

CHANCELLOR'S COMMENTS:

From UAS Chancellor Rick Caulfield

November 22, 2016

Dear UAS faculty and staff:

HAPPY THANKSGIVING: Thanksgiving is a time for enjoying family and friends, and for reflecting on the many blessings we enjoy here in Southeast Alaska. Thanksgiving is also a time to be mindful of those less fortunate, who are struggling, or who are facing exceptional challenges in life. As we relax over the coming holiday break, let's keep those who need our support in our hearts and do all we can to lend a hand. We can help by supporting the many organizations in our communities that provide food, emotional support, and assistance to those less fortunate. Annie and I offer our best wishes to you and your family as we give thanks for our many blessings.

GIVING IN SUPPORT OF OUR STUDENTS: In the spirit of Thanksgiving, we've received some extraordinary gifts in recent weeks to support UAS students. The first is a gift of \$375,000 from the family of the late Robert Henderson, mayor of Haines and a longtime educator and community advocate. The new Robert Henderson Memorial Award for Mariculture and Fisheries will support UAS students from across SE Alaska to pursue careers in Mariculture, shellfish farming, and fisheries. Mr. Henderson's son, Tom, and his siblings created the award. Tom recently gave an *Evening at Egan* talk on "Aquaculture in Alaska—the Opportunity of the Century." Dr. Mike Stekoll, UAS Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, was instrumental in helping secure the gift. He notes that the Award will provide students with hands-on research experience and opportunities for maritime careers.

A second gift came from the Ted Stevens Foundation in support of the UA Legislative Internship Program, hosted by UAS. Budget reductions led to cutbacks in stipends for interns, who come from across Alaska. The Foundation stepped in to provide \$10,000 in stipends, and an additional \$10,000 challenge grant to raise additional funds. An appeal will be sent out to former interns and supporters of the program to meet the challenge.

We thank both the Henderson family and the Ted Stevens Foundation for their generous support of UAS students. Thanks to the work of UAS Development Director Lynne Johnson and her staff, UAS has seen a six-fold increase in philanthropic giving to date over the past year. See more about UAS Development at <http://www.uas.alaska.edu/development/>

STRATEGIC PATHWAYS: The UA system is in the midst of major changes, reflected in working groups developing options for changes in both administrative and academic realms. Several recent decisions have direct impact on UAS, most notably the Board of Regents decision to eliminate the UAS School of Management as we know it but to keep our undergraduate and graduate business programs. They will be transitioned to the School of Arts and Sciences. The action reduces administrative infrastructure but—importantly—maintains the crucial academic programs that meet the needs of students across all of Alaska.

The most pressing academic issue at the moment is the future of our School of Education, including successful baccalaureate and masters programs. Regents appear to support establishment of a 'one college, one dean' model across all of UA--combining programs at UAS, UAA, and UAF. A key uncertainty at this point is which university will be 'lead' in this model. Following consultations, President Johnsen recommended that UAF be the 'lead.' However, the Board of Regents asked for more time before acting on this recommendation.

A variety of community partners here in SE Alaska and across the state are involved in making the case for UAS as lead based upon our proven educational success (e.g. MAT and PITAAS programs), high levels of completion and placement, and cost-effective programs of high quality. A final decision about the 'one college, one dean' model and location of the 'lead' university is expected at a special BOR meeting on December 14, 9-11am (by video).

Sincerely,

