

## University of Alaska – “First ever, best ever” list June 2015

The following list represents a compilation of achievements and improvements from across the University of Alaska system over the last five years. Efforts to improve graduation rates, streamline administrative processes, provide stronger student services, and create a better university experience have led to numerous measurable advances. Such positive performance outcomes are a validation of Alaska’s investment in the University of Alaska and in the changes we are implementing.

### Student Success:

\*(Shaping Themes 1, 2 & 5)

- Bachelor's degree completion rate (full-time students in six years or less) is at an **all-time high of almost 32 percent across the UA System and has increased almost 15 percent (4.1 percentage points) from FY10 to FY14 alone**. This is above the national average of 31 percent for other public, open admission universities according to the National Center for Education Statistics. UAF leads with a baccalaureate graduation rate of 41.5 percent in FY14.
- Students completing 30 credits or more: increased from 13 percent (FY10) to 15.2 percent (FY14).
- Significantly reduced transfer issues and the time required to assess transfer credits throughout the system. For example, UAA's transfer credit processing time has gone from 45 days in 2011 to just 3 days by 2014.
- The average eLearning credit load per student is at its highest level ever at 3.3 credits per student across the system.
- UAA piloted mandatory student orientation and advising in fall 2013 resulting 85.5% of student participants persisting into the following spring semester compared to 76% among non-participants.
- UAA - For the second consecutive year, students earned a record number of degrees, certificates and occupational endorsements: 2,633, up 5.8 percent from last year.
- UAF baccalaureate six-year graduation rates top 42% in 2014, a first in the UA system.
- UAF pulled down **2** of 17 nation-wide inaugural **Fulbright Arctic Initiative Scholars** in 2015: Gwen Holdmann of the Alaska Center for Energy and Power, and Tamara Harms of the College of Natural Science and Math.
- UAF achieved the top spot in all seven categories of a steel bridge competition at the American Society of Civil Engineers regional conference in April 2015. The team

dominated the competition with an overall score that was 40% higher than the second-place team.

- UAS produced a record number of graduates in AY13-14: 717 (up +14.6% from prior year). This continues a trend of over five years of increasing graduates at the associates, baccalaureate, and graduate levels.
- UAS improved its first-time, full-time retention rate by +2.5% by expanding student success initiatives including: Stay on Track Program, mandatory advising, Early Alert program for struggling students, and a newly-created Writing Center.
- UAS designed and implemented a new Superintendents' Academy to educate new school superintendents across Alaska; the initial group has 10 participants. The state saw a 50% turnover in superintendents last year. The Academy builds on UAS success in offering its Principals' endorsement program.
- UAS Teacher Education data show highest level of teacher preparation productivity-ratio of teacher education graduates to number of faculty.
- UAS students obtained employment in fields related to their training at a higher rate than the national average.

### **Academic and Degree Programs**

**\*(Shaping Themes 1 & 4)**

- Six new centers established from 2011 to 2013.
- 29 new certificate and degree programs established between 2010 and 2014; 14 deletions occurred during the same period.
- Engineering degrees: from 148 in FY10 to 185 in FY14 --**a 25 percent increase.**
- Health degrees: from 824 in FY10 to 988 in FY14 -- **a 20 percent increase.**
- Number of programs 100 percent available by eLearning is at its **highest point ever** – 129 programs.
- **Highest number of degrees and certificates awarded ever in FY14**, over 4,900, representing more than a 30 percent increase since FY10.
- The number of high-demand job area degrees awarded **grew 22 percent** from FY10 to FY14.
- UAA – Nursejournal.org named UAA as **#3 on its list of America’s 442 best nursing schools of the West**. Schools were ranked according to quality, affordability, convenience, satisfaction and value.

- UAA - U.S. News & World Report included the University of Alaska Anchorage in its 2015 list of the **best online programs for master's degrees in education. UAA is ranked 30th, placing it in the top 20 percent of all 179 schools included.**
- UAS - The University of Alaska Southeast online teaching program has earned a place on a list of the **Best Online Teaching Degrees in 2015** put out by the Affordable Colleges Foundation (ACF). **UAS placed as #14 out of 36 schools recognized on the list.**
- UAF School of Management's Student Investment Fund surpassed a landmark total of **\$1M in Feb. 2015**. Managed by students in the Student Investment Fund course, the fund has grown significantly from its original \$100,000 of unrestricted gifts from private donations. **The fund has provided \$65,000 in scholarships to 46 students** and provided SOM students with considerable practical experience.

## **Workforce Development**

**\*(Shaping Themes 1, 3, 4 & 5)**

- FY10-14 Associate and Certificate majors **increased by 26 percent** from 7,808 to 9,845.
- FY10-14 Increased High Demand Job Area Degrees **by 22 percent** from 2,731 to 3,341.
- FY10-14 investments in workforce development through TVEP totaled more than \$19 million.
- UA has taken leadership roles on industry-supported workforce development plans with strategic outcomes in Career & Technical Education, Health, Fisheries-Seafood-Maritime, and Mining. The highly acclaimed Maritime Workforce Development Plan was completed in close collaboration with industry and is being executed.
- The Maritime Workforce Development Plan was acknowledged for exemplifying "innovative training solutions and a sustained and effective approach to developing quality staff in the maritime sector," by making the Llyod's List 2015 "short list" in the training category.
- UA has received more than \$7.5 million in federal Dept. of Labor grants targeted for Alaskan workers displaced by foreign trade.
- Both UAF's CTC and UAA's KPC and Anchorage Extension Sites received the North America Process Technology Alliance (NAPTA) Process Technology certification and endorsement after a 2014 audit of their programs. **UAF CTC and KPC are now among only 19 colleges in North America to receive the NAPTA**

**endorsement.** The partnership with NAPTA helps UA maintain the high standards necessary to meet the needs of Alaska's PTEC workforce.

