

The University of Alaska FY10 Operating Budget request
A strong university system is a key element for the State's success

The University of Alaska provides our citizens with enhanced opportunities for life-long learning and provides our businesses with access to a highly trained workforce, each of which are essential to development of a strong and vibrant economy. In addition, it provides research vital to Alaskans as well as bringing in dollars to the state, making it one of Alaska's top industries. Through preparing the workforce, providing expertise and leadership in a variety of fields, and serving as the driving force for research in Alaska, the university contributes significantly to the State's economic success and its citizens' quality of life.

The university directly employs over 7,800 Alaskans. An additional 10,000 jobs in Alaska are directly or indirectly linked to university spending, including more than \$360 million in personal income injected into the Alaska economy. The institution spends over \$125 million a year on goods and services with over 3,000 Alaska businesses in communities across the state.

UA FY10 Operating and Capital Budget Request

The University of Alaska Board of Regents FY10 operating and capital budget places **K-12 partnerships and outreach, engineering, energy, health, climate change and workforce programs as top priorities**. The \$11.8 million request in general fund dollars will be matched by \$11.8 million in other funding sources.

This budget supports programs vital to the education of our citizenry and includes the research necessary to address our state's needs. The \$345 million (gf) request for state investment in the university's 16-campus system includes the necessary resources to cover adjusted base increases including contractual and fixed cost increases, compensation, utilities, and compliance mandates. The university generates its own money from tuition, research grants and other income for a total FY10 budget of \$849.6 million. Putting it another way, the request for \$345 million in state funding generates an additional \$504.6 million in other funds.

K-12 bridging and outreach

The University has attracted an additional 1,100 Alaska high school seniors to attend our state university this past year, equating to a total of more than sixty percent of Alaska's college-bound high school graduates coming to the University of Alaska. The budget includes funding for special education teacher preparation, the Early College High School Initiative, Alaska Summer Research Academy, and career pathway, outreach and planning initiatives, K-12 outreach to support partnerships with the Department of Education and school districts, as well as other entities to introduce the value of higher education to Alaska high school students before they graduate, as well as focus on high school-to-college bridging.

Energy, Engineering and Climate programs

Energy, Engineering and Climate funding are addressing solutions to the state's most pressing energy and climate issues. The University is providing the core expertise and support to address the state needs in partnerships with the Alaska Energy Authority, Departments of Natural Resources, Environmental Conservation, and the Governors' Subcabinet on Climate Change. The Cooperative Extension Service is also providing outreach services to address the energy needs in all parts of Alaska, as well as promote community development, and providing information on conventional and alternative energy solutions.

The UAF Engineering programs continue to grow, with a goal of doubling the number of undergraduate engineers by 2012. Between fall 2001 and spring 2008, enrollment in UAF's College of Engineering and Mines increased 73 percent, and over the past year, it has increased by an additional 10 percent. New graduate enrollment went up by 75 percent. Research in this area experienced a 400 percent growth since 1998. Funding is required to keep up with the demand.

Health occupation training program expansion

The need for a skilled and educated Allied Health workforce in Alaska continues to expand, and the university is providing the programs required by employers to meet the needs. TVC's Medical Assistant program is growing, and funding is being requested to address the demand. This is particularly true in rural Alaska, and the university is providing the necessary education and training through many means, including distance education and partnerships with health providers throughout the state. Funding for health programs will support biomedical capacity and the university's next step in building strong health occupation training programs. The state needs and opportunities in this area are monumental and require state investment.

Workforce and Campus programs addressing employer requirements as well as programs aimed at student achievement

Alaska's economic growth and a graying workforce require a growing number of skilled workers requiring a strong academic foundation plus solid technical and employability skills. Workforce and Campus programs will enable the university to respond to emerging industry sectors and provide additional workforce training. Nearly all future employees will need some level of post-secondary education and training for productive careers. The UAF Tanana Valley Campus focuses on workforce development in high-growth, high-demand Allied Health careers, pipeline related training requirements, career academies, and a variety of career-ready programs.

Research is a high priority for the university and for the state. **Every \$1 of state general funds invested in university research leverages over \$7 from other sources.** University research produces over 2,300 jobs in Alaska. Of those, 1,200 are with the University and 1,100 are in the private sector. A recent McDowell Group study shows that **for every \$1 million invested by the state in university research, 149 jobs are created with \$4.8 million in payroll and another \$1.5 million to \$2 million in purchases.** Since UAF accounts for 90 percent of all UA research, we are the primary contributor to those jobs and purchases.

The competitive research capacity of the University of Alaska Fairbanks is remarkably situated to address State, Arctic and global solutions, particularly in climate change mitigation and adaptation, energy resource development, and biomedical advances, to name a few areas of expertise. The university has doubled the amount of externally funded research from \$60 million in FY99 to \$120 million in FY08. UAF does 90% of the research for the university system.

UAF's partnership with the State Department of Health and Social Services is expanding with the completion of the State Virology Laboratory located on the UAF campus. Research continues to grow at UAF, and it requires cutting-edge support. Studies include infectious diseases, public health issues and safety of Alaskan subsistence and other foods.

This budget strengthens our partnerships within the public school system and the state Department of Education and Early Development, and provides funding to better support those students once they come to the university. The budget also reflects our commitment to double the number of engineers we graduate by 2012, positions the university as a national and even global leader in energy solutions and climate change, and invests in critical workforce programs, including health.

For more information, see: <http://www.alaska.edu/swbudget/>

(UAFY10 Operating Budget talking points 01/08/09)