



*together,*  
SHAPING  
TOMORROW

*for alaska*

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA



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# Thank you

Your generosity over the past eight years, combined with that of many other donors, profoundly impacts students, faculty and programs across the University of Alaska.

It's time to celebrate *for alaska!*

We recognize the **21,777 donors**, whose collective gifts, totaling **\$277 million**, will create ripples of impact throughout Alaska for generations to come—an achievement made possible through community, collaboration and commitment.

There is a powerful collective story in the *For Alaska* campaign, the largest philanthropic campaign in the history of the state of Alaska. There is also a personal story in each gift given and for each student who benefits from the generosity of a donor.

Every gift reflects the unique tie our alumni, donors and friends have to UA. The wide range of impact demonstrates a belief that education changes lives, and diverse perspectives and a welcoming and holistic student experience are vitally important. As one student said, “Someone has believed in me who hasn’t ever met me!”

The *For Alaska* campaign generated extraordinary momentum, providing vital funding to strengthen UA’s mission of teaching, research and public service.

Special thanks to those who have contributed time, resources and enthusiasm throughout the *For Alaska* campaign. We are especially grateful for the ongoing dedication and support of the UA Foundation Board of Directors, UA Board of Regents, university leadership, staff, alumni, our communities, friends and partners who champion education in Alaska.

In the pages that follow, you’ll find inspiring stories about some of the many gifts which came from far and wide—only a small sampling. We encourage you to visit the website ([www.universityforalaska.com](http://www.universityforalaska.com)) for more stories. Please help us by sharing your own story on social media and tagging us or including **#StoriesForAlaska** and **#CampaignForAlaska**.

Together, we are shaping tomorrow...for Alaska.

**Meg Nordale**

Chair, UA Foundation Board of Directors | President, GHEMM Company, Inc.

**Megan K. Riebe, CFRE**

Director, *For Alaska* Campaign | Associate VP for Development, UA Foundation

# CAMPAIGN *overview*

For more than a century, the University of Alaska has provided education and resources to strengthen our great state. The University of Alaska Anchorage, University of Alaska Fairbanks, University of Alaska Southeast and each of the affiliated community campuses—stretching from Kotzebue to Ketchikan—serve Alaska’s communities and create hope for Alaska’s tomorrow. The conclusion of the *For Alaska* campaign is a unique and exciting moment in UA’s history.

## **FAR SURPASSING OUR GOAL**

In July 2016, UA embarked on the first-ever comprehensive fundraising campaign, designed to empower opportunity through education for Alaska. All gifts received from fiscal year 2017 to fiscal year 2024 count toward the \$200 million goal, which was announced publicly in March 2021. **Through the collective generosity of 21,777 unique donors, *For Alaska* far surpassed its goal, raising \$277 million.**

Outright gifts, pledges and private grants—dollars that can be used today— totaled **\$262 million**, or 95% of total contributions. Irrevocable and revocable deferred gifts, made through donors’ estate plans, made up **\$14.5 million**, or 5.2% of the total raised, and will provide vital future support.

## **HOW WERE THE FUNDS USED?**

All funds raised through the *For Alaska* campaign benefit the area of support specified by each donor. Contributions have been made to each university, campus, and academic area, including many departments and programs throughout the UA system. The universities are putting those dollars to work to benefit students, faculty, research and programs.

The campaign focused on four major areas, aligning with the priorities of the UA Board of Regents:

- Expand the culture of education in Alaska—increase access, certificate and degree attainment, student success, and educational equity
- Grow Alaska’s skilled workforce
- Enhance UA’s world-class research by leading in research relevant to Alaska and the far North
- Contribute to a more diversified economy by expanding Alaska’s knowledge base

In total, **465 new, distinct funds were created** for scholarships and student support, internships, research awards, faculty excellence and support, fellowships, and general academic program support. Many donors created or contributed to endowed funds; **191 new endowed funds were created**, providing support to students and programs in perpetuity.

## **EXPLORE IMPACT**

Further explore the impact of the *For Alaska* campaign at [universityforalaska.com](https://universityforalaska.com).

21,777  
TOTAL DONORS

12,020  
TOTAL FIRST-TIME  
DONORS



\$277M  
TOTAL DOLLARS RAISED

191  
TOTAL # NEW  
ENDOWMENTS

465  
TOTAL #  
NEW FUNDS

53.4%  
INCREASE IN  
ALUMNI GIVING



WITH EYES ON THE HORIZON,  
YOU HAVE SUPPORTED

*research*  
AND *workforce*





# CELEBRATING CONOCOPHILLIPS ALASKA'S IMPACT ON STEM IN ALASKA

As one of the largest donors to the *For Alaska* campaign and notably established as the University of Alaska's single largest philanthropic contributor—ConocoPhillips Alaska has given nearly \$46 million over more than four decades, uplifting a broad array of programs throughout the state. Additionally, ConocoPhillips Alaska employees have given UA the gift of their time, serving in critical advisory, mentorship and leadership roles.

“ConocoPhillips Alaska values our longstanding relationship with UA,” shared Stephanie Erickson, ConocoPhillips Alaska Prudhoe Bay area manager and member of the UA Foundation Board of Directors. “By empowering students to solve real-world problems, together, we strengthen our workforce, our economy and our communities. We are proud to have so many graduates become our employees through the University of Alaska's education-to-workforce programs.”

