

Department of Education & Early Development
Office of the Commissioner

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What does it take to build a work of lasting value? Vision, passion, and integrity.

The people building the Alaska K-12 Science Curriculum Initiative (AKSCI) maintain a consistent, clear *vision* that students (a) engaging science instructed with fidelity, (b) connecting solidly across other curricula, (c) advancing in cognitive complexity through the grades, will develop deep understanding of the scientific endeavor, of its root in traditional ways of knowing, and of its place in modern society. From beginning to end, the developers labor with *passion* to deliver for students a science curricular context that calls those students to first-hand examination of the land in which they dwell and of the larger universe encompassing that land in concentric rings of influence. Lastly, they sustain unrelenting *integrity* of process to align this initiative with scientific truth as understood in our era, while inviting students to their own, reasoned conclusions; to ensure cultural sensitivity, that is, to nurture attentiveness to place; to support and advance sound science pedagogy with alignment to Alaska's science standards; and, to render consistency of resource presentation across the various sciences and grade levels, so that teachers may more properly attend to content.

AKSCI represents an ambitious endeavor competently completed by persons exhibiting grace and assurance under the pressure of time and other constraints. So, it is with deep appreciation and gratitude that I acknowledge the work of the following persons and their represented entities.

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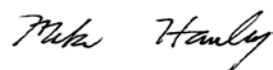
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I commend this science education resource to all teachers of Alaskan students, who continually introduce the wonders of science to our students throughout the Great Land!



Michael Hanley, Commissioner
Alaska Department of Education & Early Development