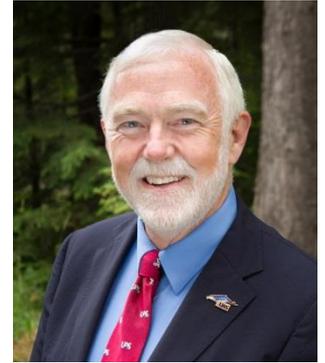


CHANCELLOR'S COMMENTS:

From UAS Chancellor Rick Caulfield

June 13, 2018



SPOTLIGHT ON RECRUITMENT, ENROLLMENT, AND RETENTION

Commencement 2018 offered a time to celebrate the accomplishments of nearly 700 graduates—recipients of occupational endorsements, certificates, associate degrees, baccalaureates, and graduate degrees. It was incredibly heartwarming to hear the stories of student commencement speakers Cassandra Christopherson (Ketchikan speaker, from Naukati Bay), Ellen Chenoweth in Sitka, plus Blake Fletcher and Erin Ohlson in Juneau. Commencement is a time when we can truly see how education transforms lives. A special thanks to our Facilities team and to all who made our campuses so beautiful and welcoming for these events.

Our top priorities here at UAS continue to be student recruitment, retention, and completion. We continue to have much work to do, but there are bright spots on the horizon. The good news is that we're seeing an increase in UAS undergraduate applications compared to last year—both for academic programs (+15%) and for housing (+9%). We're also seeing an improvement in converting applications to enrollments for fall. This is very encouraging, but we need to continue reaching out to encourage student registration and enrollment.

UAS has some positive budget news for the coming academic year. We will be receiving \$1.15M in new funding for teacher education and educational leadership—programs within the new Alaska College of Education (AKCOE). As you know, the Board has charged UAS with statewide leadership in these areas, working collaboratively with schools of Education at UAA and UAF. New funds will support expanded marketing and recruitment of educators, PITAAS scholarships for indigenous educators, Educators Rising (future teachers), and more. The funds are part of President Johnsen's strategic investments, stemming from a \$10M increase provided to UA by the Legislature for FY19. UAS is also receiving modest increases in support of research, capital expenditures, and mitigating impacts of reduced occupational endorsement course tuition—part of our effort to grow career and technical education completions.

The Board of Regents also approved moving forward with construction of a new \$13M Auke Bay natural science facility adjacent to the Anderson Building in Juneau. This involves demolition of the old NOAA lab and construction of a new smaller energy-efficient facility that will enhance UAS environmental science teaching and research. Funding for the new building comes from proceeds from sale of the old bookstore building plus internal reallocations over several years.

Finally, we're excited about new leadership in key roles at UAS: Professor Leslie Gordon taking on fulltime responsibilities as Director, UAS Sitka Campus; Dr. Tom Thornton becoming Dean of Arts and Sciences and Vice Provost for Research and Sponsored Programs (effective July 1), and Dr. Steve Atwater becoming Executive Dean, Alaska College of Education (July 1). We welcome them all to their new positions!

Our most important task just now is reaching out to new and continuing students, encouraging them to register for both summer classes and those in the coming academic year. Thank you for the important work you do to support our students and transform lives! As always, I welcome your comments, ideas, and questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Caulfield". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.