Students who have benefited from ConocoPhillips Alaska's generosity are now industry workers, critical thinkers and leaders in a wide range of professions. In addition to supporting engineering, geology and mining at both universities, ConocoPhillips Alaska also supports tomorrow's future workforce by investing in bridging programs, including Rural Alaska Honors Institute and GeoFORCE Alaska at UAF, and the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program at UAA.

The Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program aims to foster success for Alaska Native students in science and engineering and provides a continuum of support from kindergarten through graduate school. This comprehensive approach ensures that students receive consistent guidance and opportunities at every academic level.



**“By empowering students to solve real-world problems, together, we strengthen our workforce, our economy and our communities.”**

“ConocoPhillips Alaska has been a long-term ANSEP strategic partner that has helped grow our longitudinal program from kindergarten to the Ph.D. while also being a generous matching partner for our ANSEP Alumni Scholarship Fundraiser,” said Matt Calhoun, executive director for ANSEP.

ConocoPhillips Alaska also supports STEM education and experiences for youth through their steadfast support of UAA's Summer Engineering Academies,

and UAF's Science Olympiad and Engineering Open House. Throughout the years, they have made a difference in a diverse range of departments, programs and areas—from athletics to culinary arts, finance, equipment, facilities and more.

“You are truly helping the future of Alaska and there are few worthier investments,” said RAHI 2018 graduate Olivia Carroll. “We all appreciate your generosity and service to Alaska.” ■

# URGENT NEED FOR A CONSTRUCTION WORKFORCE BRIDGES INDUSTRY AND THE UNIVERSITY

Skilled construction workers are critical to building and maintaining Alaska's infrastructure and there is a tremendous need for professionals in this area – both now and into the future. "As a long-time industry leader, donor, and University of Alaska Foundation board member, I'm concerned about the extreme shortage of workforce for construction management in Alaska," wrote Meg Nordale, president of GHEMM Company, Inc. and current chair of the University of Alaska Foundation's Board of Directors. In 2022 when Nordale shared this concern, she envisioned further partnership with the university "to develop a plan to address Alaska's Construction Management workforce needs."

University of Alaska President Pat Pitney also recognized the importance and necessity of training and growing Alaska's workforce. Together, Pitney and Nordale built a team to address the Construction Management Workforce Initiative. Nordale became the facilitator of the initiative's committee, composed of construction industry representatives, community members and UA employees—with representation from each of the construction programs at UAF, UAA and UAS.

Dedicated to addressing Alaska's extreme shortage of construction workforce, the committee focused on remedies to overcome the labor shortage: boosting awareness of related career pathways, increasing enrollment and program accessibility for traditional and non-traditional students, further aligning programs, and strengthening program

resources to provide students with job-skill readiness.

To kick off this initiative, longtime donors and UA advocates Helga and Bill Watterson '64, who earned his B.S. in civil engineering from UAF, contributed \$50,000 and challenged the construction industry to meet/exceed their generous contribution. As an employer, Watterson Construction Company values UA's graduates and boasts an average tenure of 14 years within the company, emphasizing that UA graduates are more likely to stay in Alaska. Over the course of two years, nearly \$900,000 was invested to support this initiative. Industry and individual donors contributed \$492,000 in new dollars and internship support, while President Pitney directly committed \$400,000 in university funds to this important priority.

Industry members came together to advocate for Alaska's construction workforce needs and, in turn, the university's programs collaborated to increase capacity and the number of graduates entering the workforce. These efforts resulted in significant enrollment increases in construction programs at UAA, UAF and UAS over the past year.

Furthermore, with Associated General Contractors of Alaska's leadership gift of \$200,000 in July 2024, a new endowment has been established which will provide essential funding for construction programs across the state in perpetuity. Reaching this ambitious milestone wouldn't have been possible if it weren't for the generosity of individual donors and industry partners.

Reflecting on the momentum generated by this initiative, AGC Executive Director Alicia Amberg said, "The Construction Management Initiative brought the university alongside the industry to address a significant workforce shortage that will impact all Alaskans. Our ability to partner alongside the university has strengthened relationships and, as we celebrate this success, we look forward to this endowment making an impact into the future."

AGC has supported engineering and construction programs at UA for twenty years, giving more than half a million dollars to programs at UAA, UAF and UAS. The new endowment ensures support that will extend in perpetuity. ■



**Watch a video from our  
construction students  
and instructors.**



**Learn about the  
construction in  
Alaska and at UA.**

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# PURSUING BIG IDEAS WITH THE RASMUSON FOUNDATION

In 2022, with an initial planning gift of \$250,000, the Rasmuson Foundation supported the vision and design of the University of Alaska’s Arctic Leadership Initiative. Recently, they announced a \$5 million gift to help launch the initiative.

“It’s an ambitious strategic endeavor intended to reshape Alaska’s role in the Arctic and make significant contributions to people living in the Arctic region,” said Tasha Pineda, vice president of strategy for Rasmuson Foundation. “As residents of our nation’s only Arctic state, younger Alaskans are uniquely positioned to lead into the future. This funding will accelerate the development of solutions, innovations, and new economic opportunities for Alaskans across the state.”

