Southeast Conference Scholarship
at the UNIVERSITY of ALASKA SOUTHEAST

Southeast Conference has contributed more than $290,000 to the University of Alaska Southeast since 1998. The Southeast Conference Scholarship has awarded more than 300 individual scholarship awards. Thank you for your support!

Total Awarded (2019–2020)
$6,500

5 Students Supported (2019–2020)
Dear Southeast Conference,

I am honored to be one of this year’s recipients of the Southeast Conference Scholarship. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generosity. Thanks to your donation, I am able to continue my education at the University of Alaska Southeast. I am currently in the junior year of my Social Science degree, with a primary concentration in Economics. My dedication and passion for Economics has allowed me to achieve a Grade Point Average of 3.6. In addition to my academic pursuits, I am actively involved in volunteering at the Southeast Alaska Food Bank as well as volunteering for many UAS events. My education pursuits would not have been possible without your generous donation. Thank you for enabling me to reach my fullest personal and professional potential.

I chose to attend the University of Alaska because Alaska is my home and I love the community and the state I live in. Although I was not born in Alaska, I have lived here for most of my life and consider it to be my home. After beginning my studies at UAS, I fell in love with the university and everything it has to offer. UAS is such a welcoming campus, filled with faculty and staff that really care about their students. I cannot wait to graduate from UAS in two years and to begin a career here in Juneau. One day I hope to give back to my community the same way the community has helped me. In the future, I plan to donate to scholarships and help students achieve their educational and professional goals.

Sincerely,
Marina Ogai

Scholarship Recipient: Marina Ogai
Marina’s Program: Bachelor of Arts
Marina’s Class Standing: Junior
Scholarship Award: $1,500 ($750/semester)
Marina’s Major: Social Science
Marina’s Hometown: Juneau, Alaska
Dear Southeast Conference,

I would like to say gunalchéesh for choosing me for this scholarship. Being able to give back to those around me is truly the sole purpose that motivates me to pursue higher education. It is with the financial support of this scholarship that my dreams and goals in life can truly become reality. I know that it is not the huge leaps in life but the little steps and overlooked blessings that make dreams come true.

When thinking of furthering my education, I think of children. I think of the parents that raise those children and the children who will grow to lead after us. That is where my interest lies and that is the area of study I am seeking. I plan to give back by supporting infants and toddlers during vital times of their development. I am also interested in being a support system for the parents during this time. In a way that I support them through offering resources to help and lead them to being the parents for their children that they seek to be. I plan to start small then move along to other bigger goals that will take me to new places. I plan to get a degree, return to Kake, then continue schooling there and get a master’s so I can get better career options in different locations within several years. This scholarship will be one of those blessing that will be a little step to me achieving my goals, and for that I say thank you!

Sincerely,
Jacqueline Bennum

Scholarship Recipient Jacqueline's Program Jacqueline's Class Standing
Jacqueline Bennum Bachelor of Liberal Arts Sophomore

Scholarship Award Jacqueline's Major Jacqueline's Hometown
$1,500 ($750/semester) English Kake, Alaska

UA is an AA/EO employer and educational institution and prohibits illegal discrimination against any individual: www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination.
Dear Southeast Conference,

My name is Catriona Pearson and I currently am pursuing a degree in the medical field. No matter where you find yourself in life, whether in a metropolitan city or a rural village in Alaska, there will always be people in need of care. I know that once I can obtain a degree in this field, my opportunities will greatly expand and I will be able to work towards a more fulfilling future.

Throughout my life, I have explored many career paths which all had one thing in common: helping and creating a better life for others. As a young girl, I suffered from respiratory complications which left me hospitalized for extended periods. As frightening as this experience was for me, the nurses at our local hospital made the experience much less daunting for my entire family. The kindness and compassion they showed us left me inspired and initially sparked my interest in the health sciences.

While there are many career paths to go down, I am currently admitted into the Pre-Nursing Program with the University of Alaska. I hope to get a broad understanding of what it means to be a healthcare provider, and narrow my area of study in the future. In addition to improving the quality of care for Alaskans, by obtaining a degree in the Health Sciences, I will always have opportunities to learn and grown within my profession. I am grateful to find opportunities like the ones that the University of Alaska in partnership with donors are providing to students. It makes me feel that I am not alone on the journey of accomplishing my educational goals. I remain persistent and will keep working hard until I reach my career goals.

Sincerely,

Catriona Pearson

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Scholarship Recipient: Catriona Pearson
Scholarship Award: $1,500 ($750/semester)

Catriona’s Program: Health Certificate
Catriona’s Major: Pre-Nursing
Catriona’s Class Standing: Freshman
Catriona’s Hometown: Juneau, Alaska
Dear Southeast Conference,

Many years ago I began my college journey in hopes of being a teacher but first I was a teacher to my own children for twelve years, a tutor at the local jail for three (currently in that role), and a tutor to many others. After I complete a BLA, I hope to continue towards an MAT with the hopes of teaching in my local district. Having so much life experience, I hope to bring much more to the table than just a degree but wisdom gained through time and on the job training. I have a teacher friend who did not return to the field until she was 42, and she says that she believes she was a much better teacher at that age than she was at 23. I have been inspired by her as I am fully aware that I am entering a career at the age many people are leaving it.

When I began my college years I was unmarried and had always planned to return after our kids had entered school, however, we decided to homeschool for 12 years, therefore, my education goals were placed on hold and now my oldest son and I are scheduled to graduate the same semester if we stay on track. I think it is motivation for the both of us. Being committed to our family and children, we have been a single income family until just a few years ago when part-time work for me allowed me to pay for school without borrowing along with the scholarships I have been so very fortunate to receive. My father was an educator and I believe strongly in education at any age. Part of my experience comes from teaching two learners who have some learning difficulties specifically in the area of Language Arts. This had taught me a lot about the power of a good teacher and the tools needed to allow anyone to succeed. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Mishele Rhein

Scholarship Recipient: Mishele Rhein
Mishele’s Program: Bachelor of Liberal Arts
Mishele’s Class Standing: Senior

Scholarship Award: $1,000 ($500/semester)
Mishele’s Major: Humanities, Psychology
Mishele’s Hometown: Ketchikan, Alaska
Dear Southeast Conference,

I have grown up and lived in Southeast Alaska most of my life. I also plan to live and raise a family here. With my degree in Business Administration we would be able to develop and sustain ethical and fair community-centered businesses in Southeast. I hope to develop a business together with my family which would create local jobs and provide affordable housing to help Southeast Alaska, specifically Sitka. We hope to help Sitka grow by making it more appealing and accessible to those who would come to work and live here.

I have been working in the field of computers for the last 15 years, and as I grow older I find that I desire to be a department head more than an engineer. I hope that with a Business Administration degree with focuses on management and project management, I will be able to grow my career in a way that suits my developing interests in my field. I also find comfort in knowing that my degree and education will prepare me for the uncertainty of the field of technology. By moving away from specific technologies and moving towards managing teams of specialists, I will not so quickly be affected by large shifts in the field, which seem to happen every year as technology evolves. I would love to be able to use a Business Administration degree to give me the well-rounded knowledge for more efficiently running a team, department, or company.

Sincerely,

Ian Crane

Scholarship Recipient
Ian Crane

Scholarship Award
$1,000 ($500/semester)

IA's Program
Bachelors of Business

Ian's Major
Business Administration

Ian's Class Standing
Freshman

Ian's Hometown
Sitka, Alaska