

Shaping Alaska's Future



Theme 4: Research and Development (R&D) and Scholarship to Enhance Alaska's Communities and Economic Growth

Issue A: UA needs to attain greater recognition for its accomplishments in research and development and its contributions to economic diversification and quality of life for Alaskans.

Effect: UA is the first choice of state and federal entities and private industries in Alaska to meet their research and development needs.

Issue B: Some Alaska Native languages and cultural traditions are endangered. Many communities do not have sufficient resources to safeguard and nurture culture and the arts, so UA plays a vital role in preserving and advancing this knowledge and these traditions.

Effect: UA is a major center of culture and the arts in Alaska and is a center of excellence for Alaska Native and indigenous research and scholarship.

Issue C: The effects of climate change over the next century will be profound worldwide, but they will be greatest in circumpolar regions. UA is uniquely qualified to conduct interdisciplinary research addressing changing conditions in the circumpolar arctic

Effect: UA is a recognized world leader and international collaborator in arctic research.

Issue D: Circumpolar communities are experiencing rapid social and economic transformation due to changes in climate, ecological systems and global interactions. These communities need research-based and indigenous knowledge in order to adapt. UA has the expertise to assist these communities, and to do so must effectively communicate with those who need it. The Alaska Science and Technology Plan exists to guide UA in developing the needed information.

Effect: Alaskans and their communities use research-based information, enriched by traditional knowledge, to successfully adapt to change.

Issue E: Limited state investment in UA research capacity makes it difficult to remain competitive for research grants, contracts and faculty.

Effect: UA recruits and retains top research faculty and students and maintains modern, world-class research facilities, equipment and infrastructure