The University of Alaska is hereby established as the state University and constituted a body corporate. It shall have title to all real and personal property now or hereafter set aside for or conveyed to it... and shall be governed by a board of regents... The board shall, in accordance with law, formulate policy and appoint the president of the university.

Alaska Constitution, Article 7, Sections 2-3

We've Grown A Lot Since Then

Humble Beginnings

Alaska presents a formidable environment for a state university system: a land mass one-fifth the size of the continental United States; campuses up to 1,300 miles apart; and weather that would shut down Lower 48 schools. This vast landscape is home to the University of Alaska, established in 1917.

When the old Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines first opened its doors in Fairbanks in 1922, the campus had one, two-story frame building and six students. Today, the UA system includes campuses from Ketchikan to Kotzebue, with over 32,000 students. Some are recent high school graduates, while others are older students returning to school part-time.

Many Traditions

The University of Alaska is hereby established as the state University and constituted a body corporate. It shall have title to all real and personal property now or hereafter set aside for or conveyed to it... and shall be governed by a board of regents... The board shall, in accordance with law, formulate policy and appoint the president of the university.

Alaska Constitution, Article 7, Sections 2-3

www.alaska.edu

Cover Photo by Todd Paris, UAF Marketing and Communication
INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

- The UA Scholars Program offers $11,000 cash scholarships to students in the top 10 percent of each eligible high school’s graduating class.
- Since inception in 1999, over 4,200 students have enrolled as UA Scholars.
- More than 1,200 degrees have been awarded to UA Scholars to date.
- The program has helped push Alaska’s college-bound high school graduates who choose UA from 45 percent in 1996 to over 60 percent today.

SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

- Graduation rates reached all-time highs in recent years; UA conferred 3,427 degrees in FY09.
- In FY08, 85 percent of UA graduates lived in Alaska and were employed in-state.
- Students report little difficulty getting a job after graduation, with two-thirds of graduates saying that the process was easy or very easy.

CELEBRATING UA contributes $1.1 billion annually to Alaska’s private and public sector including payroll, student and visitor spending and support sector spending for goods and services.

(Source: The Economic Impact of the University of Alaska, 2007 update. The McDowell Group.)

QUALITY PROGRAMS

- UA offers over 500 degrees, certificates and endorsements.
- Programs include short-courses, certificates and endorsements, associate, bachelor’s, master’s and doctorate degrees.
- UA Corporate Programs collaborates with business and industry to provide training, with courses offered at employer worksites.
- Almost 90 percent of UA’s student population comes from Alaska.

RESPONSIBLE

- Optional Retirement Program saved the state an estimated $120 million in future liability.
- Health and pharmacy benefits are negotiated to keep rates low. Expanded disease management incentives result in reduced medical costs.
- Regular internal and external operating and program reviews ensure efficiency and reduced operating costs.
- UA’s cap on pension plans saves $3.2 million annually.

ACCOUNTABLE

- Enrollment in high-demand programs more than doubled since 2004, with nearly 2,500 degrees awarded in FY09.
- New programs in business, engineering, health, information technology, process technology, natural resources, teacher education, transportation and logistics respond directly to the needs of Alaska employers.
- Research programs are aimed at important Alaska issues, such as energy, global climate change, fisheries, behavioral health, volcanoes and earthquakes.

- UA students in nursing, engineering, social work, accounting, teacher education and other programs with external exams score above the national average.
- UA graduates gain admission to top graduate programs based on the quality of their undergraduate experience.
- UA alumni report overwhelming satisfaction with the quality of education they received.

- UA campuses, in collaboration with business and industry, design and deliver non-credit, certificate and degree offerings in a wide variety of career and technical programs, including:
  - Welding
  - Paralegal
  - Pharmacy Technician
  - Automotive Technician
  - Information Systems
  - Construction Management
  - Culinary Arts
  - Dental Hygienist
  - Process Technology
  - Digital Art

LEADERS in Arctic Research

- Applied energy research
- Climate change
- Glaciers and permafrost
- Volcanoes
- Earthquakes
- Health Sciences
- Every $1 of state money invested in research leverages nearly $6 from other sources.

OPPORTUNITIES

- UA offers over 500 degrees, certificates and endorsements.
- UA has over 32,000 students
- Programs include short-courses, certificates and endorsements, associate, bachelor’s, master’s and doctorate degrees.
- UA Corporate Programs collaborates with business and industry to provide training, with courses offered at employer worksites.
- Almost 90 percent of UA’s student population comes from Alaska.