

Megan Onders

Experience

Indigenous Studies PhD Student -University of Alaska Fairbanks – Fall 2023- Present

Adjunct Faculty, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Northwest Campus, September 2024- Present

- Inupiaq Professor: teaching an Inupiaq Verb Practicum, with the help of two Inupiaq language mentors to support the language immersion efforts of the Kawerak Head Start Program. This one hour a week, one credit course facilitates an Inupiaq learning journey, empowering students with conversational phrases, vocabulary and extensive verb stem practice. Fall 2025 -two Inupiaq Verb Drills classes, one in the NW Arctic, and one in the Bering Strait region.

Assistant City Manager for Economic Development, City of Nome, December 2024-September 2025

- Design, implement and monitor economic development programs including business attraction, small business assistance, commercial revitalization, business retention and marketing key development sites. Managing the Inaugural City of Nome Investment Summit. Serve as the City's Public Information Officer to help improve transparency and public communication between the City of Nome, Nome Police Department and the public.

Host, Ocean Knowledge Radio Show, KNOM & Spotify, September 2022 – Present (quarterly)

- A monthly radio show and podcast covering news of the ecological and geopolitical changes to the Bering Sea and Arctic Ocean, featuring interviews with agency officials, scientists, and traditional knowledge holders. Currently, the show is on pause, while incorporating the show into indigenous journalism as part of my UAF PhD Studies.

Executive Director, Indigenous People's Council for Marine Mammals, April 2023-June 2024

- Responsible for the day-to-day operations and activities of IPCOMM, representing Alaska Native co-management bodies across Alaska. Helped establish strategic priorities to support marine mammal hunters, and Alaska Native organizations in the conservation and management of marine mammals. Served on detail from IPCOMM as Deputy Director of the Arctic Executive Steering Committee, at the Office of Science & Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President, October 2023 to February 2024.

Director of Ocean Engagement, Alaska Ocean Observing System, July 2022-January 2023

- Host of the Ocean Knowledge Radio Show on KNOM. Expand engagement with rural and tribal communities. Work with program coordinators to develop community engagement strategies for the Alaska Ocean Acidification Network, the Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network, the Alaska Ecosystem Monitoring Network, and the Regional Ocean Data Sharing Partnership.

Self-Governance Liaison, Norton Sound Health Corporation, January 2021-April 2022

- Technical Representative to the Sanitation Facilities Advisory Committee of ANTHC. Decolonizing engineering services. Developed leadership indicators for managing sanitation projects. Established a path to water and sewer service for unserved communities in Alaska. Established a tribal utility cooperative serving 15 communities with governance and engineering services.

Principal Strategist, Arctic Geopolitical LLC, Nome & Anchorage, AK – May 2016- December 2020

- Economic and public policy development regarding housing, sewer and water, and Arctic Affairs on behalf of tribes in the Bering Strait region (Kawerak Inc. & Norton Sound Health Corporation).

Infrastructure Coordination partnership development for housing, sewer and water and roads in Bering Strait region communities.

Quota & Acquisitions Analyst, Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation, Nome AK

April 2015-April 2016

- Assisted with the management of the harvest of NSEDC's CDQ and IFQ allocations for pollock, pacific cod, crab, halibut, sablefish and other ground fish. Assisted with legal contracts for the annual harvest of species. Prepare CDQ and IFQ harvest reports for management and the Board of Directors. Prepared quarterly cash flow statements. Attended meetings of the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

Legislative Assistant, Office of Senator Lisa Murkowski, Washington D.C.

February 2013 –March 2015

- In consultation with Federal, State, Tribal and private entities, responsible for rural Alaska policy in the issue areas of infrastructure & sanitation, housing, health delivery, public safety and justice, land management, as well as fish & wildlife management. Prepare speeches, draft and negotiate legislation. Senior member of Senator's Arctic policy team.

Leadership & Public Service

Chief, King Island Native Community

Chair, Bering Strait Development Council (Alaska Regional Development Organization)

Village Representative, Alaska Federation of Natives Board of Directors

Contributing Climate Reporter to National Native News – Kotzebue Flood Story – Oct 25, 2024

Former Climate Advisory Board Member – PBS News Hour and Indian Country Today

Former, Board of Directors, Alaska Federation of Natives, Bering Strait Region Village Representative

Former Adjunct Faculty, Economics Professor, Alaska Pacific University, Anchorage, Alaska

Former Board Member, Rural Community Assistance Corporation, Sacramento, California

Former Chief, King Island Native Community

Former Commissioner, City of Nome Port Commission

Alaska Federation of Natives 2016 Convention Keynote Speaker

Education

M.A. Applied Economics, May 2010, Johns Hopkins University, Washington D.C.

B.S. Economics, cum laude, May 2005, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

Certified Yoga Teacher RYT 200, Anchorage Yoga Studio