**Background/Context** 

ska's economy is heavily dependent upon extraction and resource development industries; the future well-being of the state economy requires diversity cation, innovation and new industry. e University of Alaska is uniquely suited to drive change in our economy and to educate graduates who will lead a new era of economic development. To meet the challenge of transforming Alaska's economy we must increase the number of scientists, mathematicians, engineers, technicians and other innovators working in the state. We must also monetize our research through the attainment of invention disclosures, patents and discoveries that bene t Alaska's economy. To accomplish this goal requires overcoming historically low educational attainment rates, addressing disparities in rural