- UAA High Demand Job Area (HDJA) program awards set a new record high with 1,824 awards in 2014. This total represents 70 percent of all certificates and awards at UAA. Major contributors included: Health awards (665), Business, Finance & Management (373), Teacher Education (228), and Engineering (125). **The area with the largest single increase was in Transportation (up 42% to 120 awards, an increase of 35 awards over last year).**
- UAF Mining and Geological Engineering program was listed **first on Mining Global Magazine's top ten list of mining colleges and schools** in the United States Feb. 2015.
- UAF Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) program, directed by Cam Carlson, was **ranked as 2<sup>nd</sup> in the US for affordability of program and 5<sup>th</sup> in the US for quality of program** in the 2014 Emergency Management Degree Guide.
- UAS Mine Training Center opened in 2010 to address the underground mine training for Southeast and the balance of state industry needs. The program is growing student enrollment rapidly from Alaska and Canada.
- Future Educators of Alaska was federally recognized as a Career Technical Student Organization integrating leadership with traditional knowledge to encourage rural education as career paths for students.

## Scholarships, Funding and Giving

### \*(Shaping Theme 1)

- Grant aid awarded to UA students **up \$9.4 million in four years** (2009-10 \$20.4m, 2013-14 \$29.8m).
- Scholarship aid awarded to UA students **up \$10.6 million in four years** (2009-10 \$19.2m, 2013-14 \$29.9m).
- **Total financial aid awarded to UA students is \$137.0 million, up 14 percent** since 2008-2009 (2009-10 \$120.1m, 2013-14 \$137.0m).
- **Alumni giving (dollars raised from alumni) increased 101 percent** over the last 5 years from \$671K in FY10 to \$1.35 million in FY14.
- The UA Foundation reports FY14 system private fundraising results of \$23.1 million in total private gifts raised. This represents an **increase of 32 percent** over FY13 system total of \$17.4 million. Of particular note is total **giving from alumni in**

**FY14, which increased 28 percent over FY13 across the system.** Congratulations go to the advancement teams at UAA, UAF and UAS.

## **Research & Innovation**

**\*(Shaping Themes 3, 4, & 5)**

- UA has received a **total of more than \$650 million in external and highly competitive research funding since FY10, with more than \$118 million received in FY14 alone.** For every \$1 in state funding spent toward research, UA brings in \$4.6 in external research funding.
- **UAF research publications and citations on Arctic research top not only the nation, but are also #1 in the world!**
- UAF was **one of the 6** organizations out of 240 applications to be a **2014 grantee of the i6 Rural Challenge, a White House-sponsored program** run by the U.S. Economic Development Administration's Rural Innovation Strategies program. UAF will use EDA's approximately \$500k investment matched 1:1 with non-Federal funds to leverage the state's energy challenges as a catalyst for the development of a rural entrepreneurial ecosystem by providing technical and business assistance to microgrid innovators and entrepreneurs.
- **UAF is part of the ASSURE Coalition** that has been selected by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as **the nation's new Center of Excellence in Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS).** ACUASI, is the largest and most operationally focused university UAS program in North America. It is part of the University of Alaska Fairbanks Geophysical Institute and is a core partner in the ASSURE team.

## **UA Reputation**

**\*(Shaping Themes 1, 2 & 5)**

- ACT scores: **32 percent increase in scores sent to UA** between FY09 and FY14; and **41 percent MORE students indicate UA as their first choice in FY14 vs. FY09.**
- The proportion of recent Alaska high-school graduates who go to college has stayed roughly the same since 2010, with about half entering postsecondary within 12 months of graduating from high school. **More than 60 percent** of all recent Alaska high school grads who pursue postsecondary education choose UA, equivalent to about half of all college-bound recent Alaska high school graduates. This has been the pattern since 2010. Nationally, about 70 percent of all recent high school grads enter postsecondary within 12 months of graduating.
- Since FY10, more than 21,000 degrees and certificates have been awarded by UA.

- The UA Museum of the North was mentioned by College Rank in a roundup of the best 50 college museums in the country.
- UAA was named to the 2014 Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll and recognized by President Barack Obama for the fifth consecutive year for a strategic commitment to engage students, faculty and staff in service and celebrate the critical role of higher education in strengthening communities.
- UAF's Nanook Tech Ventures was mentioned in a recent Wakefiled article, which listed Alaska as one of the 13 fastest growing tech hubs in the US. The mention of the program suggests UAF's work in supporting tech start-ups is a part of the reason Alaska has landed a spot on the tech-industry map.

**\* Shaping Alaska’s Future is UA’s map for navigating the challenging terrain ahead, and it will guide decisions about people, programs and resources at UA for years to come. The Shaping Themes listed below act as the plan’s framework for continuous improvement and innovation, and contain nearly two-dozen important change initiatives for UA.**

1. Student Achievement and Attainment
2. Productive Partnerships with Alaska’s Schools
3. Productive Partnerships with Public Entities and Private Industries
4. Research & Development (R&D) and Scholarship to Enhance Alaska’s Communities and Economic Growth
5. Accountability to the People of Alaska