

James R. Johnsen, Ed.D.

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Many Traditions One Alaska

Dear UA community,

Welcome to the university's 2018 fall semester. I join you in looking forward to the journey we will take together this year as we continue to expand on our strengths, reach for our goals, and search for new opportunities to realize our mission for Alaska.

In this new year, we will grow in our role as a world leader in Arctic research; prepare more Alaskans for good jobs across the state; improve our quality of life through growing teacher education and nursing programs; engage in critical thinking and encourage creativity and innovation; turn Alaska's challenges into opportunities; encourage open and lively debate on contemporary issues; and, through our aspirations and our actions, prove our value to Alaska.

I came back to the university three years ago dedicated to serving our mission and all of you. Fundamental to our mission is a commitment to growing our culture of respect, safety and free expression.

In the spirit of that culture of respect, in the coming academic year we will focus on:

- Growing a safe and respectful university climate through increased capacity in our Title IX and human resources offices at all three universities to better address issues related to sexual misconduct.
- Promoting the value of free expression through discussions across the system of all perspectives – including views we may find objectionable – so that our university remains a place of open debate, inclusiveness and the pursuit of truth.
- Striving for pay equity and market competitive salary and benefits across the system so we can recruit and retain top faculty, staff, and student employees.
- Improving student success and access to good jobs through investing in our online experience and by discounting tuition for more than 300 courses in high demand career and technical education programs.
- Sustaining and growing relationships with our partners in education, health care, finance, Alaska Native corporations and tribes, resource development, the military, government, and in other important parts of our community.

These are but a few of the efforts we will undertake to continue our work together. We are dedicated to growing our exceptional university as a place of advanced learning and as a community committed to safety and respect.

Finally, let us be mindful of the need to stay current on our Title IX training - continuing education about how to prevent sexual assault and harassment. The university requires all degree-seeking students, national/international exchange students and those living on campus, as well as all employees to

complete annual Title IX training. The Title IX Sex and Gender Based Discrimination training is conveniently provided for you via UAOnline. UA faculty and staff are reminded that we need to be aware of our duties as a “responsible employee.”

I hope you enjoyed a wonderful summer and are ready to put your energy into working hard toward a year of continued success, growth, and opportunity. I share with you a love for this university, an appreciation for this community of scholarship, and for the opportunity to work alongside and with all of you.

Thank you for all that you do for the University of Alaska.

With gratitude,

Jim Johnsen