For decades, the Rasmuson Foundation has been an early catalyst and investor in big ideas at UA. We are grateful for their steadfast support, including being one of the largest donors to the *For Alaska* campaign. ■



Scan the QR code to UA  
Arctic Leadership Initiative



# THE UAF CLIMATE SCHOLARS PROGRAM: WHERE CREATIVITY AND SCIENCE MEET TO SAVE THE PLANET

As the northernmost research university in the nation, the University of Alaska Fairbanks is at the forefront of climate change research, a commitment that is evident throughout many areas. The University of Alaska Fairbanks is pioneering a new path with the Climate Scholars Program, a unique initiative housed in the Honors College. The first of its kind in Alaska and the United States, the program stands out for its interdisciplinary approach, bridging the arts, humanities and sciences. And it captures the attention of more than just prospective students.

University of Alaska Fairbanks alum Linda Schandelmeier '71 serves on the program's advisory council. She and her husband, John Davies '70, '75, who also served as a UA Regent (2015-2023), established a scholarship to support students in the program. Their reasoning, as Schandelmeier explained, was the belief that "the incredible students in this program will become leaders in developing innovative solutions to address climate change. They are motivated and driven to create the change our world needs right now. I feel like I am doing a small part to address the climate crisis and am grateful that we have teachers and students doing real work to that end."

Davies noted, "It feels good to be able to give back to a school that has given so much to us, we are excited to be able to help support students who are also focused on a wide range of climate issues, including food security, because we see these students as future game-changers in addressing this existential threat to our world."

The program offers undergraduate students experiential learning opportunities focused on climate change, many of which take

place outside of the traditional classroom. For instance, Climate Scholars have conducted studies at the Bonanza Creek Long-Term Ecological Research site or participated in NASA's eclipse-tracking balloon project. Connecting students with leading research experts prepares Climate Scholars for in-demand careers in climate change, from clean energy development, to policy making, to advocacy and education.

Of all the challenges facing humanity and the world, rapid environmental change has the attention of today's students. The fast-growing program at UAF has nearly 300 participants and is expected to eventually reach 1,000.

University of Alaska Fairbanks Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Anupma Prakash said the gifts from Schandelmeier, Davies and other program donors have been awe-inspiring. "Saying that we are grateful doesn't completely cover it. It is meaningful to know that what we're doing is inspiring people who care about students to give back in this way."

The success of the Climate Scholars Program is not solely measured by its rapid growth. Prakash said it's also reflected in the students leaving with the feeling that they have the skills and opportunities they need in order to make a meaningful difference. ■





# REMEMBERING A MENTOR WHO ENCOURAGED OTHERS

The Captain Michael A. Clinkscales Maritime Scholarship Endowment was established to provide funds for students to complete coursework needed for careers in the maritime industry. The Maritime Center, located in Ketchikan, offers a variety of programs and courses that equip students for careers in maritime trades. Marine Transportation is one such avenue in which students can choose to pursue an Associate of Applied Science two-year degree or an Occupational Endorsement track. The curriculum, approved by the U.S. Coast Guard, offers hands-on waterfront and sea time experience to improve vessel operation and navigation skills.

The memorial scholarship, which began awarding in 2022, honors former sea pilot Mike “Clink” Clinkscales. Fellow sea pilots championed fundraising efforts to create the endowment, raising more than \$38,000. “Clink” was known for his generosity and mentored other sea pilots and fishermen, several of whom noted that the scholarship was a perfect way to pay forward his encouragement to the next generation of marine transportation employees. His wife, Cynthia, shared with UAS that “he worked his way up from pot-washer to captain. It would be great for students to see that if they work hard and have the resources, they can get there, too.”

The growing tourism industry, particularly in the scenic Inside Passage, has led to an increased demand for sea pilots. Many of Clinkscales’ sea pilot friends, even those who have retired, have expressed their hope that the scholarship will pave the way for aspiring sea pilots.

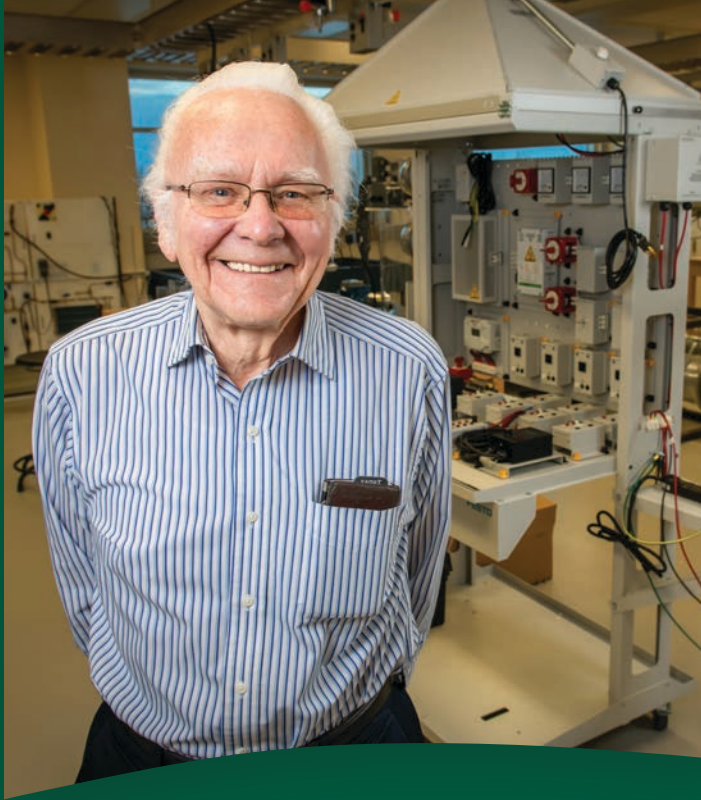
According to Mike LaBarge, UAS assistant professor of maritime studies, students who complete the training can secure jobs swiftly in tourism or other sectors such as commercial fishing or on tugboats. The comprehensive instruction and hands-on training at the Maritime Center prepare students for real-life scenarios. LaBarge further emphasized, “We are committed to providing a pathway for individuals who want to work on the water and also supporting those who are already part of this dynamic industry.”

