



# Strategic Direction

# Initiatives

# TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS

## Student Achievement and Attainment

At UAA, amazing stories are being written every day. These stories speak to the innovative and entrepreneurial spirit found across UAA faculty, staff and students. Academic and professional enterprises are continually being developed to better serve students and our community. The work we are doing in classrooms, laboratories, cubicles, online, in the field and with our K-12, business, nonprofit and government partners, along with more than 42,000 UAA alumni, are helping to lead Alaska into the future.

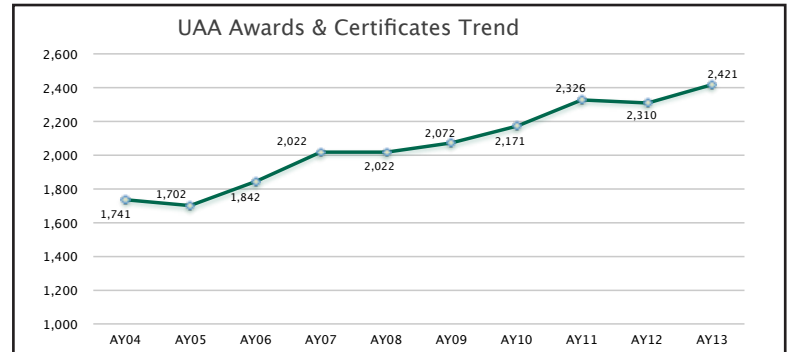
UAA continues to improve services and programs supporting student achievement and attainment and we are seeing results. This year, MAP-Works began faculty alerts, warning them of students in 100-level courses falling behind. A partnership with the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education provided the funding for a MAP-Works advisor to support and encourage first-year full-time students through the transition from high school and first year of college. An ice cream social to support “Stay on Track” connected more than 300 students to their advisors. In December the Office of Student Affairs student intervention and outreach team contacted 1,095 first-time, full-time, degree-seeking students and provided support based upon their fall 2012 GPA.

These are just a few of the efforts contributing to nearly 90 percent of Anchorage campus degree-seeking freshmen (enrolled for the first time in fall 2012) continuing with their enrollment in spring 2013. A new record.

UAA is providing students with improved access to the information necessary to make the best decisions about their higher education needs.

UA ACCUPLACER alignment is improving placement across the MAUs. Streamlined credit transfers, increased collaboration with UAS and UAF resulted in 100 percent of General Education Requirement (GER) courses approved to meet GER requirements at each MAU as well as and access through eLearning to developmental courses in english, math, mentoring bootcamps, math labs, and writing labs are providing students flexibility in meeting higher education needs. Kenai Peninsula College (KPC) is providing

### Total awards up 5 percent



Total awards are up 5 percent from AY12; 2,310 – 2,421 degree this year.



Stay on Track ice cream social draws more than 300 students who were connected with advisors.

### Commencement 2013



### Seawolf athletes earned a record 3.2 GPA average



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EVERY DAY.

many of the developmental courses without the tuition costs normally associated with remedial coursework. Many factors contribute to student achievement and UAA is working to provide proven best practices to support student attainment of their higher education goals.

### Financial aid information is more accessible

The UAA CashCourse website is a new resource designed to provide tools and information to help students make informed financial decisions.

### Significant new scholarships from individual donors:

The First Generation Student Scholarship and Alaska Endowment for Excellence were created by a \$2M estate gift to help stop “brain drain” of talented students.

The Randich Family Foundation and Greg and Patsy Romack Education Fund at the Alaska Community Foundation created the R and R Completion Scholarship to provide up to **\$20,000 per year for two years to enable a UAA engineering student to complete a baccalaureate degree.**



*Green and Gold Gala*

UAA raises more than **\$700,000** a year from private donors to support student scholarships. This year the **Celebrity Chef Invitational** raised \$39,000 and the **Alumni Green and Gold Gala** raised \$78,000.

### Advising focused on transition, access and retention

A new Division of Student Access, Advising and Transition was formed.

### New programming support

Alaska Native Community Advancement in Psychology (ANCAP) is designed to encourage and support Alaska Natives working toward degrees in behavioral health fields.

**Plus50 Initiative Bridge to College and Careers Workforce Credential** a program designed for older adults seeking to develop skills necessary to compete in today's job market or to prepare for college degrees or certificate programs.

