



CHANCELLOR'S COMMENTS

From UAS Chancellor Rick Caulfield

December 21, 2016

Dear UAS faculty and staff:

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! As the fall semester winds down and we look ahead to a holiday break, this is an excellent time to take a deep breath, celebrate our students and their success, and enjoy some time with family and friends. We have much to celebrate here at the University of Alaska Southeast.

Most recently, we received the very good news that the UA Board of Regents recognized UAS as the lead university statewide for Education programs—including teacher education and educational leadership. This came about because of an extraordinary expression of support from the community of Juneau, from all of Southeast Alaska, and from educators and leaders across the state who know the quality of our graduates. I am deeply grateful to our campus councils in Juneau, Ketchikan, and Sitka who voiced their strong support, and to elected officials in state government and the City and Borough of Juneau who advocated strongly for a UAS-led teacher education program. The Board's decision reflects the proven success of our UAS programs and the hard work and dedication of our dean, faculty, and staff. I thank them all!

We have a big challenge and opportunity ahead in teacher education. President Johnsen has stated a goal for UA that by 2025, 90% of all new teacher hires in Alaska will have been educated at our university—up from 30% today. We'll need to work closely with UAA, UAF, and educators and partners across all of Alaska to achieve this goal. There's much work to be done in coming weeks and months. We're rolling up our sleeves to make this a reality!



CELEBRATING STUDENT SUCCESS

Student learning and student success are at the heart of our mission here at UAS. That is why we exist. As Chancellor I have the privilege of engaging with so many of our students who've gone on to be highly successful in their careers. We celebrate their accomplishments and those of their fellow graduates. Some recent examples include **Ketchikan Campus graduate Darren McKeehan** who works at the Vigor Shipyard in Ketchikan (center, with Vigor VP Doug Ward). Darren is from Metlakatla, is an Iraq War veteran, and is a graduate of our Maritime and Multi-Skilled Worker program. Congratulations to Darren!

Another student success is **Dr. Micaela Martinez**, a UAS Biology and Math graduate (2009) who recently completed her PhD at the University of Michigan (see photo below). She just received a \$2M National Institutes of Health award and has secured a research position at Princeton. Congratulations to Micaela!



And we recently celebrated the success of Alaska Native teachers—graduates from our PITAAS program (Preparing Indigenous Teachers and Administrators for Alaska): **Mischa Plunkett-Jackson, Josh Jackson**, along with Education faculty member **Alberta Jones** and PITAAS Director **Ronalda Cadiente-Brown**. They shared their success with UA President Jim Johnsen (see photo) and with trustees of the UA Foundation who were meeting in Juneau. Congratulations to these exceptional teachers!

Please join me in celebrating the success of these graduates, and many others who are also achieving their educational goals and improving the lives of their families and communities!

