

James R. Johnsen, Ed.D.

President

Butrovich Bldg, Ste. 202, 2025 Yukon Drive
P.O. Box 755000, Fairbanks, AK 99775-5000
Phone: (907) 450-8000; Fax: (907) 450-8012
Email: ua.president@alaska.edu
www.alaska.edu



UNIVERSITY
of ALASKA
Many Traditions One Alaska

November 12, 2018

VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Mike Dunleavy
Governor-Elect, State of Alaska

The Honorable Kevin Meyer
Lt. Governor-Elect

Gentlemen:

Congratulations on your election to serve critically important leadership roles on behalf of the people of Alaska. Given our numerous interactions over the years, I have great confidence that both of you will serve most ably as Alaska's governor and lieutenant governor.

The University of Alaska stands ready to assist you and your Policy Council with the expertise you might need as you transition into leadership. We can offer subject matter experts and resources on a range of topics from Arctic and energy policy to justice and public safety issues; from fisheries-related matters to health care programs. Of course, we can also advise on any issue related to education policy.

We would be honored if you would address the university's leadership who will convene this Thursday, November 15, in Fairbanks. These 100 leaders come together annually from across the state for leadership training, inter-university coordination, and implementation planning. I will make that request with your scheduling team. It would be great for us to hear your vision for Alaska.

For 100 years, Alaska's land grant university has played a formative role in the transformation from a territory to the strong state we are today, and we are committed to partnering with the state in bringing our powers and capabilities to the imperatives we face today. The university is:

- the state's single most powerful and committed instrument for developing and diversifying our economy, both in the near term and for the long run;

November 12, 2018

Page 2

- led by a Board of Regents and administration with a demonstrated record of making tough decisions and a plan focused on clear goals, performance measures, initiatives, and budgets tied directly to the needs of our state;
- the organization with the highest public confidence rating in the state, according to a statewide survey taken in Spring 2018;
- a major economic engine in our state, with an annual contribution to the economy in excess of \$1 billion;
- committed to working with you to address UA's significant unfulfilled land grant;
- the world's leader in Arctic research, with special emphasis in areas of practical importance to Alaska;
- commercializing our growing store of intellectual property, which provides a 6-to-1 return on the state's investment;
- the largest (by far) provider of high demand workforce and professional education for Alaskans, from welders and maritime workers to nurses, teachers, and engineers;
- the most accessible post-secondary education institution in the state through our 16 campuses and dozens of on-line programs; and
- committed to student success, as represented by expanding dual enrollment programs, improving retention, and graduation rates.

At your convenience, I would be honored to meet with you to explore further how the University of Alaska can work together with your administration to address our state's challenges and pursue its many opportunities. In the meantime, please feel free to call me if there is anything I can do to help you advance the interests of our state. The university is uniquely poised to contribute to the Alaska's future and we are "all in."

Thank you both for your long records of public service and your willingness to step in to lead at this pivotal time in Alaska's history. And again, my congratulations!

Sincerely,


Jim Johnsen
President, University of Alaska