“Clink” and his sea pilot friends serve as a motivational example and have provided encouragement for the next generation of employees— and future maritime workforce. ■

**“He worked his way up from pot-washer to captain. It would be great for students to see that if they work hard and have the resources, they can get there, too.”**

**— Cynthia, wife of Captain Michael A. Clinkscales**





## INVESTING IN SUCCESS WITH UAA'S COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Two successful University of Alaska Anchorage engineering graduates, Jan van den Top '72 and Ted Trueblood '80, have each created endowments for UAA's College of Engineering, providing perpetual funding to ensure the college's and its students' success.

Jan van den Top, a mechanical engineer, received his master's degree from UAA while employed by a local engineering firm. He has made significant investments in UAA over the years, sharing, "When I first came to Alaska, the UAA community was such a great help for me. It was really influential for my career. Now, I want to do my part to provide the tools that UAA needs to be successful."

Originally from the Netherlands, van den Top's philosophy of providing people with the tools they need for success stems from his experiences in Kenya while working with the Netherlands Volunteer Organization. He and his wife Jeri later

settled in Alaska, where her parents lived. He built and operated a successful mechanical contracting firm, The Superior Group Inc., for over 40 years and has now retired.

Van den Top's endowment supports UAA's mechanical engineering program, ensuring it remains at the forefront of teaching and research. The college renamed the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning Lab in his honor. Additionally, The Superior Group Inc., now employee-owned thanks to van den Top's efforts, established a scholarship for engineering students in his honor.

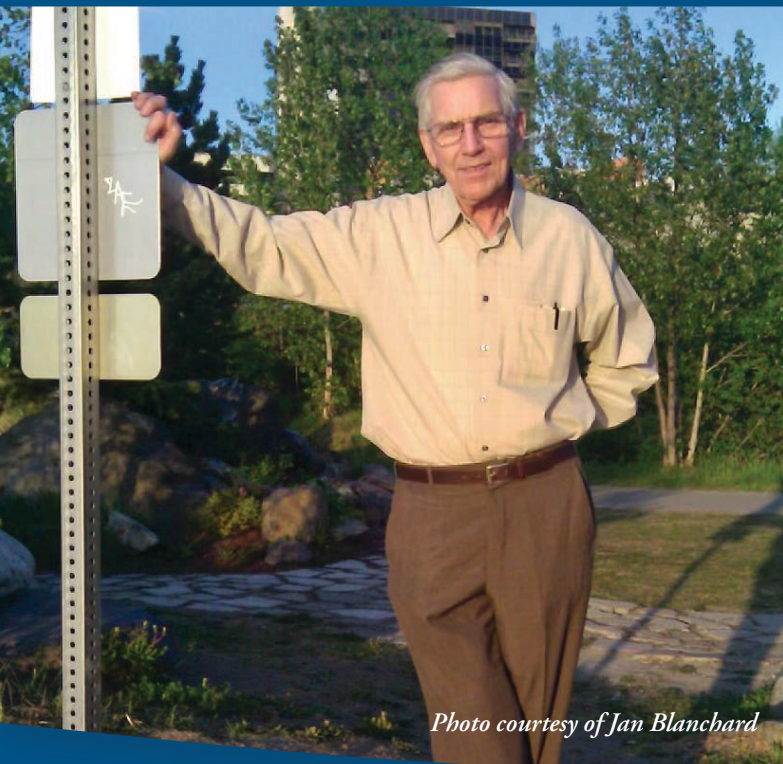
Ted Trueblood, who used his money from the GI Bill to earn a master's degree in civil engineering from UAA, has had a distinguished career in engineering. A decorated military veteran, he worked with the Alaska Railroad before becoming CEO of Tryck Nyman Hayes Inc., an Anchorage engineering firm. Trueblood and his wife, Gloria, have been loyal donors to UAA

for nearly three decades and are strong advocates for education. "Education is paramount," said Trueblood. "From my perspective, you can't start cutting class sizes and offerings without thinking about how it impacts the rest of the state, the public and the consumers of our products."

Together, they established the Ted and Gloria Trueblood Endowment to support Arctic engineering research, provide scholarship awards for graduate students and help students prepare for engineering licensure exams. The college named the Ted and Gloria Trueblood Cold Regions Engineering lab to honor the couple's generosity.

