To: Dr. Dan Julius, Vice President for Academic Affairs

Re: Alaska Vocational Technical Education Center

Date: November 22, 2008

Dr. Julius,

Upon the request from Click Bishop, the Commissioner of Alaska’s Department of Labor and Workforce Development, I am working with David Stone, the Deputy Commissioner of DOLWD, to assess the relationship and potential for alignment of post-secondary career and technical training institutions in the state; most notably the University of Alaska and DOLWD’s Alaska Vocational Technical Education Center located in Seward, Alaska. Some significant reasons for the request include:

- The Alaska Gas-line Inducement Act Training Plan calls for alignment of post-secondary career and technical education and training as a primary strategy for successfully preparing Alaska’s workforce in the future.
- Improving articulation of programs, both credit and non-credit, between training providers.
- Streamlining processes for delivering programs without needless duplication.
- Leveraging resources and assets so the state can strategically plan and invest in career and technical education.
- Minimizing the perception of ‘conflict of interest’ by DOLWD to advocate for AVTEC over the other career and technical education providers across the state.

The Commissioner submitted a letter to President Hamilton stating his desire to have UA representatives to work closely with DOLWD in an effort to study AVTEC, UA, and other regional training providers, to develop recommendations for his consideration by May of 2009. I anticipate this project will require a significant amount of research and due diligence on behalf of DOLWD, UA, and other training providers in the next few months to meet this deadline. Consequently, I have asked for financial support from the DOLWD to acquire a project manager to conduct the research portion of the activities who will work closely with the Deputy Commissioner and me. I will also be asking for the support from the President’s staff, SAC and RAC, other system councils, and the campuses to provide information and input to the process.

I would appreciate your continued support to advance the mission of the University of Alaska as it pertains to workforce development through this activity and look forward to providing you with any information you require as the study advances.

Respectfully,

Fred Villa, Associate Vice President for Workforce Programs