



CHANCELLOR'S COMMENTS: From UAS Chancellor Rick Caulfield

January 16, 2019

- **WELCOME BACK TO SPRING SEMESTER 2019**

Have you noticed the growing amount of light in the morning sky as we come to work each day? It's a sure sign that spring is on the way. The other sure sign is students registering and settling in to their Spring semester classes—always an exciting time! It won't be long before we're celebrating commencement at our three UAS campuses. With students just back in classes, this is a critical time to focus on retention: making clear the expectations for success, helping address any registration issues, faculty using Early Alerts and advising tools to help those who might be struggling. Marketing and recruitment are crucial to UAS, but retention of existing students is equally important. I appreciate your efforts to help each and every UAS student be successful.

- **STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE APPROACHES: February 15**

February 15 is the deadline for students to apply for many University of Alaska Foundation scholarships, with an eye on financial aid needs for the 2019-20 academic year. One of those is the special *Verna Carrigan Promise Scholarship* for highly-motivated graduating high school seniors (see <http://uas.alaska.edu/chancellor/docs/2019-Verna-Carrigan-poster.pdf>). Please encourage students to go to our Financial Aid web page to explore scholarships and fill out an online application. They should also be encouraged to fill out a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) that is used in determining eligibility for many grants and scholarships.

- **CONCERN ABOUT TEACHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION AT UAA**

You've probably heard the recent announcement that specialized accreditation by CAEP (Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation) for University of Alaska Anchorage teacher education programs has been revoked. This outcome is regrettable, but you should know that it has no direct impact on UAS students or programs. While the UA system continues to work toward greater alignment of teacher education programs, each of the UA universities has its own CAEP accreditation. This decision directly impacts UAA alone. Understandably, there is great concern about the implications of this on current UAA students. Alaska Commissioner of Education Michael Johnson has already confirmed that UAA students graduating in 2019 Spring and Summer semesters will be eligible for certification. Moreover, Alaska's State Board of Education has the option of approving an interim arrangement that will allow UAA graduates to be certified. This would be an interim measure until CAEP accreditation at UAA can be regained. The State Board will consider this and other options at a meeting in early February. President Johnsen, UA chancellors, and Executive Dean Steve Atwater are actively engaged in supporting students and finding a constructive pathway forward. While a few UAA students have sought information about transferring to UAS, at this stage we are encouraging them to meet with their local faculty and advisors. This approach offers the best way for them to get good information and make an informed decision about next steps.