ENGINEERING LEARNING AND INNOVATION FACILITY
A foundation for Alaska business

State capital funding request: $31.3 million

Alaska’s business and industry need engineers. To meet that need, the University of Alaska Fairbanks has ramped up its engineering program and has doubled the number of engineering graduates during the past decade. We have exceeded our enrollment goals and now need adequate facilities to fulfill our obligations to students and their future employers.

During the past four years, the Alaska Legislature and the governor have supported funding to expand and enhance engineering facilities at the UAF and UAA campuses. This initiative is nearly complete. The state has fully funded the UAA facility and the majority of the UAF facility, which is under construction and will be enclosed by early 2015.

Funding delays have added $3 million to the project cost, now estimated at a total of $111.6 million. To complete the work, the university requests $31.3 million in state funding. (The university also expects to sell a second $5 million in bonds to provide a total of $10 million in bond funding for the project, all of which will be paid off with non-state funds.)

Details of this project can be found in the academic facilities section of the UA capital budget request, under the title “Engineering Building Completion.”

The engineering building will also be home to the Alaska Center for Energy and Power and the new chemical engineering program. The university plans to raise $6.5 million from private sources to complete interior renovation of the fourth floor for ACEP.

Once complete in early 2017, the new facility will provide more than 119,000 square feet of research, education and program space. Students, researchers and professors will collaborate in an environment that creates work-ready graduates and conducts vital research to benefit Alaska’s businesses and communities.