

What if we
could start
over with
higher
education?

Outer Coast

What is Outer Coast?

Outer Coast aspires to be a two-year college in
Sitka, Alaska



Why Outer Coast?

- Virtue can be inspired. Making change can be taught. Education that succeeds does both.
- We believe that students should graduate from college not only with a credential but also with the purpose and tools to improve the world.
- This is why we feel compelled to renew our society's commitment to a fundamental mission of higher education: to provide students not only with the ability to analyze and think, but also with the ability to effect meaningful change in their own lives, their communities, and the world at large.



Mission

Outer Coast seeks to teach and inspire promising young people to create virtuous change in the world and in their own lives.



Mission

Outer Coast:

- Provides a rigorous and challenging academic curriculum marked by exceptional pedagogy and faculty engagement
- Imparts the value of labor and service to a diverse student body entrusted with broad powers of self-governance
- Cultivates love for community and respect for nature within the setting of Sitka, Alaska by fostering creativity, curiosity, honesty, generosity, resilience, self-reliance, and good humor
- Accompanies students in their search for self-understanding and moral worth.



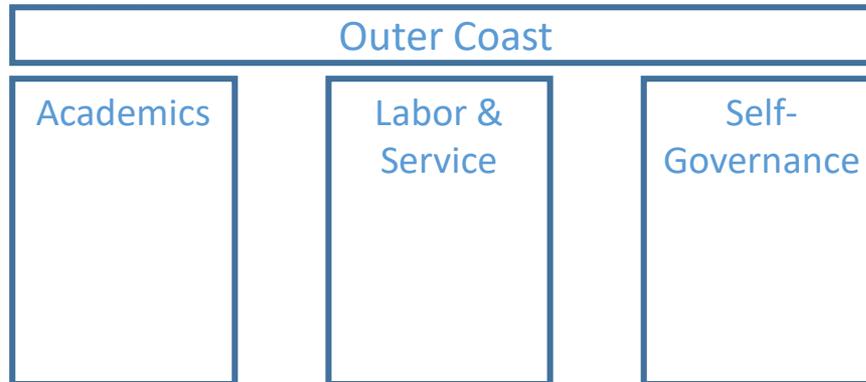
Whom We Serve

- Outer Coast seeks to recruit a student body that will be national and international in breadth and diverse in many ways, including in racial, ethnic, and gender identities and socioeconomic status.
- Outer Coast puts special emphasis on reaching students across Alaska, particularly Alaska Natives and rural Alaskans, as well as other high-potential students from under-resourced backgrounds, including students from outside Alaska.



Our Model

- The Outer Coast model is built on three pillars that make students accountable for all aspects of their education.



- By entrusting students with a broad range of responsibilities, from maintaining their campus to choosing the courses offered, to maintaining a meaningful engagement with and making significant contributions to the Sitka community, Outer Coast prepares them to make virtuous change in their own lives and the world.



Progress to Date

- In the summer of 2018, Outer Coast ran its first Summer Seminar in Sitka for a diverse cohort of 16 high school students. Over the course of a month, students:
 - Immersed themselves in a fast-paced, college-level academic course;
 - Participated in meaningful, work-based service;
 - And engaged in student self-governance.
- In the summer of 2019, Outer Coast built on the success of the inaugural Summer Seminar to offer programming to 23 high school students from across Alaska, the Lower 48, and around the world.
- In the words of one Summer Seminar student:
 - *It has been the most formative experience I've ever had in such a short span of time. It showed me what was valuable in my life: learning, meaningful relationships, meaningful work, and that creating a society, even temporarily, of these things is possible.*



Our Plan Going Forward

- In the summer of 2020, Outer Coast will run a third Summer Seminar for up to 32 students, June 27 - August 1, 2020 in Sitka.
- With ACPE approval, starting in the fall of 2020 Outer Coast will offer two four-month semesters (fall and spring), for up to 20 high school graduates. Through small seminars, close-knit residential living, and involvement in the wider Sitka community, students will learn how to identify, analyze, and address the challenges — both big and small — that face the world today.
- The Semester will serve as an important steppingstone in the establishment of the college to come. We will build off the successes of three Outer Coast Summer Seminars and explore how the Outer Coast educational model can operate most effectively for a full academic year with college-age students.



Our Plan Going Forward

- As early as the fall of 2022, Outer Coast aspires to open its doors as an intensive, two-year liberal arts college on the Sheldon Jackson campus. Students would receive associate's degrees and be able to transfer to four-year institutions to complete coursework for a bachelor's degree.
- Outer Coast offers a new paradigm for what higher education can and should achieve, [as described in *The New York Times*](#). The institution weaves together academics, service & labor, and self-governance to teach responsibility and accountability to oneself and one's community.

Opinion

The Anti-College Is on the Rise

Students, teachers and reformers are pushing back against the failures of mainstream higher education.



By Molly Worthen
Contributing Opinion Writer

June 8, 2019





Financial Model & Sustainability

- Outer Coast will combine private philanthropy, federal funding, and earned revenue from tuition to create an infrastructure for long-term sustainability.
- Once the college moves out of the start-up phase, we anticipate our annual operating expenses to be roughly \$1.75 million per year to support a student body of 40 and the accompanying administration, faculty, and staff.
- Through “all-in” cost of attendance including tuition, room, and board, we plan to fund at least half of Outer Coast’s annual operating expenses, while also providing generous aid to meet full demonstrated financial need for all students.



Financial Model & Sustainability

- We will initially raise the remainder of our budget through:
 - Institutional philanthropy
 - Major individual donors
 - Smaller gifts from a broad base of supporters
- We are raising start-up funding to support the next two years of operations, which will allow us to:
 - Build out administration, faculty, and staff
 - Test and refine the program model through the Outer Coast Semester
 - Lay the groundwork for the long-term health of the institution



The Upshot

- Outer Coast offers a new paradigm for what higher education can and should achieve.
- Outer Coast weaves together academics, self-governance, and service & labor to teach responsibility and accountability to oneself and one's community. Both inside and outside the classroom, Outer Coast students learn how to identify, analyze, and solve the challenges that face humanity today.
- Alaska-specific recruitment efforts and mindful integration with the local community make Outer Coast a mechanism of upward mobility for Alaska's youth and increase intellectual capital within the state.
- Outer Coast's success will be measured by its alumni's impact on their communities, Alaska, and the broader world.



Contact

outercoast.org

info@outercoast.org

Bryden Sweeney-Taylor, Executive Director

bryden@outercoast.org; 646-831-2828