

# LARGER INVESTMENT = LARGER RETURN

## Why does UAF's cost per student make sense when compared to costs at other Alaska universities?

### UAF is Alaska's primary research and Ph.D.-granting university.

- Ph.D.-granting research universities similar to UAF often spend twice as much per student as those that focus on undergraduate instruction.
- With an investment of \$19 million in state dollars, UAF generates nearly six times that in external research funding, for a total of more than \$132 million in funded research each year.
- Because UAF is the research university, a large portion of its facilities are research laboratory facilities, rather than classroom space. Research facilities often have higher operating costs.
- Graduate students cost more to educate. Science, engineering and mathematics faculty qualified to do research and teach at the graduate level command higher salaries nationwide.
- UAF generates \$33,139 in revenue per student full-time equivalent, compared to UAA's \$17,338 per student FTE.

### UAF is also a community and technical college.

- A recent comparison to our sister universities is "apples to oranges." UAA's community college expenses were included in the per-student calculations. UAF's were not.
- UAF's cost per student FTE is \$48,638 per student when the expenses and students from the UAF Community and Technical College and Rural College are incorporated.
- UAF is Alaska's land-grant university. The majority of land-grant universities report a cost of \$25,000 to \$50,000 per student. UAF is within that range.

### UAF has more square footage, and its buildings are older.

- UAF accounts for 46 percent of the total facility square footage in the UA system. UAA and UAS account for 44 percent and 6 percent respectively.
- UAF's buildings are significantly older than those at UAA and UAS. Older buildings cost more to operate and maintain.
- Utilities are more expensive in Fairbanks than in Southeast and Southcentral Alaska. To help mitigate energy costs, UAF operates its own heat and power plant.

### UAF carries a higher debt load than other campuses.

- The state left UAF's engineering building unfinished. UAF had to bond for nearly 31 percent of the construction cost to finish the building for Alaska's engineering students.
- The Legislature's funding package for the UAF combined heat and power plant required UAF to bond for \$70 million. The Legislature initially included funding to pay back debt from the project, but that has since been reduced by budget cuts.
- The state left the Murie Building life sciences building unfinished. UAF bonded for 17 percent of the cost to complete this building for Alaska's science students.
- In FY18, UAF committed \$27.2 million to debt service. UAA committed \$4.3 million.