Through their accomplishments, van den Top and Trueblood demonstrate the value of engineering education from UAA and exemplify the impact of philanthropy, ensuring future generations of engineering students have the resources they need to succeed. ■

# A DECADE OF IMPACT: HOW GENEROSITY IS FUELING RESEARCH AND INDUSTRY IN ALASKA



*Photo courtesy of Jan Blanchard*

A proponent of research, Richard Nyman was known for his integrity, generosity and kindness. Originally from Michigan, Nyman was a long-time Alaskan. He knew the work being done at the University of Alaska Fairbanks' Institute of Northern Engineering was critical to Alaskan industries and often spoke fondly with his wife, UAA alumna Jan Blanchard '93, of his UAF memories.

Nyman's remarkable journey included studying mining briefly at UAF in the 1950s. After working in heavy equipment and contributing to the construction of ice roads across the North Slope, he founded Nyman Equipment and was considered a leading contractor for the seismic oil exploration on the North Slope.

As the research arm of UAF's College of Engineering and Mines, INE is home to numerous centers at the forefront of cold weather and cold climate science and engineering. Following a visit to campus with Blanchard in 2014, Nyman was inspired and wanted to support the innovation and new technologies developed at INE, as well as the transfer and practical application of intellectual property into companies in the private sector. Soon after, the

Richard W. Nyman Institute of Northern Engineer Endowment was created. This support also helped fund the UAF Engineering Innovation Grant – providing INE faculty, staff and students with funding to help develop an invention based on UAF technology.

Following Nyman's passing in 2019, UAF continued to benefit from his dedication to northern engineering through an additional gift from Blanchard, which supported equipment purchases and other needed resources. Among the numerous researchers at INE who understand the impact of this support is Dr. Margaret Darrow. Darrow, a professor of geological engineering, leads the work conducted in the Frozen Soil Testing Laboratory in INE's Arctic Infrastructure Development Center. The FROST lab is one-of-a-kind in the United States, and the gift provided funding to enhance and upgrade the lab, including purchasing equipment.

INE research centers include the Arctic Infrastructure Development Center, Mineral Industry Research Lab, Petroleum Development Lab, Water and Environmental Research Center, and numerous workgroups and projects. Another example of how Nyman's and Blanchard's gifts furthered the work of INE was the purchase of a Dynamic Shear Rheometer for AIDC to aid in predicting the performance outcomes of a wide range of materials, including asphalt. The philanthropic support was pivotal in providing quality control because the acquisition of the DSR helped position AIDC as a leading competitor in pursuing research proposals.

INE also promotes interdisciplinary and collaborative research and looks to increase student involvement in research and development. Such involvement helps UAF graduates at the forefront of numerous engineering fields. In addition to engineers at INE, there are natural scientists, social scientists and anthropologists, all of whom collaborate to address societal issues. Nyman's and Blanchard's generosity also supported graduate students, furthering their research opportunities and specific work on INE outreach materials.

**The generous contributions from Nyman and Blanchard have greatly improved the experience for students in the benefited program areas, as they have been afforded the opportunity to be more innovative, more competitive in their fields and more familiar with current equipment and technologies. ■**



# PARTNERING WITH JUNEAU'S METAL MINES TO ADVANCE RESEARCH AND UPSKILL CAREER READINESS

The mineral endowment of Southeast Alaska supports Juneau's underground metal mines, the Greens Creek Mine and Kensington Mine, which in turn support University of Alaska Southeast's environmental science and workforce development programs. Mine owners Hecla Greens Creek Company and Coeur Alaska, Inc., have provided cumulative support reaching over \$1 million from each company. These partnerships, directly connected to areas of UAS' academic and research focus, have benefitted hundreds of students and grown a local workforce prepared for the modern environmental science and natural resource sectors.

Coeur Alaska, Inc., the owner and operator of Kensington Mine, established the Coeur Alaska Kensington Mine Environmental Science Award at UAS over 30 years ago. Thanks to Coeur Alaska's continued generosity to grow the endowment, with a total of \$600,000 gifted between 2020-2021, the minimum award amount has increased to \$3,000 per student. All Alaska residents in Environmental Science, Environmental Resources, and Marine Biology majors at UAS are eligible to apply, with preference given to full-time Southeast Alaska residents.

In 2022, Hecla Greens Creek donated \$300,000 to create the Hecla Greens Creek Environmental Science Endowment, which supports faculty and undergraduate research and substantially supports student learning opportunities through internships and field courses. Additionally, the UAS Center for Mine Training benefits from Hecla Greens Creek's support.

Students enrolled in the Applied Associate of Science or Occupational Endorsement Power Technology certificate program, with an emphasis in Mine Mechanics, can apply for the Hecla Greens Creek Mine Mechanic Scholarship. More than 200 students have benefited from the scholarship over the past 14 years, including Ben Etheridge. A native of Juneau, Etheridge aims to graduate in spring 2025 and is currently gaining hands-on experience working as a summer intern in the Maintenance Department at the Greens Creek Mine.

"Receiving this scholarship has been a game-changer for me, allowing me to focus solely on my education without the added pressure of working concurrently. Opting for a major in mine mechanics was a natural choice, driven by my enduring interest in mines and a

preference for hands-on work. Additionally, I'm keen on building my career right here in Juneau, making this field the perfect fit for my aspirations," said Etheridge.

