

# Tips For University of Alaska Advocates



Visiting the state capitol can be exciting. Always remember to thank Legislators for their service and for taking time to meet with you.

The most effective message is your own - tell others what the University of Alaska means to you as a student, alumni, business owner, or donor.

## Who are our most effective advocates?

- Alumni
- Business leaders
- Industries/sectors who hire UA graduates
- Constituents
- UA students
- Donors

## Every day advocacy

Telling your UA story is important for the success of your university. Whether you are in a public meeting or in-line at the grocery store, share why the university matters to you! When contacting legislators remember to make your communication personal to your own views, and avoid using university email or other resources.

## Tell your personal story

While it's good to be aware of the University of Alaska budget, it's preferable to talk to legislators about what you know best.

If you're a student and you've had a professor who really made a difference in your educational path—share that story. Perhaps you're an alumnus who is involved in a successful venture—talk about that. Maybe you're a business owner who regularly hires UA graduates—that's a great story to share.

If you live in a particular legislative district—speak to your representatives as a voter and constituent; tell them specific ways you'd like to see them support UA.

## Thank your legislator

Serving in public office is a tough and sometimes thankless job. No matter where on the political spectrum you find yourself, thank the legislators with whom you meet—they are sacrificing time away from their families, businesses and jobs to serve Alaskans. If there is a bill, law or initiative you support, and you know the legislator has supported it, thank them specifically.

## UA's budget request

Encourage policymakers to support UA's budget request.

legislator gets his or her question addressed.

## Review advocacy materials

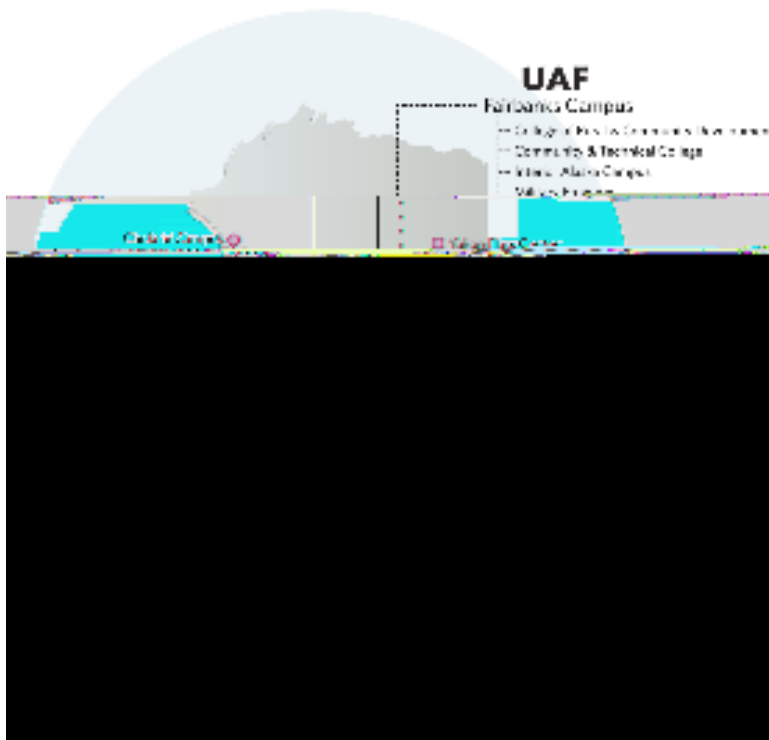
Review materials on the Government relations website to ensure you have a good understanding of key issues.

- Tuition and research revenue – two critical sources of funding – will drop as a result of lower enrollment and fewer academic programs.
- A cut of this magnitude, will necessitate deep cuts that will impact every campus, program and aspect of our mission – education, research, community service.
- UA leads the world in Arctic research and built an international reputation that attracts faculty, students and investment. However, we operate in a highly mobile, international market for both talent and resources. Talent follows capital.
- There are 1,200 fewer people working at UA than there were just four years ago. This budget will likely result in the loss of an additional 1,300 staff and faculty.
- Alaska has the lowest college going rate in the nation. UA provides access and opportunity to every Alaskan through our network of community campuses.

**MISSION:** *The University of Alaska inspires learning, and advances and disseminates knowledge through teaching, research and public service, emphasizing the North and its diverse peoples.*

## University of Alaska History

Founded in 1917 as the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines; renamed University of Alaska in 1935. Today we are three universities, 13 community campuses and outreach centers throughout Alaska.



