

Welcome FTA Club Members *by Lolly Carpluk and Martha Stackhouse*

On behalf of the Statewide FTA Program and the Alaska Native Education Association, we would like to welcome you back to a brand new school year!!

As future teachers, you are part of a national and international movement to inspire more Indigenous people into the teaching profession. YES, an international and national movement! Just check out the FTA website to see the many organizations/entities that are involved in this effort.

Our own state needs more Alaska Native teachers and administrators. By participating in FTA clubs and learning more about becoming a teacher, you are responding to this statewide need.

We were thrilled to learn from last year's club reports that FTA is engaged in both school and community activities. School-based club activities help you learn about teaching in a classroom environment and community-based activities help ground you in who you are as an Alaska Native

person.

The majority of FTA club members are high school students, some of whom were selected to attend various state and national education conferences. Those of you that attended, met hundreds of students who want to become teachers. Across the Nation and world there are thousands more students participating in future educator clubs just as you are.

Over the years, many of you have met inspirational Alaska Native college students and educators, especially during the Annual FTA Student Gatherings. They have offered important advice on what to focus on during high school to prepare you for college as well as shared their experiences as members of the statewide or regional Alaska Native Educator Associations. These associations are involved in many initiatives including the Honoring Alaska's Indigenous Literature (HAIL) Celebration. For more information on HAIL visit www.ankn.uaf.edu/IKS/HAIL/

and check out the reviews by Alaska Native educators. Also, don't forget to reach out to your regional Alaska Native Educator Association for potential guest speakers and other resources they may offer.

FTA has many fun events and activities for you to look forward to this year including Indigenous literature themed club activities, the 2009 Annual FTA Student Gathering, and the FTA website which was recently updated and now includes a Blog, Wiki and iChat features. We will keep advisors updated on when and how clubs can participate in these different projects.

There are exciting opportunities ahead. **Each of you has it within you to become a great teacher.** Our children need you, we need you, our schools need you.

Announcing the 2008-09 FTA Theme

by Charlene Stern and Lolly Carpluk

We are very excited to announce *Indigenous Literature* as this year's FTA theme! As future teachers, it is important that you become familiar with available Indigenous literature as well as be preparing to contribute your ideas to new curriculum, books, etc. With that in mind we would like to present FTA clubs with two challenges for the year.

Further instructions will be provided to FTA advisors at a later date.

Challenge #1: To plan and carry-out activities that promote Indigenous literature. One example is to feature an Indigenous book(s) as part of your reading buddies activities. If you need help finding Indigenous books, please contact FTA Director, Lolly Carpluk.

Challenge #2: To write and illustrate a book (standard, audio, iBook, coloring, activity or any other type of book). Work together as a club or in partnership with other clubs in your district to develop at least one book, to be featured at the 2009 FTA Student Gathering.

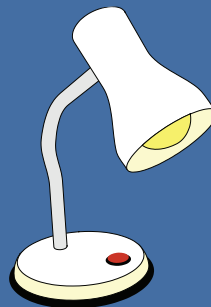
Noorvik FTA Club Spotlight

by Charlene Stern and Lolly Carpluk

For two years, the Noorvik FTA club has awarded a \$500 scholarship to any senior accepted into an educational program at an accredited college.

To raise the funds last year, the Noorvik FTA club helped a fellow student prepare for the district spelling bee. By taking turns after school to help the contestant study, FTA club members redirected the \$500 that would have paid a spelling bee coordinator to a senior scholarship. And that's not all...the student placed 3rd at the district contest!

Way to go Noorvik FTA club members! Your contribution is an excellent example of how students can support each other while working towards our goal of "growing our own" teachers for Alaska.



FTA Club Spotlight

Statewide FTA Collaborators

Partner School Districts

Bering Strait
Lower Yukon
Lake & Peninsula
Lower Kuskokwim
Nome Public Schools
Northwest Arctic Borough
Yukon Flats

Affiliate Schools / Districts

Juneau High School
St. Paul Island
Crooked Creek School
Dillingham High School
Chevak School
North Slope Borough
Kodiak Island Borough

Partner Organizations

Alaska Native Education Association
Alaska Teacher Placement
Preparing Indigenous Teachers and Administrators for Alaska's Schools
Alaska Native Education Student Association



The Statewide FTA Program is funded by a U.S. Department of Education grant through a partnership between the Alaska Native Education Association and the Alaska Teacher Placement at the University of Alaska.

We updated our website!
Visit FTA at
www.futureteachersalaska.org

The Flashlight Newsletter
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Highlights from 2007-08 by Charlene Stern and Lolly Carpluk

Last year, FTA had 505 active club members across the state! Each year the program has grown to include more schools, advisors and club members.

FTA clubs participated in many fun and interesting activities including reading buddies, seasonal card-making, tutoring, educational game nights, and more. Selected students also helped to represent FTA at the 2008 Bilingual Multicultural Education Equity Conference, where they had an opportunity to share why they wanted to become a teacher. Another group of FTA students traveled to Chattanooga, Tennessee to attend the Future Educators Association National Conference where they

were recognized as having traveled the longest distance to attend the conference.

Congratulations to all our FTA club members! Your energy and commitment is truly making a difference!



Lower Yukon School District FTA students at the 2008 FEA National Conference. Photo credit: Mountain Village FTA.

Southeast Schools Start FTA Clubs by Annie Calkins



FTA staff and PITAAS college freshmen at the 2008 PITAAS Summer Institute.

The University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) just received word that the Preparing Indigenous Teachers and Administrators for Alaska's Schools (PITAAS) program was refunded by the U.S. Department of Education, Alaska Native Education Program.

PITAAS offers UAS scholarships to Native students interested in teaching. A new component of the grant will be the formation of eight to ten FTA clubs in Southeast schools and communities. So watch for a high energy group of Southeast students at the 2009 FTA Student Gathering! For more information, contact Jacque Tagaban at jctagaban@uas.alaska.edu.

2008 FTA Student Gathering by Charlene Stern and Lolly Carpluk

The 2008 FTA Student Gathering was held for the first time in the State Capitol of Juneau. FTA students and advisors came from around Alaska to share in three days of educational and cultural activities that included student led workshops, an ice cream social, club presentations, Tlingit drumming, Inupiaq dancing and more. As part of the educational tours, students visited the State Legislature, Governor's mansion, Mendenhall Glacier and UAS campus.

Following the theme of *Haa Shagoon* (Tlingit for "who we are and where we come from"), cultural identity and community were central

focuses of the Gathering. With over 140 attendees, the 2008 Gathering was the largest one yet!

The next Gathering will be held April 22-24, 2009 in Fairbanks. We hope to see you there!



FTA students and Advisors visit the State Legislature at the 2008 FTA Student Gathering.

Important Dates

- Sept. 9 1st FTA All Partner Audio
- Oct. 20-22 Elders & Youth Conference, Anchorage
- Oct. 23-25 Alaska Federation of Natives Convention, Anchorage
- Oct. 23-26 National Indian Education Association Convention, Seattle
- Jan. 28-30 Bilingual Multicultural Education Equity Conference, Anchorage
- Feb. 13-15 Future Educators Association National Conference, Denver
- Apr. 22-24 Annual FTA Student Gathering, Fairbanks