### eLearning faculty expertise and access increased

eLearning modules for developmental math and English developed by KPC faculty will become part of the Carnegie Mellon University's Open Learning Initiative. PWSCC's Second Life virtual world is winning national awards.

Distance delivery of the Bachelor of Science in Technology program opened its curriculum up to community campuses and is helping to meet student demand for Career and Technical Education teacher training in Alaska.

### Credit Transfer

**41%** more credits transferred (275,000 in AY13).

**65%** more students transferred in credits (6,000 students).

**93%** faster, from 45 to 3 days.

**100%** of General Education Requirement courses transferable between UAA, UAF and UAS.

### First rural student transition coordinator

The Eyak Corporation is providing \$120,000 to fund a position that provides outreach to juniors and seniors in high school from the Prince William Sound Community College (PWSCC) region. The position supports first-year freshmen from rural communities throughout Alaska.



*New Veterans Resource Center*



*VetSuccess on Campus, Counselor Terry Jackson, left, shakes hands with Military & Veteran Community Services Assistant, John Johnson in the new Veterans Resource Center.*

### Veteran Resource Center opens in Student Union

New center provides access to VetSuccess on Campus coordinator, support for Student Veterans club and contributes to UAA's recognition as a **Military Friendly School** for the fourth consecutive year.







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## UAA research and innovation are paving the way for sustainable communities and economic growth in Alaska

Relevant research is taking on a new meaning at UAA with the research, innovation and commercialization initiative spearheaded by Vice Provost for Research and Dean of the Graduate School, Helena Wisniewski. Under Dr. Wisniewski and with support from Chancellor funds, UAA established the INNOVATE Awards, to provide incentive for innovative research. Seawolf Holdings was approved last summer, establishing a pathway toward the commercialization of UAA research and this February, **ZENSOR™ LLC** became the first startup company incorporated in Alaska based upon research by UAA faculty.

Currently, UAA has **25 invention disclosures with nine patents pending**. Provisional patents have been awarded for sensors for large wireless distributed networks (ZENSOR™ LLC), biomedical devices, de-icer using carbon fiber tape, educational software and a copper isotope application that is of interest to the mining community. A patent has been awarded for an authentication method using an eye-tracker device.

### Research supporting state transportation, weather forecasting and spill response

- **Engineering project** to study loosening bolts on light poles that illuminate Alaska highways.
- **Aviation weather forecasting partnership** with National Weather Service Forecast and FAA.
- **Wind modeling partnership grant** from Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee council and use of model in oil spill response.

### Research supporting Alaska's environment

**Environment and Natural Resources Institute (ENRI)** launched "Longitudinal variation in the physiology, growth and reproduction of white spruce at the Arctic treeline in Alaska."



**John Kennish**, an environmental analytic chemist, is studying the effects of marine phthalates on the immune system of trout. The research may help explain devastating declines in Alaska's wild salmon runs since juvenile salmon, genetically related to trout, may also be affected by marine phthalates.

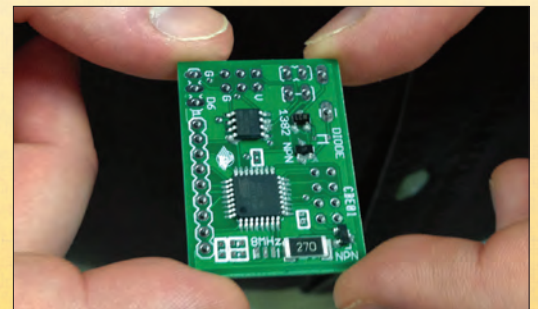
### Research supporting Education in Alaska



*Chancellor Tom Case, Provost Bear Baker and Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Studies Dr. Helena Wisniewski with the 2013 INNOVATE Award winners.*

### INNOVATE Awards

First round of awards (13) produced \$350,000 in external funding awards, **four invention disclosures and three evolved into patents pending**. The second round, in 2013, received proposals from all colleges and schools.



*Zensor™ sensors are intended to make monitoring remote infrastructure cheap, easy and reliable.*

### First start up, ZENSOR™ LLC

Dr. John Lund, professor of electrical engineering, developed wireless sensors used for remote sensing, monitoring and surveillance. The long-lasting sensors, boasting a 50-plus year lifespan, present several advantages over current competitors on the market: no batteries required, effective with a small power source, maintenance-free, low cost and more.

