

SEE STORIES INTERN ADVOCATES FOR COMPREHENSIVE ALASKA STUDIES REFORM IN ALASKA SCHOOLS

IQLAS DUBED, SEE STORIES INTERN AND CURRENT UAA STUDENT, RELEASES PODCAST EPISODE, "ALASKA'S UNTAUGHT HISTORIES"

Anchorage, AK: *Iqlas Dubed (she/her) , a current student at the University of Alaska Anchorage pursuing a degree in Political Science, is an intern for See Stories, a nonprofit organization that leads youth documentary, film workshops, and podcasting production workshops for youth in Anchorage and around the state of Alaska . As a high school student, Iqlas was struck by how the curriculum lacked Alaska Native history, cultures, and present-day context. Driven by this purpose, Iqlas is looking to change the way Alaskan Schools teach the required Alaska Studies class. This internship was generously funded by the Center for Safe Alaskans.*

My name is Iqlas Dubed, and I'm currently a student at the University of Alaska Anchorage. I was born in Ethiopia and raised here in Anchorage. I embrace my Somali and Ethiopian identity, while also considering Alaska my home.

Equality and inclusion is something I hold dearly to my heart, particularly for underserved communities in Alaska. Advocating for their rights and ensuring their voices are heard is a cause I'm passionate about. During my most recent internship with See Stories, I had the opportunity to work on a podcast project. This project aimed to advocate for the implementation of a comprehensive Alaska Studies curriculum, one that incorporates the rich history, culture, and contributions of Alaska Native peoples.

While taking the Alaska Studies course myself, I noticed a concerning pattern. Alaska Studies was treated merely as an insignificant subject, lacking the recognition it deserves. The course's teaching approach and design undermine Alaska's profound historical background, resulting in a lack of understanding and appreciation for Indigenous communities. I firmly believe that in order for individuals to be truly educated on social issues in Alaska, we must incorporate Alaska studies & Indigenous studies into our mainstream education system.





Without a comprehensive education on these matters, people often display insensitivity and ignorance towards the social challenges we currently face. What many fail to realize is that these issues trace their roots back to the early Russian and American settlements in Alaska. By incorporating this knowledge into our educational framework, we can foster empathy, understanding, and a drive for positive change.

I'm committed to continuing my advocacy for a more inclusive curriculum and ensuring that Alaska's rich heritage is fully acknowledged. By doing so, we can cultivate a society that not only understands the historical significance of our region but also appreciates the diverse cultures that have shaped it. I have met incredible people who share the same concerns and advocate for the same issues, and I appreciate everyone who has been involved in this project. I hope we continue to work together towards a brighter and more equitable future for all.

About The Podcast: Iqlas Dubed is looking to change the way Alaskan Schools teach the required Alaska Studies class. As a high school student, Iqlas was struck by how the curriculum lacked Alaska Native history, cultures, and present-day context. This podcast consists of interviews with culture bearers, students, academics, and teachers, and advocates for creating a strong, culturally responsive Alaska Studies Curriculum. This podcast was produced by Iqlas Dubed, and was funded by Center for Safe Alaskans. Marie Acemah and Kaitlin Armstrong provided mentorship to Iqlas on this project. You can listen to the podcast episode, **Alaska's Untaught Histories** on the [See Stories Podbean channel here](#).

About See Stories: See Stories is a nonprofit organization that leads youth documentary, film workshops, and podcasting production workshops for youth in Anchorage and around the state of Alaska. See Stories builds inclusive communities with film and story, offering youth workshops, teacher professional development, and partnering with schools and local communities to inspire stories. See Stories works to ensure that diverse Alaskans and youth are given the media skills to craft stories better representing the Alaska they know.

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