In March 2024, eight upperclassmen in Environmental Studies embarked on a unique field-study excursion to Hawaii, made possible by the Hecla Greens Creek Environmental Science Endowment. Students gained hands-on experience with cutting-edge tools like drones, field-based GIS mapping technology, and differential GPS surveying while exploring the unique ridge-to-reef ecosystems of the 'Big Island' of Hawaii.

Funds from the Hecla Greens Creek Environmental Science Endowment also supported student work in Glacier Bay, installing time-lapse cameras. Alongside UAS professor Jason Amundson and a glaciologist from the National Park Service, students also assisted with servicing a Muir Inlet weather station. Funding also allowed a student to attend the recent Northwest Glaciologists Meeting in Seattle. ■

*Photos courtesy Coeur Alaska Kensington Mine and Hecla Greens Creek Mine*





## JOINING TOGETHER TO CHANGE THE LIVES OF NURSING STUDENTS

Health care in Alaska is at a critical crossroads, with increasing demands and staffing challenges for health providers. Prior to current-day circumstances, faculty members Tina DeLapp, Judy Petersen and Patti Hong knew firsthand that students often leave school due to financial constraints and the demands of balancing work, school and family. Recognizing the ongoing need for health care in Alaska, but also for scholarship support, they came together in 1997 to establish what is now called the Nursing Endowed Scholarship Fund.

The three women initiated a fundraising drive in 2018, and thanks to numerous donors, including a significant gift from the Alaska Kidney Foundation, the scholarship was permanently endowed. By 2020, the fund was providing one \$1,000 scholarship annually. Another fundraising drive was launched with the goal of being able to provide ten \$1,000 scholarships by 2025. They reached their goal in 2023.

The scarcity of nurses often necessitates hiring travel nurses, a costly short-term solution that escalates health care expenses in the

long run. To help bridge the gap and meet the growing demand for skilled nurses, the University of Alaska Anchorage offers two undergraduate nursing programs (A.A.S., B.S.N.) and three graduate degrees (M.S., G.C., D.N.P.). The various UAA nursing degree programs are offered in 15 locations across the state.

For Ellie Smardo, the scholarship was a lifeline during a period of financial difficulty.

“I had a huge sense of gratitude for the opportunity to be in school and achieve my long-held goal of becoming a nurse,” Smardo said. Smardo was the first recipient of the UAA School of Nursing Endowed Scholarship in 2019-20. “When you invest in good nurses, you’re directly investing in the community.” Her statement underscores the heightened importance of health care and nursing that became more visible during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Raina Bjerke, a 2022-23 recipient of the scholarship and an Alaska Native, decided to pursue nursing during the pandemic when she was laid off from her work.





**“I love Alaska and plan to remain in the state. I was raised in a small village and know firsthand the need for rural care while maintaining cultural compassion and awareness.”**

**— Raina Bjerke**



“I enjoy patient care and am able to carry my compassion and empathy into rooms where people need it most,” she said. “I love Alaska and plan to remain in the state. I was raised in a small village and know firsthand the need for rural care while maintaining cultural compassion and awareness.”

Joseph Sadley received the scholarship in 2021-22 and is grateful for the support from donors. The scholarship allowed him to continue supporting his family while working part-time and completing his coursework.



“The Endowed Nursing Scholarship provides someone the opportunity to have a little piece of mind, enabling focused study,” Sadley said. “Thank you so much for your generosity. It has made a difference for my family and me. I will aim to extend that generosity through service and contribution.”

Established almost 30 years ago, DeLapp, Petersen and Hong paved the way for student support and retention of health care workers in Alaska. These visionaries, with the help of other generous donors along the way, demonstrate what it looks like to make a life-changing difference not only for students, but for health care provided to Alaskans. ■

# BRINGING A VISION TO LIFE: THE UA MUSEUM OF THE NORTH BOWHEAD WHALE

The University of Alaska Museum of the North attracts more than 85,000 visitors annually. UAMN's mission combines research and teaching, and it boasts one of the largest marine mammal collections in the world, even larger than the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History.

This is a story of a long-standing vision, starting with a bowhead whale that was harvested in Utqiagvik in 1963. Its skeleton was subsequently donated to the museum and its skull put on display in the museum's Gallery of Alaska in 1984. Displaying the entire articulated skeleton had long been a museum goal. Ultimately, it was made possible thanks to a significant gift from the Bill Stroecker Foundation in 2018.

Stroecker, a Fairbanks local who passed away in 2010, ardently supported the University of Alaska Fairbanks and UAMN. The foundation he established through his estate gifted nearly \$1M to the museum, allowing the meticulous bone-by-bone cleaning and restoration of the skeleton to begin in 2020. The 42-foot skeleton, which is the length of a bowling lane and weighs close to one ton, also required structural modifications to the ceiling of the museum's lobby. Mounting the skeleton to the steel armature and suspending it from the lobby ceiling took months of work, culminating in the grand opening in June, 2021.

"Bill Stroecker cared passionately about Fairbanks and the things that brought our community together," said UAF Chancellor

Dan White. "The Stroecker Foundation made the bowhead whale display in the UAMN possible, and now the whale has become a centerpiece for the museum that meets Bill's vision for lifting up our community. I am so grateful for the Stroecker Foundation's continued support of UAF."

