

freshman
CONVOCATION
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

UAA welcomes the class of 2017

Dear Board of Regents,

UAA is working to strengthen our financial foundation as we enter an era of Alaska state fiscal uncertainty and university focus on implementing the Strategic Direction Initiatives (SDI). We are accomplishing this with ongoing internal reallocation based upon SDI, Sightlines' UAA space utilization analysis and Program Prioritization. What this means is taking advantage of low hanging fruit through ongoing internal reallocation while undertaking a detailed prioritization analysis of all programs and administrative functions at UAA. Prioritization results and the Sightlines space utilization analysis will provide information necessary to make the best use of resources in the delivery of higher education at UAA.

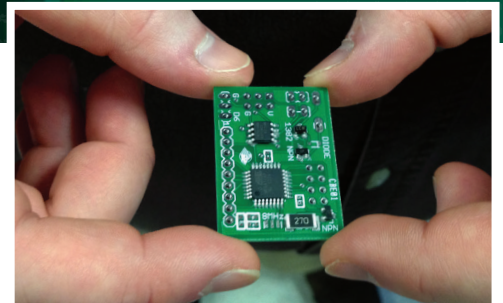
Already we are reallocating resources to provide targeted advising. This year the College of Arts and Sciences reorganized 14 administrative positions to create three new advising positions. Student Affairs also underwent a reorganization to create the First Year Student Access, Advising and Transition division. Coordinated efforts of advisors in Student Affairs and advisors in academic units is already paying off with a targeted Outreach Campaign to all students who were enrolled in spring 2013 but not registered for fall 2013. Results of a three-week period in July showed the MAU registered 1,908 students of which 471 were part of the outreach cohort.

UAA continues to improve the effectiveness and efficiency with which students enter UAA and navigate the pathway to graduation. This year the Anchorage campus is launching mandatory orientation and advising for all underprepared first-time first-year degree-seeking students who graduated high school with less than a 2.5 grade point average.

In these uncertain fiscal times, UAA is committed to using our resources wisely to provide for the higher education, training and research needed to ensure a bright future for Alaska.

Best regards,

Tom Case



First two startup companies based upon UAA research were recently launched. Zensor offers a new generation of remote wireless sensors. CFT Solutions uses carbon fiber tapes under pavement to melt snow and ice.



Engineering & Industry Building groundbreaking is set for Friday, Sept. 13.



University of Alaska Regent Gloria O'Neill helped break ground this summer on the \$20M Valley Center for Arts and Learning at Mat-Su College.

UAA moving forward



Journalist Mark Trahant will serve as the 20th Atwood Chair of Journalism. Trahant is an editor, reporter, columnist, television correspondent and author of several books.



Gunnar Knapp is newly appointed director of the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER). A long-time professor of economics at ISER, he is widely respected for his studies of Alaska's commercial fisheries.



The opening of Kenai Peninsula College's new Career & Technical Education Center and their first residence hall were celebrated with a ribbon cutting in August.

Faculty and staff taking leading roles

UAA visiting scholar **Willie Iggiagruk Hensley** received the 2013 Human and Civil Rights Award from the National Education Association for human and civil rights advocacy.

Dr. Helena Wisniewski, vice provost for research and graduate studies, is a 2013 Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Gold Pan finalist in Entrepreneurial Excellence.

Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment **Eric Pedersen** has been elected President of the Pacific Northwest Association for College Admission Counseling.

Dr. Andre Rosay, Justice Center Director, and **Dr. Marny Rivera**, Justice faculty, were interviewed by KTUU Channel News regarding their Alaska Justice Forum article, "Trends in Juvenile Delinquency, School Suspensions, and Expulsions," which reported a decline in juvenile delinquency.

John Pollock, Kenai Peninsula College's (KPC) new Veteran Services Coordinator, spent 25 years as a Marine Corps officer and retired as a colonel. His latest assignment was DOD senior executive service program manager, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, Forward Cell in Kabul, Afghanistan. He has provided guidance on VA benefits for more than 20 years.

Matt Thomas is UAA's new Seawolf hockey coach. Thomas was previously head coach of the Stockton Thunder. He leaves Stockton with a 163-127-39 record.

Tammie Willis, KPC's Kenai River Campus (KRC) new associate director of residence life was elected the Alaska-Yukon representative to the Northwest Association of College and University Housing Officers board of directors.

Program recognition

KPC received the national Quality Matters 2013 "Making a Difference for Students" Award recognizing the institution's commitment to quality online education.

UAA's Department of Languages received the 2013 Governor's North Star Award for International Excellence.

The Consortium Library, on behalf of the Alaska Library Network, secured four grants totaling \$325,426 for managing and supporting statewide library services.

Student excellence

Andrew Lessig, USUAA president, was selected to be the 2013-2015 UA Student Commissioner for Post-Secondary Education.

UAA engineering students cracked the top 20 for Marketing Presentation and top 30 for Rock Crawl and Land Maneuverability in the International Society of Automotive Engineers Baja Car Competition.

K-12 connections

Forty 9-12 graders from six village-based schools participated in KPC's Kachemak Bay Campus "Project Grad" Summer Institute sponsored by the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.

Kodiak College held a three-day Native and Rural Student Pre-Orientation and welcome event made possible by a partnership between Kodiak College, Kodiak Island Housing Authority and Kodiak Area Native Associations.

Development

Rasmuson Foundation awarded the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP) \$5 million to be used over five years to enable the successful continuation and growth of ANSEP. This is the largest single grant ANSEP has ever received.