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Center for Alaska's Education Policy Research (CAEPR) reported on "Educator Supply and Demand, and Teacher Turnover." CAEPR is also partnering with the Alaska Statewide Policy Research Alliance to focus on preparing students for postsecondary success.

#### Faculty working on national and international research of note

Jeff Welker became the Fulbright U.S. Arctic Chair in Norway.



Jeff Welker

Justice Center Director, Andre B. Rosay was a Visiting Executive Research Fellow at the National Institute of Justice supporting research on violence against Indian women in tribal communities. Rosay is the **first Alaskan** awarded this fellowship.

#### Research supporting healthy Alaska communities

Research on effects of exposure to tobacco smoke lends new insights on potential harm from traditional Alaska Native smokeless iqmik.

UAA's School of Nursing Associate Director Maureen O'Malley, along with three colleagues, **partnered with Providence Oncology Rehabilitation, to track patient satisfaction and outcomes** in a combined qualitative and quantitative study.



UAA Institute for  
Circumpolar Health Studies  
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UAA's Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies (ICHS), in partnership with the Pacific

Institute for Research and Evaluation, is **developing a community prevention model to combat inhalant use** and related problems among pre-and early adolescents in 16 Alaska communities.

ICHS is evaluating strategies for **mitigating the health impacts of climate change** as part of UA-wide collaboration, "Alaska Adapting to Changing Environments," **funded by a \$20M grant from the National Science Foundation.**

ICHS, in partnership with Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, is working to **reduce health disparities by implementing interventions** in HIV/STI communities.

ICHS is developing recommendations for a screening process for health and other situational difficulties among Alaska families seeking temporary assistance.

ICHS, supported by the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, is **evaluating relative program cost and quality of life issues of "Housing First,"** a recent homeless intervention model.

#### Research supporting social and economic policies

The Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) and the UAA Justice Center produce research publications throughout the year to aid state and local policymakers.



UAA Institute of Social  
and Economic Research  
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#### Selected publications, 2012-2013

How Do Higher Fuel Prices Affect Alaska's Transportation System and Economy  
Economic Importance of the Bristol Bay Salmon Fishery  
Trends in Alaska and World Salmon Markets  
Petroleum: Jobs and Revenues  
Maximum Sustainable Yield: Wealth Management for the "Owner State."  
2013 Alaska's Construction Spending Forecast  
How Much Do Natural Amenities Add to Residential Property Values in the Mat-Su Borough  
Toward Universal Broadband in Rural Alaska  
Alaska Energy Statistics 1960-2011  
Investments in Statewide Invasive Species Management Programs in Alaska: 2007-2011  
Kids Count Alaska 2011-2012



UAA Justice Center  
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

#### Selected publications, 2012-2013

Alaska Justice Forum, Fall 2012/Winter 2013  
Moving Beyond Brands: Integrating Approaches to Mediation  
Alaska Correctional Populations 2011  
Trends in Alaska Offender Demographics  
Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center Fact Sheet  
Assaults Committed against Alaska Police Officers, 2002-2011  
Violent Crime Arrests in Alaska  
Firearm Use in Violent Crime in the U.S. and Alaska, 1980-2011





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## Productive partnerships with Alaska's schools

This spring, **42 high school students** registered through the Mat-Su Borough School District, to take college classes in the **Alaska Middle College School at UAA's Community & Technical College's Chugiak-Eagle River campus**. The first Alaska Middle College School is a partnership between the Mat-Su Borough School District (MSBSD) and UAA that provides MSBSD high school students the opportunity to take college courses in a college setting while still in high school. These **students earn credits toward a UAA associate of arts degree while completing their high school graduation requirements**. (The Margaret A. Cargill Foundation awarded \$160,000 for the 2013 Middle School Academy.)

The transition between high school and college can be difficult. The Alaska Middle College School is an example of a productive partnership between UAA and K-12 that creates a solid bridge between high school and college.