Museum Director Patrick Druckenmiller emphasized the uniqueness of the exhibit saying, "A single gift from the Bill Stroecker Foundation made possible the most jaw-dropping exhibit in the museum: a fully articulated bowhead whale skeleton suspended from the museum atrium, the only display of its kind in North America. When visitors first enter the museum, they are immediately greeted and awed by the size and beauty of this specimen."





Thanks to its placement in the multi-story lobby, visitors to the museum can view the skeleton from above, below, and from the right side. The skeleton is accompanied by interpretive panels that emphasize the important role bowhead whales play in both Alaska Native culture and marine ecosystems.

Druckenmiller delved into the significance of the bowhead whale.

“Bowhead whales are denizens of the Arctic Ocean and are a keystone species of marine ecosystems. They are equally important to the spiritual and cultural health of Inupiat people, who rely on bowheads as a critical food resource. The goal of this exhibit is to highlight the connections between the natural and cultural significance of this remarkable species in a singular, captivating exhibit. It is highlighted in Family Day events, in docent-led school tours, and adult education offerings. It is also seen by visitors from all corners of the globe, most of whom




will never visit the Arctic to see the animal in its natural setting.”

Druckenmiller added, “Philanthropic giving is central to our museum’s success, and the Bill Stroecker Foundation gift highlights how generosity is converted into impact.

In many instances, private giving makes possible exhibits and programming that are otherwise very difficult to fund through conventional sources. This gift exemplifies alignment between a donor’s vision and the museum’s goals, creating a truly win-win relationship for all.” ■





A person wearing a cap and a jacket is seen from behind, pulling a fishing net in a large body of water. The scene is set at sunset or sunrise, with a warm, golden glow in the sky and mountains in the distance. The water is calm, and the net is being pulled towards the boat.

AS AN INCUBATOR OF IDEAS,  
YOU HAVE SUPPORTED THE  
UNIVERSITY IN PROMOTING  
GROWTH IN BUSINESS AND

*the economy*





## MAJOR INVESTMENT ADVANCES RESEARCH ECONOMIC/FISCAL POLICY AND EXPANDS BUSINESS EDUCATION

Alumni, community partners and friends help make the University of Alaska the vibrant institution it is.

“Northrim Bank’s dedication to Alaska is evident in its extensive engagement with the university,” said Tlisa Northcutt, interim president of the University of Alaska Foundation. “In addition to their generous financial contributions, we have benefited greatly from the active involvement of the bank’s leaders and employees on advisory and alumni boards, as well as the foundation board.” Northrim Bank is among many businesses statewide that employ UA alumni.

A steadfast supporter of the University of Alaska system, Northrim Bank’s annual giving to UAA, UAF and UAS also includes funding for six community campuses where Northrim employees live and work: Sitka Campus (UAS), Ketchikan Campus (UAS), Kodiak College (UAA), Mat-Su College (UAA), Kenai Peninsula College

(UAA) and Northwest Campus in Nome (UAF). Northrim Bank has two endowed scholarships at UA: one in memory of Chris Knudson, a founding executive, and one in honor of Northrim’s founder, Marc Langland.

In addition, Northrim Bank chose to provide a special *For Alaska* campaign gift of \$150,000 to fund areas of UA that advance research on Alaska’s economy and fiscal policy, expand business education and build entrepreneurship capacity through the UAA College of Business and Public Policy Excellence Fund and the UAF College of Business and Security Management Student Support Fund.

Expressing gratitude, UA President Pat Pitney recognizes that Northrim Bank has been a dedicated partner for more than three decades with the UA system, investing in business education across each of the universities. “Private philanthropy is essential for the UA system to meet its mission, and Northrim’s strategic generosity

has yielded educational excellence, scholarships and opportunities for students to study while staying close to home,” President Pitney said.

Relationships such as the one between UA and Northrim Bank demonstrate a “connection between the research, technical support and education provided by the University of Alaska system and the economic future of our state,” said Joe Schierhorn, chairman of Northrim Bank. “Higher education is the backbone of a strong community and Northrim is proud to support the work of the University of Alaska.”

“Growing up, my family was lower-middle class. I knew that if I wanted to go to college I would need to earn a scholarship unless I wanted to spend a very long time in debt the way my parents had to,” said Victoria Dugan ’26, who is studying finance. Opportunities like those provided by Northrim make an incredible difference for students and future economic leaders. ■



## FIRST NATIONAL BANK ALASKA FINANCE LAB EQUIPS STUDENTS TO EXCEL IN THE FIELD OF FINANCE

The University of Alaska Anchorage's College of Business and Public Policy has become a finance education hub. What began as a vision has become a reality thanks to generous philanthropic support. As visitors enter the building, they are met by an impressive stock ticker in the lobby, and on the second floor, eyes are drawn to the frosted glass windows of the First National Bank Alaska Finance Lab. The state-of-the-art lab provides students with access to industry data sources and software and serves as a space for students involved with the Seawolf Investment Fund to make decisions.

After nearly half a century of giving to UA, First National Bank Alaska chose to make a special gift of just under \$500,000 during the For Alaska campaign to position CBPP as a finance education center. The gift established UAA's First National Bank Alaska Finance Lab, which opened in the fall of 2023 and will serve as a conduit for the state with the vision of interfacing UAA, UAF and UAS business students with access to classes as well as guest lectures.

