

I. REGENTS GUIDELINES

The Interior-Aleutians Campus, College of Rural and Community Development, University of Alaska Fairbanks, requests approval of a Veterinary Science Certificate Program to be implemented in Fall Semester, 2006.

Through courses delivered locally in the home communities of our students, the Veterinary Science Program will build the capacity of local governments in rural Alaskan villages to take control of assets and resources for economic enhancement.

In line with the mission of Interior-Aleutians Campus, the VTS program will provide educational opportunities for students throughout the state without requiring them to change or leave their culture or heritage. The Interior-Aleutians Campus is committed to educating Alaska Natives and rural residents, assisting them to affect social changes in their communities, thereby enriching the quality of their lives and cultures. Particular consideration is given to the needs of permanent residents and students in non-traditional settings who seek skills and degrees suited to the rural economy and to the well being of rural communities.

Due to the boom and bust cycles of Alaska's economic history, coupled with the thrust of Native peoples into the corporate world, many skills have been "imported" to regions by persons outside of the community and most often outside of the state. Many rural areas exist in a technology deficit, and the residents are becoming part of a "have-not" society. Given the lack of opportunity for education and employment as well as an infrastructure of tools for educational use, this challenge is especially poignant. The Veterinary Science program is an opportunity for students in rural Alaska to attain and maintain skills that sustain wellness, self-sufficiency, and on-going economic development.