UAA is creating additional support through specialized teacher training initiatives, like the one in Chevak. Faculty are promoting science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) to high school students through projects like the **NASA space grant-funded STEM learning event recently held at UAA for 135 K-12 students and 19 teachers** from across the Anchorage School district (ASD). Another faculty-sponsored event drew **300 students from 13 communities around the state for the 2013 Statewide High School Robotics Championship**.



*Students from ASD were divided into small groups and broke out into educational sessions at recent STEM learning event at UAA.*



*Ribbon cutting at Alaska Middle College School.*

## Chevak initiative

Blending traditional Alaska Native knowledge, western education theory and homegrown talent to build new model for student success.

- More than a dozen Chevak teacher aides are on target to become fully credentialed teachers.
- Eight will receive their A.A. in December.
- Several will continue with bachelor's in elementary education.
- UAA professors from the College of Education travel to Chevak for 10-day face-to-face sessions followed by online learning.  
*Partner:* Kashunaiut School District  
*Funding:* Public funds from federal stimulus grant and private donation from Barney Gottstein.

## College readiness

CTC is partnering with ASD to offer high school juniors and seniors early ACCUPLACER placement tests. UAA ACCUPLACER consultants meet with students and recommend steps to better prepare for college math and English.

## Tech Prep career pathway program development

UAA/UA Career Pathways/Tech Prep Program of Study Initiative "For What's Next" in Career & Technical Education for secondary and postsecondary partners. Alaska Tech Prep Consortium projects are connecting industry partners with high school students, developing a model career pathway for health careers and providing support to local schools and districts.



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### Shared facilities and resources:

- UAA/APU Consortium Library provides Live Homework Help, BrainPOP (education videos) and Teen Health and Wellness educational resources.
- Chugiak-Eagle River campus boasts joint use of high school classrooms for instruction at night.
- The aviation classroom at the Aviation Technology Center is shared with the King Career Center.

### Shared faculty

The Kodiak Island Borough School District partnership with Kodiak College provides core science outreach to students of all ages through shared faculty like Kodiak College assistant professor of marine biology Switgard Duesterloh, at the Ocean Science Discovery Laboratory in the Kodiak Fisheries Research Center.



*Kodiak College becomes hub for community marine science education*

### Teacher training

**Project LEAP** (Language Equity and Academic Performance), a partnership between the College of Education and the Mat-Su Borough, Anchorage and Juneau school districts, is **funded by a \$1.5M grant from the U.S. Department of Education** to train in-service teachers to be leaders in their districts when working with English language learners. The **outcome is an 18-credit graduate certificate in teaching ESL for elementary education**.

**Health Careers Explorer Program (HCEP)** is a pilot project initiated by the partnership of UAA Allied Health Sciences, the UAA Center for Addressing Health Disparities through Research and Education (CAHDRE), and ASD. While HCEP is open to all eighth grade students, preference is given to ethnic minorities, those who are economically disadvantaged and those whose parents have less than a college education. The five-day program introduces students to different health careers, issues related to health disparities and involves students in interactive presentations and activities with a diverse group of health professionals. Students also learn skills in patient interviewing, research and oral presentation.



### University of Alaska Center for Economic Development (CED) partnership

The University of Alaska Center for Economic Development - Lemonade Day Alaska partnered with schools across the state to ensure entrepreneurship related curriculum was available to teachers, incorporating Lemonade Day as a full class project. More than 3,500 kids participated in Lemonade Day Alaska learning many skills like financial literacy, basic life and work readiness skills and philanthropy.



*Alaska kids get a chance to learn about running their own business during Lemonade Day.*

Assistant Professor of Science Education **Irasema Ortega** is writing a collaborative science curriculum that trains Alaska Native teachers to teach science from Native and Western perspectives.

**Gennady Gienko, associate professor in the School of Engineering**, is introducing Geographic Information Systems (GIS) concepts to high school classrooms across Alaska where high school students can apply to solve real environmental, social and economic problems.

### Faculty support K-12 teachers and curriculum

For the past two years the Selkregg Community Engagement & Service Learning Award has supported university faculty working with K-12 teachers.

**Sunny Mall**, mathematics professor in the Master of Arts in Teaching program, is partnering with the Alaska Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the Alaska Science Teachers Association in "Engaging Secondary Mathematics Teachers in Teaching Mathematics for Social Justice."



