UA HEALTH PROGRAMS

Program Description
UA offers a variety of programs statewide in allied and behavioral health, emergency services, health management, nursing, WWAMI and physician assistant, public health, and others. About half of these programs are offered using distance/blended technology and most new programs are developed with distance delivery technology components.

Health occupations comprise nine of the state’s 10 fastest growing occupations, with employers reporting difficulty attracting qualified workers. The 2007 Alaska Health Workforce Vacancy Study confirmed an average vacancy rate of 10 percent in all health occupations, with rates more dramatic in rural areas.

Legislative Program Appropriations
During the period of FY05 – FY09, a total of $4.9 million in base general funds was appropriated to support new and existing health programs.

Industry Support
In addition to scholarships, Alaska’s Health Care Industry donated over $3.5 million since 2005 in support of these programs.

Outcomes
The number of degrees awarded in health related programs increased 45 percent from FY03 – FY09, with a relative plateau in the last year. Future growth in FY10 and FY11 is expected based on current enrollment.

The number of majors enrolled in UA health programs increased 13 percent from fall 2005, with an all time high of 2,400 majors enrolled at the beginning of fall 2009.

Highlights
• Physician Assistant Program expanded from 8 to 20 slots and moved entirely to Alaska.

• Nursing graduates doubled and offered at 14 sites: Bethel, Fairbanks, Homer, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Kotzebue, Mat-Su, Sitka, Valdez, Anchorage, and starting in Cordova and Dillingham.

• Dental hygiene program expanded in Anchorage and opened in Fairbanks at TVC; dental assisting now offered by distance delivery.

• Radiology programs in six sites- Anchorage, Fairbanks, Bethel, Kenai, Ketchikan and Juneau.

• Social Work, Bachelor’s and Master’s programs now offered fully by distance and on campus; PhD in Clinical and Rural Psychology started at UAA and UAF.
• Paramedic program expanded/improved in Mat Su, Kenai and Fairbanks.

• WWAMI medical school slots doubled from 10 to 20.

• Master’s in Public Health program is growing, with program delivered by distance.

• Nutrition and Dietetics degree, distance delivered, will open in Fall 2010.

• Direct service worker training, such as Certified Nursing Assistants, have been expanded –apprenticeships being implemented.

• Alaska Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) sites opened at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation, Providence, and Southeast Regional Health Corporation to attract students into health careers and to help with clinical rotations.

• Partnerships with Lower 48 schools in Occupational Therapy and Speech, Language, Audiology started.

The $2.3 million request would fund the following:

✓ UAA dietetics and nutrition program expansion: $77,400
✓ UAA clinical rotations/health pipeline: $500,000 *
✓ UAA occupational therapy liaison/lab: $100,000
✓ UAS Sitka health sciences program coordinator: $87,000
✓ UAF psychology clinic: $87,400
✓ UAF rural human services health programs-rural human services faculty: $40,800
✓ Joint UAF/public health laboratory (DHSS) virology position: $75,300
✓ UAA stress physiology faculty (INBRE): $100,000
✓ Tanana Vally Campus medical assisting faculty/allied health: $47,200
✓ UAA bio-statistics and epidemiology faculty: $75,000
✓ UAF faculty virology/infectious disease (INBRE): $100,400
✓ UAA clinical/translational science faculty (WWAMI/INBRE): $100,000
✓ UAF faculty immunology (INBRE): $100,400
✓ UAF veterinary services animal health technician (INBRE): $45,000
✓ UAA ultrasound faculty: $92,000
✓ UAA pharmacy careers faculty liaison: $150,000
✓ UAA physical therapy careers faculty liaison: $52,400
✓ UAA nursing tutor coordinator: $85,100
✓ UAA human services faculty members: $230,300
✓ UAA health student success coordinator: $52,000
✓ UAA nursing clinical coordinator: $117,800
✓ UAF veterinary services lab tech (INBRE): $45,000

* This money would pass-through UAA and go to industry partners including Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, Providence Hospital, Southeast Regional Health Corp. and Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corp. to attract and train students in health careers.