



Four new academic programs, all aimed at helping to meet Alaska's workforce needs, were approved by the University of Alaska Board of Regents when it met on the UAF campus in Fairbanks June 9-10, 2003.

The new programs, all at UAA, are:

- Nursing Post-Master's Certificate Program.
- Master of Science in Project Management.
- Certificate in Industrial Welding Technology.
- Certificate in Nondestructive Testing Technology.

Regents also scaled back the university's FY04 operating budget because the university received from the Legislature a net increase of only \$4.5 million over last year's state general fund appropriation instead of the \$13.5 million it requested.

Planned increases to health-related academic and research programs and outreach programs were substantially reduced given that the university must accommodate its increased fixed costs which include salaries for faculty and staff, increased health benefits costs and operating costs on new facilities.

"We will be able to proceed," said Regent Joe Usibelli, Jr., chair of the Finance and Audit Committee, in an interview with the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner. "It's going to be on a reduced basis in regards to some of the programs we wanted to enhance."

"We are looking at ways to help ourselves as best we can"

The university increased tuition by 10 percent this year, and plans another 10 percent increase next year.

"We are looking at ways to help ourselves as best we can," Usibelli told the News-Miner reporter.

The board voted unanimously to extend University President Mark Hamilton's contract for three years at his current salary of \$250,000 per year. The contract includes a contract completion bonus to be paid at the end of the contract in the amount of \$100,000.

Four employees of the university system were named recipients of the fifth annual Make Students Count awards for outstanding service to UA students. President Hamilton, who initiated the awards in 1999, named this year's honorees during the board meeting.

This year's award winners are:

- **Jodi Barnes**, Academic Advisor at the Student Resource Center at UAS in Juneau. Barnes volunteers her time to work on various leadership projects on campus, and is a recognized leader in promoting student development and leadership.
- **Pat Ivey**, a 28-year employee of the University of Alaska, is the Executive Officer of the UA Governance System, and works closely with the Coalition of Student Leaders as well as faculty and staff. She has been a mentor to generations of student leaders since 1994 when the Coalition of Student Leaders was formed.
- **Wanda Martin**, Director of the Academic Advising Center at UAF. She has excelled at attracting new students to UAF and takes a personal interest in helping them achieve their academic goals.

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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.)

• **Diane Taylor**, Coordinator of the Kenai Peninsula College Learning Center and adjunct faculty member. She is committed to promoting student excellence, and to helping all students whether it is by encouraging, advising, mentoring or tutoring.

Melissa Brown, an assistant professor of applied business at UAF's Tanana Valley Campus, was also honored with the 2003 President's Outstanding Distance Educator Award. President Hamilton made the presentation.

Brown, who has worked for the university since 1999, started using distance education in her courses in 2001 when she developed the university's first web-based applied business course. Since then, she has developed and taught a new web-based course each semester.

Fred Villa, director of training at the Williams North Pole Refinery and chairman of the board of the Alaska Process Industry Careers

Consortium (APICC), appeared briefly at the regents' meeting to express his thanks to the university for working with APICC to train Alaskans for jobs in the state.

Villa said his company had reduced its initial operator training costs by 75 percent by hiring graduates of the university program. The process industry is a set of industrial engineering and construction businesses that share common technical skill requirements.

UAF officials briefed the regents on UAF's partnership with the U. S. Department of Energy through the Alaska Energy Development Technology Laboratory, and later joined with other university officials for a briefing on university research.

Regents inspected the International Arctic Research Center on the UAF campus, and also toured the new Discovery Lab of the Arctic Region Supercomputing Center in the Rasmuson Library.

In other actions, the regents approved a resolution of appreciation for Darrellene Myers, who retired this month after 35 years as confidential secretary to the last ten university presidents. President Hamilton had previously recognized her as the fifth recipient of the President's Medal for Excellence.

Future Board Meetings

September 17-18, 2003
Palmer

November 6, 2003
Fairbanks



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