

## **Janelle Vanasse – Biography:**

Janelle Vanasse has served in Alaska education for over 25 years. Currently the Superintendent of Mt. Edgecumbe High School, Janelle has focused much of her career in secondary education and helping under-served and low income populations successfully prepare for post-secondary transitions. Prior to Mt. Edgecumbe, Janelle worked in the Lower Kuskokwim School district for 20 years, 10 years as an administrator at Bethel Regional High School. While at Bethel Regional High School, Janelle led school improvement efforts around drop out prevention and building a college-going culture.

During her tenure, the graduation rate improved over 15% and the college-going rate reached 70% as measured by National Clearinghouse. Much of the college-going culture work Janelle engages in is aligned with the Redefining Ready research and includes multiple pathways through high school courses, building student goal-setting and accuracy in self-assessment, providing scaffold ways for students to reach highly rigorous college-prep course work, and early integration of college-navigation skills particularly targeting first generation students. Janelle believes both an understanding of cultural relevance and a deep look at current data is essential to meeting the 65 by 2025 goal.