



## Agenda Item Details

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Meeting            | Jan 16, 2020 - Board of Regents' Full Board Agenda  |
| Category           | 8. Approval of a Resolution of Recognition  |
| Subject            | A. Approval of a Resolution of Recognition for Dr. Alan Boraas  |
| Type               | Action  |
| Recommended Action | The president recommends that:<br><br>MOTION<br>"The Board of Regents approves the resolution of recognition for Dr. Alan Boraas. This motion is effective January 17, 2020." |

WHEREAS, Dr. Alan Boraas was the longest-serving professor at Kenai Peninsula College; and

WHEREAS, for those 46 years, Dr. Boraas offered his knowledge and expertise to Kenai Peninsula College, teaching 36 different courses; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Boraas received his BA degree in 1969 in Anthropology from the University of Minnesota, began his graduate studies at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and completed his MA in Anthropology in 1971 at the University of Toronto, his dissertation topic was Technology and the Origin of Human Hemispheric Asymmetry, and he received his Ph.D. in Educational Anthropology in 1983 at Oregon State University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Boraas, who grew up on a Minnesota wheat farm, fell in love with Alaska while working on his master's degree at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and then moved to the Kenai Peninsula in 1972; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his teaching career, Dr. Boraas was an avid researcher and contributor to numerous books, journals and articles, and was often asked to consult on various anthropological projects in Alaska and across the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Boraas' research into the culture, history, and archaeology of the people of the Cook Inlet region of Alaska, and in particular with the Dena'ina people, is widely recognized worldwide, in particular his work to preserve the Dena'ina language; the publication of the collected writings of Peter Kalifornsky, who at his death in 1993 was the last speaker of the Outer Inlet dialect of Dena'ina; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Boraas developed a program to teach the Dena'ina language; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Boraas worked closely with the Kenaitze Tribe and established a lifelong connection with tribal members such that in the year 2000 he was designated an honorary member of the Kenaitze Indian Tribe; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Boraas' work and life extended far beyond the classroom and he touched many with his enthusiasm and deep love of learning, including through a monthly newspaper column, public lectures, indigenous rights activism, and community involvement; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Boraas was an avid cross-country skier and runner and board member of Tsalteshi Trails Association in Soldotna where he was heavily involved in the design and development of its ski trails; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Boraas' accomplishments have been recognized both within and beyond the university including recognition for 35 years of teaching in 2008, the University of Alaska Foundation's Bullock Prize for Excellence in 2009, the Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Kenai Chamber of Commerce's Log Cabin in 2009; an honorable mention for the Washington Association of Professional Anthropologists' Praxis Award in 2009, and the Paul Harris Award from the Soldotna Rotary Club in 2017; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Alan Boraas passed away peacefully with family at his side on Monday, November 4, 2019 and his presence and expertise will be deeply missed; and

WHEREAS, the Kenai Peninsula College Anthropology Lab is renamed the Alan 'Tiqutsex' Boraas Anthropology Lab in honor of his legacy of teaching, research and service to the University of Alaska, Kenai Peninsula and the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, a celebration of life for Dr. Alan Boraas will be held from 5-7 p.m., Friday, January 17, 2020 at Kenai Peninsula College's Kenai River Campus.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the University of Alaska Board of Regents officially recognizes the many accomplishments of Dr. Alan Boraas, his outstanding service to the university, his tireless work to make the world a better place, and hereby acknowledges the deep loss felt by the Kenai Peninsula College community, his family, friends and the many people whose lives he touched; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be appropriately engrossed and conveyed to the family of Dr. Alan Boraas, and the director of Kenai Peninsula College, with a copy to be incorporated into the official minutes of the January 17, 2020 meeting of the Board of Regents.