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. But this vast landscape of lush rainforests, spongy tundra, rugged coasts, soaring mountains and weather that would shut down Lower 48 schools...
EXPANDING Opportunities

INVESTING In the Future

The University of Alaska offers over 430 degree and certificate programs, including construction management, nursing, space physics, engineering, environmental science, marine biology, global logistics, teacher education, journalism, biological sciences, business aviation, diesel mechanics, culinary arts, public policy – students have many options when they seek an education at UA. Some come for a traditional undergraduate or graduate education, others for a specific class or skill to advance their careers. The university’s Corporate Programs office specializes in collaboration with business and industry to provide training, with some courses offered right at the employers’ worksite.

LEADERS in Arctic Research

We’re at the forefront of research important to Alaska, helping us understand the world and our place in it. Our scientists and students study permafrost, glaciers, the aurora, volcanoes and earthquakes, and the birds, fish and animals that live here. UA research revenue totaled more than $145 million in FY05. Every $1 of state money invested in research leverages nearly $7 from other sources. UA is a major player in the International Polar Year, a multi-national exploration of polar research targeting global climate change.

ACCOUNTABLE

- UA leads the state in performance-based budgeting
- Optional Retirement Programs have saved the state an estimated $87 million in future liability
- UA is proactive in reducing health-care costs ($1,200 per employee / per year less than other public employers in FY 06)
- Half of Alaska residents believe UA from 37 percent, in 1996, to over 50 percent today.

RESPONSIVE

- Enrollments in high-demand programs as defined by the state Department of Labor increased 31 percent since fall 2001, with 2,329 degrees awarded in FY06
- New programs in Business Engineering, Health Information Technology, Process Technology, Natural Resources, Teacher Education, Transportation and Logistics – in response to the needs of local business and industry
- Research programs address important Alaska issues, such as cold climate construction, fisheries, behavioral health and resource development
- UA alumni report overwhelming satisfaction with the quality of education they received.

QUALITY PROGRAMS

- 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.

SUPPORTING Our Mission

A recent public opinion poll shows that nine out of 10 Alaska parents of school-age children would send their children to UA – proof that residents hold the university in high esteem.

CELEBRATING Student Success

The University of Alaska conferred the highest number of degrees ever in spring 2006 commencement ceremonies – 2,200. More and more students are coming back, staying focused and earning their degrees than ever before. First-time, full-time baccalaureate retention reached an all-time high of 72 percent in 2005-2006. Nearly 6,500 students were enrolled in distance-delivered courses in fall 2005, with up to 75 percent participation in distance courses at UA’s rural campuses and nearly 16 percent at the system’s largest campus in Anchorage.

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INVESTING In the Future

The UA Scholars program offers tuition scholarships to students in the top 10 percent of each high school’s graduating class, with money generated by the university’s Land Grand Trust.

The program keeps our best and brightest in state, slowing the trend of heading “Outside” for higher education. More than 3,300 high school graduates have accepted the UA Scholars award since the program first began in 1999, with nearly 700 earning their degrees so far. Of those graduates, nearly 90% have remained in Alaska to work, raise their families and contribute to Alaska’s future. The program has helped push Alaska’s college-bound students who choose UA from 37 percent, in 1996, to over 50 percent today.

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