

Tara Knight – Biography:

Born in Kodiak and raised in Anchorage, Tara Knight moved to Fairbanks in 2009 to pursue her Bachelor of Arts degree in English. After completing her undergraduate program, Tara went directly into the Master of Arts program in English at UAF and began her career in higher education by working as a graduate writing instructor. After completing her master's degree, Tara completed a Graduate Certificate in Academic Advising from Kansas State University while working as an Administrative Assistant in the Office of Disability Services and teaching writing courses as an adjunct at UAF. She is currently working on a second Bachelor of Arts degree in Foreign Languages while working as the UAF Admissions Counselor for UA Scholars and for the Anchorage, Mat-Su, and Kenai regions.

Tara has worked with a diverse population of students throughout the various positions she has held at the university and within the community, giving her insight into the varying educational needs of Alaska's population. In addition to Tara's professional experience in Disability Services, she is also personally close to individuals with disabilities as her oldest brother has Down syndrome. Because of her professional and personal connection to individuals with disabilities, Tara wants to see credentialing and professional development opportunities become more accessible to this population. Tara also volunteers in the women's holding facility at the Fairbanks Correctional Center as a writing instructor and believes attention needs to be given to making higher education accessible to those who are incarcerated or are reentering society after incarceration.