

at a glance

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- 2 Establish global leadership in Alaska Native and Indigenous programs
- 3 Achieve Tier 1 research status
- 4 Transform UAF's intellectual property development and commercialization
- 5 Embrace and grow a culture of respect, diversity, inclusion and caring
- 6 Revitalize key academic programs, from occupational endorsements to Ph.D.s

4 Transform UAF's intellectual property development and commercialization

There is an inherent entrepreneurial spirit in all of us who work or study at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, as we pursue the answers to some of the major challenges of today's society to build the Alaska and Arctic of tomorrow.

The vision is to develop and support a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship through reciprocal partnerships; provide the resources to foster creative, social and technological entrepreneurship; build innovative communities to develop solutions to focused challenges and needs; and create opportunities to grow today's and tomorrow's innovators and entrepreneurs.

Accomplishing this will require the following actions:

- **UAF will build its existing culture and foster new passions to integrate into the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Alaska and the Arctic.** This includes:
 - Integrating faculty with significant experience in innovation and entrepreneurship into the academic review process, supporting students pursuing innovative research and rapidly responding to commercialization opportunities commensurate with the speed of business.
 - Fostering ideation and entrepreneurship across academic programs. UAF will recognize its entrepreneurs through yearly awards and at national and international programs and events.
 - Building social, creative, cultural and technological entrepreneurs, including those who focus on greater well-being, and developing diverse programs such as those that support Alaska, Indigenous and first-generation college student entrepreneurs.
 - Evaluating the impact of entrepreneurial activities with dynamic metrics to measure innovative broader impacts on society and entrepreneurial and innovation success.
 - Supporting the next generation of innovators through embedding entrepreneurship as an integral part of the Alaska school system, from K-12 to the university, and into a statewide entrepreneur/innovation ecosystem.
- **UAF academic capabilities will be applied to develop solutions for direct integration and to demonstrate to students how their research and innovations can have an impact on community development and growth.** The university will:
 - Integrate more community needs and challenge projects into academic programs, where students follow the design-and-build process from a prototype to a minimum viable product to the final solution.
 - Further engagement with local communities through reciprocal agreements that address their challenges in mutually beneficial ways.

- Engage in open innovation to build solutions through rapid ideation sprints, as well as diversify funding to expand the innovation community and opportunity for success.
- Build an industry liaison program using existing relationships, and build future connections, to expand internships and “intra-preneurships” in and out of the state.
- Develop a business brand to promote the newest UAF technologies and discoveries.
- **In supporting knowledge transfer and co-creation of solutions, UAF will mentor the next generation of innovators, highlight capabilities developed by its academics and ensure that its academics have the best tools at their disposal.** The university will:
 - Develop an innovation and entrepreneurship mentorship program. The university will sustain and grow its ambassador program to represent its breadth of teaching, research and service with a larger fellows’ program.
 - Create a stronger and robust online portal to promote and market available discoveries and UAF-based startup companies.
 - Continue growing tools that support academics in disclosing their inventions and submitting patent applications, along with training on pitching to businesses and customer discovery.
- **Building interdisciplinary teams and themes can bring together a wide range of perspectives and skills to tackle the grand challenges that we face today.** The university will:
 - Build UAF-wide design challenges with teams from across its colleges, schools and institutes.
 - Develop interdisciplinary research themes to foster transdisciplinary collaborations by aligning like-minded researchers under a similar theme.
 - Promote these new themes as opportunities for the community to connect with the university, which will build new partnerships and funding opportunities and support collaborations across the academic environment.
- **Nimble adjusting to changes will produce graduates with the skills needed for the workforce.** The university will:
 - Maintain a dedicated technology transfer office to support UAF academics to transition their innovation research from the academic environment and to work with industry to understand their needs and challenges.
 - Support an innovation space for startup companies and budding entrepreneurs that allows innovative academics to work directly with like-minded industry partners.
 - Develop focused activities with local community members and organizations to work on the big ideas and major challenges for Alaska.
 - Evaluate the major economic growth sectors for Alaska and the Arctic to ensure research and technology transfer is at the leading edge, ready for integration and societal benefits.
 - Support training and capacity building so graduating students become the innovators of tomorrow.

