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Dear ____________:

The University of Alaska Board of Regents recently endorsed the *UA Teacher Education Plan 2011*¹, prepared by Provosts and Deans of Education at the University of Alaska Anchorage, University of Alaska Fairbanks, and University of Alaska Southeast. We invite you to review this plan, which can be found on the web via the link below. The Plan places a high priority on providing quality teacher education with a special emphasis on encouraging Alaskans to become successful teachers in schools throughout our state.

One of the action items in the *Plan* is creation of an Alaska Education Consortium that will provide a strategic forum for increasing institutional collaboration, leveraging scarce resources, inviting partnership activities, and sharing critical information amongst education stakeholders. We believe that such a Consortium can help ensure that our university education programs are aligned to the greatest extent possible with efforts of other key entities involved with improving teacher education and placement across the state.

Your organization is one of those key stakeholders envisioned as being a part of this Consortium. With this letter, we invite you or a representative of your organization to join us in an initial planning discussion about its creation and how it might achieve the goal of maximizing alignment and collaboration in meeting our shared goals.

We anticipate arranging an initial videoconference planning meeting within the next two weeks involving invited participants from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, NEA-Alaska, Alaska Parents and Teachers Association, the Association of Alaska School Administrators, and the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education. Our goal will be to hear your thoughts about the value of creating such a Consortium, what its goals should be, and how best to structure its meetings and activities.

We would appreciate your sending an email to affirm your interest in participating in this initial planning meeting and identifying who within your organization will participate. We’d appreciate your response no later than October 14 to Dr. Rick Caulfield, Provost, University of Alaska Southeast, at racaulfield@uas.alaska.edu. With these expressions of interest in hand, we will follow up with a poll of potential times for our first meeting.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Caulfield, PhD  
Provost, University of Alaska Southeast

Michael A. Driscoll, PhD  
Provost, University of Alaska Anchorage

Susan M. Henrichs, PhD  
Provost, University of Alaska Fairbanks

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