*2013 Selkregg Award recipient, Sunny Mall.*



*Assistant Professor of Science Education Irasema Ortega received the 2012 Selkregg Award to write a collaborative science.*

### Geomatics theory for high school students

Assistant Engineering Professor John Bean designed a collaborative program with students and ASD to design GIS activities based on the needs of ten different classes in six schools.





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### UAA's public and private industry partners

UAA's public and private industry partners provide support for facilities, programs and student scholarships. Partnerships come in many forms—in-kind donations, cash contributions, talent and mentorships, internships—all to support quality training and instruction for Alaska current and future employees.



Artist Rendering – Alaska Airlines Center

The naming of the **Alaska Airlines Center**, in recognition of a gift of **\$6.3M**, which includes a **\$1M scholarship fund**, is a good example of a 30-year partnership growing as the university grows.

This year UAA opened the **BP Asset Integrity and Corrosion Lab**, made possible with a **\$1M gift from BP Exploration (Alaska)**. A **\$50,000 gift from a private donor** has enabled the hiring of a lab technician.

UAA's new **Retail Management Certificate** program partnership with the **Western Association of Food Chains (WAFC)** retail grocery industry organization and western region community college partners received a **\$1.16M award to support workforce development** for the retail grocery industry, which includes three of the top four largest private sector employers in Alaska.

UAA's **Child Welfare Academy** and the **Office of Children's Services** are partnering to create a position to enhance support and outreach services to **current and former foster youth** ages 16-23. UAA alumna **Amanda Metivier**, B.S.W. '08, M.S.W. '12, is the newly named CWA Youth Education Coordinator.



From left, Director Matt Cullin, UAA President Patrick Gamble, BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc. President John Mingé and Chancellor Tom Case at the ribbon cutting of the new BP Asset Integrity and Corrosion Lab at the University of Alaska Anchorage Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2012. BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc. donated \$1M to help create the lab, which will train engineering students in corrosion research and testing.



Director Matt Cullin, left, and former BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc. President John Mingé at the ribbon cutting of the new BP Asset Integrity and Corrosion Lab.



Dr. Steffen Peuker presents HVAC&R equipment to students in the new Thermal System Design Lab at the School of Engineering on campus.

### Thermal system design lab

A collaboration between **mechanical engineering professor Steffen Peuker**, engineering students and industry professionals developed three education units to be taught in the new thermal system design lab. **The lab was made possible by cash, equipment and in-kind donations from industry partners: AMC Engineers, H&K Sheetmetal Fabricators, KLEBS Heating, Plumbing and Air Quality, Siemens Industry Inc., and Stinebaugh & Company. No university funding was used.**

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## Corporate and foundation contributions supporting UAA programs

FedEx donation of a Boeing 727, valued at \$625,000, provides hands-on training for students in the aviation maintenance program.

BP Exploration contribute \$80,000 in support of 2013 UAA Engineering camps.

LGL Alaska Research Associates contributed \$30,000 to the LGL Alaska Graduate Ecology Research Award which provides support to students pursuing an advanced degree to conduct Alaska-based ecological research.

Costco Wholesale Corporation donated \$35,000 to the Recruitment and Retention of Alaska Natives into Nursing (RRANN) Program Scholarship.

Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company contributed \$18,130 to the Hecla Greens Creek Scholarship.

MicroSurvey Software made an in-kind donation of 50 software package licenses, valued at over \$500,000, to UAA Geomatics.

Icicle Seafoods made a gift of \$300,000 to the University of Alaska with \$150,000 benefitting UAA campuses.

Alaska Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory made in-kind donations worth nearly \$150,000 to Chemistry and Biological Sciences departments.



Celebrity Chef Invitational 2012

First National Bank Alaska made gifts totaling \$120,000 to Alaska Statewide Mentor Project, Culinary Arts and Hospitality Program, APTI-UAA Journalism Internship Program, CBPP Communities in Schools Program, Dental Assisting Clinic and Excellence in Construction Management.

Chugach Alaska Corporation gave \$50,000 to Excellence in Alaska Native Business and Public Policy and \$25,000 to Alaska Native Services.

Northrim Bank made gifts totaling \$68,500 to UAA Small Business Development Center, College of Business and Public Policy, Center for Economic Development, Matanuska-Susitna College, and UAA Alumni.