## Enrollment

Total Student Headcount - 26,641

University of Alaska Anchorage - 16,530

University of Alaska Fairbanks - 8,336

University of Alaska Southeast - 2,561

Total Full-Time Equivalency\* - 17,555

\*One student FTE is calculated as 30 student credit hours for courses below the 500 level and 24 student credit hours for courses at the 500 level and above.

UA Scholars - 1,817

Alaska Performance Scholarship - 2,709

Dual-Enrollment Students - 2,992

UA Alumni - more than 100,000

## Degrees and Programs

Degrees and Programs Offered - 588

Bachelor's 6-yr. Graduation Rate - 36%

Degrees & Certificates Granted - 4,554

Licensures & Endorsements - 614

Certificates - 295

Associate - 1,151

Bachelor's - 1,876

Master's - 561

Doctorate - 57

## Budget & Finances

UA Operating Budget - \$820 million

State Funding - \$317 million

Tuition & Fees - \$135 million

External Research Funding - \$141 million

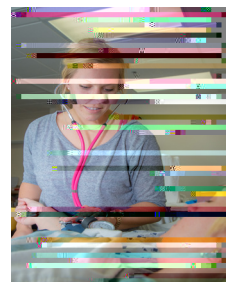
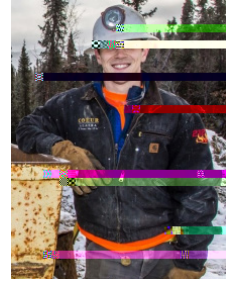
## Lands & Facilities

Total UA Lands - 150,446 acres

Land Grant owned - more than 360,000 acres

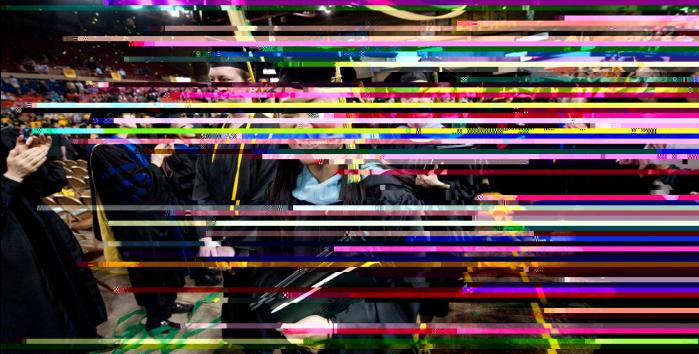
Facilities - 424

Average facilities age - 33 years



Figures from UA Data Strategy and Institutional Research, March 2019; UA Land Management, FY18

# The University of Alaska needs your support



Workforce development is a critical part of the educational mission of the university. From community campuses to graduate schools, UA drives economic growth and innovation.

The governor's \$134 million cut is the single largest reduction in the university's 100-year history

## UA is directly tied to Alaska's economy

It takes a great university to build a great state. As a constitutionally established public higher education system, UA has a responsibility to meet the state's higher education and workforce development needs.

Cutting state support to this extent sends a negative message to students and all Alaskans.

The governor's plan assumes UA could double tuition and fee revenue from the current year. In the face of declining enrollments, and year-over-year increases to tuition, the ability to capture \$154 million in new tuition and fees is not realistic.

We have only a few months to prepare viable options for Alaska's future. UA has chosen to lead, and that is exactly what we will continue to do.

## Major driver of economic activity

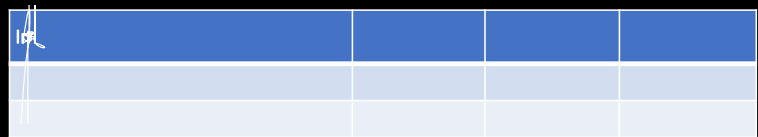
The university drives Alaska's economy. In addition to training and educating the workforce, UA generates \$1.1 billion economic activity annually, including direct, in-state expenditures by the university, students and visitors, and additional indirect spending. That's all money circulating in our state as a direct benefit of the University of Alaska.



The University of Alaska purchased \$122.6 million from more than 2,000 Alaska businesses and organizations in 2015. Source: McDowell, 2015

## Employment and payroll

UA is one of the largest employers in Alaska. In 2015, UA paid \$346 million in annual wages and supported an average of 7,548 jobs. When jobs indirectly linked to the university were also considered, UA supported 15,740 jobs, totaling \$630 million in annual wages. These good wages are disappearing along with the benefits of an employed population.



# University of Alaska mission critical

Alaska's economy is in recession. The University of Alaska is one of the most valuable tools for advancing and improving Alaska's future.

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# Honoring Alaska's Land Grant Promise



The Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines was established as a Land Grant university on May 3, 1917. Although it was thought that the university would receive lands with statehood, UA never received its full allotment.

UA is still due approximately 360,000 acres

