



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Between
Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
and
the University of Alaska Southeast



Date: Friday, March 27, 2026

Parties:

Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida)
University of Alaska Southeast (UAS)

I. Shared Vision

Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska and the University of Alaska Southeast affirm a shared commitment to strengthening educational opportunities in support of student growth and vitality. Together, we envision an educational model that is responsive to Indigenous communities, inclusive of cultural knowledge systems, informed by community-identified goals and shaped by Indigenous knowledge, leadership, and sovereignty. Through a supportive and collaborative model our mutual goal is to support academic program development, identify economic growth and vitality, workforce needs and projections, research, and community engagement opportunities that are inclusive of the languages, traditions, and values of the Indigenous peoples of Southeast Alaska.

II. Purpose of the Agreement

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes a foundation for respectful collaboration between Tlingit & Haida and UAS toward the development of a framework built upon principles of mutual trust, transparency, and co-creation of a vision for a **School of Indigenous Studies** at the University of Alaska Southeast.

This MOU is not legally binding and does not create a contractual relationship between the parties. It is intended as a foundational agreement that may be supplemented by targeted agreements to support shared projects and refined priorities.

III. Guiding Principles

The collaboration between the Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska and UAS will be guided by the following principles:

- **Respect for Sovereignty:** UAS respects and honors the Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska's status as a sovereign regional Tribal government. Both parties recognize that UAS campuses may be situated within the traditional territories of multiple Tribal governments. In communities where another Tribe is recognized as the primary governing body, Tlingit & Haida embraces the decisions and guidance of the local Tribe to ensure collaboration remains rooted in local sovereignty and respect for place. Tlingit & Haida may, however, still operate programs, functions, services, and activities within communities at the request of local Tribes and may provide input based on those ongoing services and relationships.
- **Co-Design and Co-Ownership:** Conceptual design initiatives, including the development of academic programs, research agendas, and cultural protocols, will be co-developed with mutual input and shared leadership, consistent with the governance models of each organization.
- **Accountability and Communication:** The parties agree to maintain open and regular communication and to inform each other promptly of opportunities or challenges.
- **Commitment to Place:** Both parties recognize that UAS's demonstrated commitment to place-based and culturally-rich education is strengthened by a strong Tribal presence that reflects and honors the Indigenous peoples and traditional homelands of Southeast Alaska.

IV. Next Steps

This MOU signals the intent to:

1. Engage in a formal and respectful dialogue around the development of a School of Indigenous Studies.
2. Identify opportunities for pilot programs, joint grant initiatives, and collaborative events or learning experiences.
3. Form a working group with representation from both Tlingit & Haida and UAS to co-develop a roadmap for this initiative.

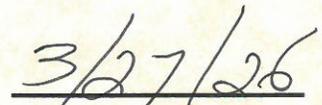
V. Term and Termination

This Memorandum of Understanding shall take effect upon signature by both parties and remain in effect until it is replaced by a more detailed agreement or until either party provides written notice of withdrawal. Either party may withdraw from this MOU at any time, with mutual respect and recognition of the good-faith efforts that have guided this partnership to date.

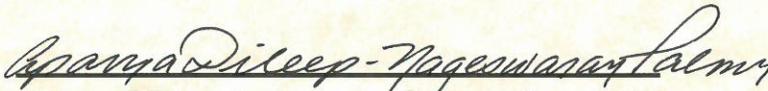
Signatures:



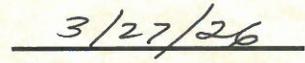
Richard Peterson, President
Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska



Date



Aparna Dileep-Nageswaran Palmer, Chancellor
University of Alaska Southeast



Date