



# Effie Kokrine Early College Charter School

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS  
**Interior-Aleutians Campus**  
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28 March 2014

Dear Senator Kelly:

I am writing on behalf the request for funding for the Boreal Alaska—Learning, Adaptation, Production (BAKLAP) project. BAKLAP is an important teaching resource for the Natural Resources Career pathways at Effie Kokrine Early College Charter School, through which our program reaches all facets of science, technology, research, engineering, art, and math (STREAM). With hands-on, skills-based programs such as BAKLAP, we can prepare our students for careers in the Natural Resources pathway, one of the fastest growing pathways today.

Effie Kokrine Charter School opened its doors in 2005 and in 2006 established the first Early College program in the state of Alaska. Effie Kokrine Early College Charter School serves 168 students in grades 7-12. Our population is 60% Alaska Native and 70% of those students are on the federal lunch program. These urban youth are at risk of losing traditional knowledge and with resources like One Tree Alaska and BAKLAP the opportunities for reconnection are limitless.

This year alone, One Tree has devoted one full semester of workshop and STREAM learning experiences for our middle school students. One Tree, students, and Elders discovered the riparian zone of nearby Deadman Slough and produced two art projects that blended Western knowledge with traditional ways of knowing. We look forward to continuing to work with One Tree as we plan and develop nearby Peirce Park into a citizen science park.

Additionally, biomass is one of the most rapidly rising renewable energy sources in the state. Alaska needs to support the research and development of sustainable renewable resources. The future of Alaska will depend on a successful blending of the remaining oil reserves as well as the development of renewable options. We need to instill in our students a sense of responsibility for our natural resources.

While I understand that budgets are tight, I urge you to continue funding this project in order to see it through to completion. Federal funders view state funding to be a non-federal match, which will help allocate more federal funds to our university forestry program.

I urge you to help make natural resource management research, education, and outreach more sustainable in Alaska by approving funding for the BAKLAP program.

Sincerely,

  
Sue McCullough, Early College Coordinator