations have created, supported, and invested in funding to further success for students in post-secondary education arenas such as vocational technologies, college, and/or career training; and

**WHEREAS:** Alaska Native youth are bright, hardworking, and fully capable students who are currently underserved by the existing K-12 education systems and educational spaces; there is not widespread access to educational environments that reflect Alaska Native students and make them feel valued; the State of Alaska is obligated to provide for public education that meets the needs of students; and

**WHEREAS:** A strong positive K-12 educational experience helps create success for the youth as they transition into adulthood; and is critical for economic stability.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** by the participants of the 2021 First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference request the Alaska Native Regional and Village Corporations, Tribes, and other Alaska Native entities work together to advocate for federal, state, and local investment in K-12 education that includes building infrastructure and Alaska Native Language coursework and curriculum that teaches through Indigenous ways of knowing in a manner that builds capacity for Tribal and Alaska Native-driven and owned K-12 education.

Submitted by: Barbara Shangin (Unangax)

CONFERENCE ACTION: PASSED ON OCT. 20, 2021