



UA's economic footprint reaches throughout the state

The University of Alaska's economic impact in the state reaches nearly \$1 billion annually, including direct and indirect payroll, student and visitor spending, and millions in goods and services paid to 1,200 Alaska businesses in over 70 Alaska communities, according to a new report by the McDowell Group Inc. consulting firm.

"The state's investment in the university is well worth it, returning over \$3 in total economic activity for every \$1 from the state treasury," McDowell Group principal Eric McDowell told the UA Board of Regents, meeting at the University of Alaska Anchorage campus June 18 and 19, 2008.

The quantifiable return is in addition to qualitative issues such as improved quality of life, increased involvement in community and satisfying careers, he said.

The report notes that UA graduates tend to remain in Alaska. In 2006 alone, they earned an estimated \$2 billion in the state, McDowell said. Ninety-five percent of UA Scholars graduates, recipients of the university's \$11,000 scholarship to the top 10 percent of every graduating high school class in Alaska, stay and work in Alaska after graduating college.

Regents approve Health Sciences Building
Regents gave formal project approval for the new \$46 million, 78,000-square-foot Health Sciences Building on the UAA campus.

The legislature provided funding for the building, which will provide much-needed classroom space and state-of-the-art simulated labs for health programs such as nursing and WWAMI, a medical school partnership with the University of Washington.

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The University of Alaska Board of Regents is the governing body responsible for the university policy and management through the president. Regents are appointed by the governor for eight-year terms, subject to legislative confirmation. A student regent is appointed for two years from candidates nominated on each campus. (Regents' term of office shown in parentheses.)

Room to Grow



New Health Sciences Building--Pictured above is an artist's rendition of the new \$48 million Health Sciences Building at UAA. The Board of Regents gave formal project approval for the project, which enables design and construction planning to move forward in earnest. The actual design will be approved later. **Credit: UAA Facilities.**

Construction on the building is expected to get under way by next summer and be ready for students by fall 2011. While regents saw an artist's concept of the building, just off Providence Drive across from the main campus, final design will occur in the months ahead.

"This will be a very significant piece of setting the future for the entire health program at UAA," noted UAA Chancellor Fran Ulmer.

Regent Tim Brady of Anchorage agreed. "I'm really excited about this facility—it's going to be a great addition to campus."

Education Commissioner visits BOR

The board also heard from the state of Alaska's new education commissioner, Larry LeDoux. LeDoux said he endorses recent recommendations of the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, which supports creation of a governor's sub-cabinet on K-16 education, among other measures. The recommendations are aimed at reversing Alaska's dismal statistics on high school and college graduation, college and work preparation and rates of training and education beyond high school.

"We need to develop strategies to create a statewide, college-going culture. It starts young—you can't wait for last-minute visits when you're a high school senior," LeDoux said.

The University of Alaska also supports the recommendations of the ACPE. The UA system's outreach efforts start in the second grade and continue throughout a K-12 student's life.

Improving statistics for student success has been a top priority of UA's administration, faculty and staff. LeDoux and members of the board agreed to work together in tackling the problem.

BA in Fisheries approved

The regents approved a new Bachelor of Arts degree in fisheries at UAF, part of a revitalized program thanks

to a generous \$5 million grant from the Rasmuson Foundation and \$1 million invested by the state.

UAF's School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences has long offered a Bachelor of Science in fisheries, as well as master's and doctoral degrees. Those degrees are important for fishery harvest management and research, filling a niche in the workforce largely within regulatory agencies, such as the state Department of Fish and Game or the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife.

This new Bachelor of Arts degree, by contrast, will prepare graduates for different jobs within the industry itself, such as a plant manager at a seafood processing facility or as a company's director of seafood marketing or operations. The program was created after university officials

consulted with a wide range of industry partners, including those in the seafood processing business, seafood marketing, aquaculture and others. Internships, especially geared toward rural students, are key to the program's expansion. The program will begin accepting students this fall.

Regents also approved a new master's degree in natural resources management and geography at UAF.

Future Board Meetings

August 6, 2008
SUMMER BRIEFING
Audioconference

September 18-19, 2008
Anchorage

Make Students Count 2008



Making students count - Members of the Board of Regents flank this year's winners of the annual Make Students Count Awards. The winners from each MAU are selected by their peers. Pictured from left is Board Chair Mary K. Hughes, Regent William Andrews, Regent Cynthia Henry, UAS Registrar Barbara Hegel, Regent Bob Martin, KPC Admissions & Records Coordinator Shelly Blatchford, Regent Kirk Wickersham, SW Director of Distance Education and Military Services Ramona McAfee, UAF Student Leadership Director J.J. Boggs, Regent Tim Brady, Regent Erik Drygas and UA President Mark Hamilton. Not pictured: Regents Pat Jacobson, Fuller Cowell, Carl Marrs and Mike Snowden.

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