The Kachemak Bay Campus of Kenai Peninsula College received over \$28,000 from the Leo Rhode Charitable Trust.

Alyeska Pipeline Service Company donated \$8,000 to the Last Frontier Theatre Conference.

The International Foundation for Research in Experimental Economics donated \$27,019 to the CBPP Experimental Economics Laboratory.

ATS Alaska donated \$25,253 to the ATS Alaska Scholarship, which supports students seeking a B.S. in engineering.

KeyBank Foundation donated \$10,000 with a major portion to the UAA KeyBank Scholarship to support students seeking a career in financial services.



(left to right) Tom Case, UAA chancellor; Scott Goldsmith; Marc Langland, chairman, Northrim; and Joe Beedle, president, Northrim.

Northrim Bank made a grant of \$100,000 to the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER), bringing their **total contribution to \$1M** for the ongoing research initiative, Investing for Alaska's Future. **Scott Goldsmith**, professor emeritus of economics at ISER, directs the initiative.

ANSEP received donations from Alyeska Pipeline Service (\$300,000); ExxonMobil (\$135,000); Udelhoven Oilfield System Services (\$200,000); Shell Exploration & Production Company (\$110,000); Pebble Limited Partnership (\$75,000); Central Bering Sea Fisherman's Association (\$50,000); Donlin Gold (\$40,000).

Alaska Kidney Foundation contributed over \$52,000 to provide scholarship, program and research support in the School of Nursing.

Fairbanks Memorial Hospital pledged \$300,000 to support the School of Nursing Expansion.

The Atwood Foundation pledged \$150,000 for operation support to the Robert B. Atwood Chair of Journalism endowment. This is in addition to a \$50,000 gift they made earlier this year for the Atwood Chair, and a \$10,000 gift for the Elaine Atwood scholarship.



Mike Doogan,  
2013 Atwood Chair





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## Accountability to the people of Alaska

Amazing stories are being written every day at UAA. The stories show how UAA is using its resources – human, financial, physical, and electronic – to best serve Alaskans. One of UAA's greatest resources is its alumni. A new alumni initiative is using best practices to engage with more than 42,000 alumni. Our tremendous alumni network includes leaders, workers and members of the community in every sector of Alaska—business, nonprofit, government, education, environment, arts and culture. Our new brand campaign, Amazing Stories Being Written Every Day, provides the perfect vehicle for reporting to Alaskans how UAA is serving the state.



**UAA's Amazing New Brand**

UAA donor events provide an opportunity to see the impact contributions are making on students' lives and the university. "An Evening with the Honors College," provided a personal and meaningful look at Honors College students, their research and program support and also raised more than \$30,000 for the college.

## Responsible resource management

We completed the **three-year phased renovation of the Natural Science Building**, the first completely renovated building in recent memory.



*Completely renovated Natural Science Building*



UAA is undertaking a **program prioritization process to do a strategic cost and demand analysis as well as an analysis of how current programs and services align with our mission and Strategic Plan 2017**. Two work groups, an academic and an administrative, are building criteria this summer for the assessment.

## Recognized for national standard of excellence

- ANSEP made Harvard's top 25 list of "Innovations in American Government"
- Named Military Friendly School fourth consecutive year
- Recognized by the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for the third time
- Awarded Tree Campus USA designation

## Improving communications

Since launching our new branding campaign, Amazing Stories Being Written Every Day, we've placed more than 20 Hometown U features in the *Anchorage Daily News*, and more than 125 unique "I AM UAA" profiles have been featured online and in print.



## Responsive to cultural legacy

UAA hosted the first Alaska Native Studies Conference that drew more than 300 people to talk about ways to integrate Native language and cultural studies in higher education as well as increase the number of Alaska Native Ph.D.'s. Two new programs created; Alaska Native Business and Public Policy in the College of Business and Public Policy and Alaska Native Community Advancement in Psychology.



