

CHANCELLOR'S COMMENTS:

From UAS Chancellor Rick Caulfield

September 17, 2018

A GREAT START TO THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR!

There is nothing I love more than the excitement and anticipation of a new academic year! The energy and enthusiasm of our students, staff, and faculty is palpable, and the beautiful fall weather we're enjoying doesn't hurt!



Here are some of the highlights from the semester start-up:

Enrollment numbers moving in a positive direction: The hard work of staff in marketing and recruiting is paying off with a positive trend in enrollment numbers. The number of enrolled student credit hours at UAS this fall is largely on par with this time last year (-0.7%); better than in previous years. Lower division undergraduate enrollments are up +9.8%. UAS led the UA system in enrollment percentages; a very positive sign. Moreover, career and technical education credit hour enrollments jumped +18%, and overall CTE enrollments were up +29%. Undoubtedly the 25% tuition reduction for CTE classes helped, but I also know that staff and faculty worked hard to get the word out about the excellent programs we offer. I'm very appreciative of that dedication and hard work!

Retention numbers UP: Encouraging enrollment trends are matched by positive numbers in retention of first-time, full-time (FTFT) freshman students between FY17 and FY18. Retention improved from 58% in FY17 to 70% in FY18. As with recruitment efforts, this improvement in student retention reflects the work of many to keep students positively engaged into their second year and beyond.

Retention, retention, retention: Retention remains a top priority as we continue into the fall semester. We need to do all we can to provide engaging academic offerings, use Early Alert and student support services to help students who may be struggling, and help students access resources. This is essential not only for freshman, but for all students.

Celebrating the new UAS Maritime Training Center: On September 12 I had the privilege of joining UA President Jim Johnsen and our Ketchikan Campus faculty and staff in celebrating renovation of the UAS Maritime Training Center. The event attracted more than 100 participants in the Southeast Conference Annual Meeting, highlighting UAS marine and maritime-related programs that meet the needs of our region. The newly-renovated facility includes a new marine transportation simulator, a Power Technology shop for the Maritime and Multi-skilled Worker program, and a new Welding lab. President Jim Johnsen came away very impressed by the enthusiasm and talents of faculty members Dale Miller, Larry O'Loane, Mariah Warren, Neil Nickerson, Mike LaBarge, and Ken Horn. Thanks to all at our Ketchikan Campus!

UA Board of Regents hears report about the Alaska College of Education and PITAAS: The Board, meeting in Juneau last week, heard from Executive Dean Steve Atwater about initial steps to implement the new Alaska College of Education. Board members also had the pleasure of hearing about the PITAAS (*Preparing Indigenous Teachers & Administrators for Alaska's Schools*) program from Ronald Cadiente Brown, Assistant Dean for Indigenous and Multicultural Education, and from Jasmine James who is a Juneau middle school teacher and an outstanding example of a PITAAS graduate.

Don't forget Title IX training: We all have a role in making our campuses safe and respectful. October 1 is the deadline for taking Title IX training, whether for the first time or as a refresher. You can access the training through UAOnline.

Have a great semester!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Caulfield". The signature is written in a cursive style.