

UAA Awards First Level III CPM Certification

Douglas E. Weller recently became the first student to earn the level III designation through the Alaska Certified Public Manager (CPM) program at the UAA Chugiak-Eagle River campus.

Weller has spent more than 25 years in the arena of public administration, working in various public manager positions for municipal, state and the federal government.

“For approximately the past 10 years, I have considered myself a professional public administrator, due to the positions I have held,” Weller said. “As such, it seemed logical to me to validate that somewhat abstract vocational title with the appropriate, hard-earned professional certification, which obviously would duly designate the individual awardees as a legitimate subject matter expert in governmental administration.”

Weller currently serves as the bureau director for administrative services at the Portsmouth Police Department in Portsmouth, Va., where he oversees a staff comprised of about 100 of the department’s total number of nearly 400 employees.

“I believe by virtue of this certification, an individual carries a certain amount of credibility as it relates to all facets of governmental administration in any type public sector agency,” Weller said. “That’s how I view the value of the CPM designation for me in my organization – when I have something to say about managing the agency, people listen because my counsel and expertise has been validated.”

Weller took his first CPM class at the UAS campus in Juneau in 1997. He gave his level III project presentation and officially completed the program in Anchorage in August 2008. Although Weller relocated to Virginia in 2004, he was able to complete nearly all program requirements while living in Alaska.

The CPM program is a nationally accredited management development program, created by the American Academy of Certified Public Managers, and designed to develop management, supervision and leadership skills in the public and private sectors.

The Alaska CPM program, which is coordinated by University of Alaska Corporate Programs, offers three levels of certification. To attain level III certification, students must complete 300 hours of training in topics ranging from entry-level supervisory skills to executive management skills, and complete a practicum within a local organization.

For more information on Alaska's CPM program, visit www.alaska.edu/UACP/programs/cpm/ or contact Bruce Rowe, CPM statewide program coordinator, at 907.786.1168 or corporateprograms@alaska.edu.