*Willie Hensley designed new curriculum centered on Alaska Native business and corporation management.*

**AMAZING STORIES BEING WRITTEN EVERY DAY.**

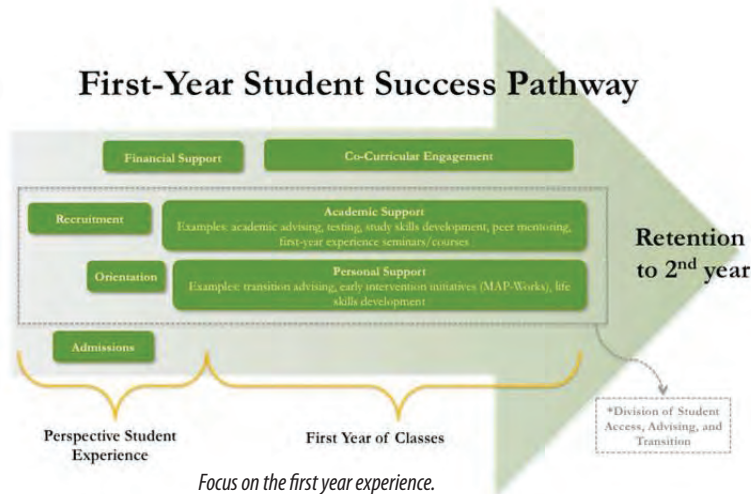
## FY14 and beyond

Amazing stories are being written every day at UAA. Through expanded partnerships with K-12, public and private industry and our communities, UAA will continue to be a vital workforce, education and research resource for Alaska's future.

## UAA is working toward....

### Mandatory comprehensive student advising

Student Affairs is realigning to focus on supporting first year students with the new Student Access, Advising & Transition division. The division will provide a seamless transition from high school through their first year of college, integrating and supporting students educationally and socially.



### Expanded partnerships with Alaska's schools to achieve student readiness

UAA will provide research, faculty collaboration, dual credit, and increased focus on collaborations with K-12 to increase student readiness for higher education, including career and technical education.

### Raising the profile of research and development to support and sustain Alaska's people and economy

We will continue to build on the success of the INNOVATE Awards to encourage collaboration across departments, programs and colleges to develop research that will benefit Alaskans today and into the future. New start-ups in biomedicine, pharmaceuticals and engineering are already in development.

### Strengthening and expanding eLearning

We have a new home for eLearning and enhanced faculty support and development. UAA's Faculty Technology Center will implement a formal ePortfolio program to promote student learning across multiple disciplines and co-curricular programs.

### Responsible Resource Management

UAA is updating the Master Plan in order to develop responsibly. We will continue to be a responsible and supportive member of the U-Med District. A faculty-staff survey, conducted as part of self-assessment for accreditation, provides framework for continuous improvement.

## Focus on the first year experience

The new Division of Student Access, Advising and Transition will create a seamless comprehensive experience for students throughout their first year at UAA. The relationship begins before students enter the university, providing guidance through admissions then helping students navigate through the first year of college and beyond.

### Goals:

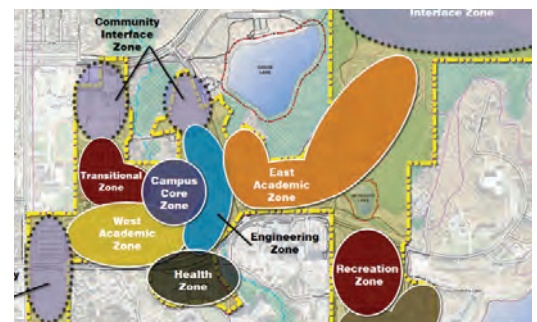
- Improve student retention
- Develop a sense of belonging
- Increase student engagement at UAA
- Provide academic and personal skills development
- Support transition through the first year
- Increase opportunities for faculty-student interactions

### Strengthening evidence-based learning

UAA's Faculty Technology Center will implement a formal ePortfolio program to promote student learning across multiple disciplines and co-curricular programs. Students see concretely where their learning activities are leading while building their electronic portfolios.

### Proactive prioritization

UAA launched a program prioritization process in spring 2013, assembling task forces, establishing criteria and conducting training for the work ahead. This summer we begin gathering and analyzing data. By fall 2013 we will proceed with the analysis of programs with review findings and draft recommendations for presentation to UAA's Cabinet in spring 2014. Embarking on this process now enables us to make better informed academic and administrative program funding decisions and allocate resources to programs that best align with our mission.



UAA hosts open house and information kiosk on its campus master plan revision effort, April 3