"For the past century, our bank and the University of Alaska have shared a commitment to serving Alaskans," said

Betsy Lawer, board chair, president and CEO of First National Bank Alaska. "My father would take great delight in knowing that this Finance Lab will provide a learning space for students to experience hands-on opportunities before they enter our workforce. It's our honor to invest in the university's focus on producing skilled graduates who are well-prepared to meet Alaska's workforce demands and become tomorrow's leaders."

In addition to the capital support, this investment also included new technology equipment for the students and the digital



stock ticker located in the Rasmuson Hall lobby that is playing a significant role in preparing Alaska's next generation of investors. Accounting alumnus and entrepreneur Gary Klopfer, B.B.A. Accounting and Finance '81, UAA, and his wife Jane Cuddy Klopfer gave a \$1 million gift to establish the Seawolf Investment Fund, expanding the impact of the new lab facility. Klopfer considers it a privilege to help students, recalling that receiving a scholarship enabled him to complete his degree in the 1980s. He shared that their gift was "an opportunity for me and Jane to pay it forward and help UAA students and the future business leaders of our state."

Peak Trust Company also contributed to this vision through their support of the Bloomberg Terminals. Students enrolled

in CBPP's Student Managed Portfolio are able to gain invaluable hands-on experience through their management of the Seawolf Investment Fund. Students direct investment and portfolio analysis with real money and real stocks through this educational opportunity. Earnings are then used to support student scholarships, conferences and development.

Former CBPP Dean John Nofsinger, who was the champion and visionary of this effort, understood that a comprehensive financial education program must include two essential segments of understanding: a broad-based level of financial literacy and an advanced level of financial education. Nofsinger added, "This comprehensive approach ensures that our students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to

excel in the diverse and dynamic field of finance, including robust portions of the financial industry in Alaska."

"The First National Bank Alaska Finance Lab combined with the student Seawolf Investment Fund and other features demonstrate UAA's commitment to being a leader in finance education," said Chancellor Sean Parnell. "Supported by the generous contributions of our donors, this facility equips UAA students with cutting-edge resources to excel in the financial sector, driving economic and intellectual growth across Alaska, *For Alaska.*"

Together, the major philanthropic investments provide tangible milestones toward creating a leading finance education hub for the UA System. ■





## PREPARING STUDENTS TO MEET INCREASING GLOBAL DEMAND FOR AQUACULTURE AND MARICULTURE CAREERS

Thanks in part to dual-enrollment opportunities for high school students across Alaska, enrollment in University of Alaska Southeast's Applied Fisheries is at its strongest. The At-sea Processors Association provides scholarships to help high school students explore potential careers and complete the Fisheries Technology Occupational Endorsement in Fisheries Management and other college-credit courses at UAS.

APA's generosity has been instrumental in the success of Applied Fisheries' dual-enrollment program, with nearly 300 UAS students benefiting from APA's support to date. The University of Alaska Fairbanks also significantly benefits from APA's contributions in support of research.

At-sea Processors Association is a trade association of five member companies that own and operate catcher/processor vessels and are committed to minimizing fishing impacts on the environment. They work with fishery managers, scientists, environmentalists and other industries to achieve this outcome. As donors to both UAS and UAF, members of APA have advocated for and utilized the Education Tax Credit program in Alaska.

The Education Tax Credit program, first established in 1987 by the Legislature, encourages private businesses to make charitable contributions to support schools in Alaska. This has resulted in highly effective partnerships between businesses, the university and the state—leading to

charitable contributions toward student scholarships, research, centers of excellence, facilities and much more.

Stephanie Madsen, executive director of APA and a member of the UA Foundation Board of Directors, regularly advocates for the ETC, once saying, "Since 2000, this program has allowed the members of APA to invest in programs ranging from undergraduate and graduate fellowships, to research addressing current fishery management concerns, to technical training for youth."

With extensive coastline, waters and marine resources, Alaska requires a range of associated professionals. University of Alaska Southeast's Applied Fisheries





program offers numerous fields of study designed to prepare students for careers in various industries. Students can choose between occupational endorsement, certification, and degree-track options in the program, which is located at the UAS Sitka campus.

All tracks are designed to address workforce needs, according to Joel Markis, program director and associate professor. Aquaculture and mariculture concentrations have been part of the program's offerings for years, but Markis noted that interest in the mariculture industry is rising. In 2022, UAS received a portion of a federal grant directed to Alaska for the mariculture industry, which is being used to grow the mariculture workforce development program. Beyond the grant, Markis emphasized that philanthropic support from industry partners, such as APA, is pivotal for the program and the hands-on training it provides.

Douglas Island Pink and Chum, Inc., better known as DIPAC, is another significant

partner to the Applied Fisheries program. DIPAC was formed in 1976 in response to legislation allowing the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to issue permits to private non-profit salmon hatcheries. The program, unique to Alaska, allows private non-profit corporations like DIPAC to own and operate hatcheries to improve salmon harvests.

Many of the concentrations in Applied Fisheries require students to develop maritime skills, such as operating small vessels and essential maintenance for outboard motors, in addition to their in-class lectures and lab work. Funding from DIPAC allowed the purchase of an inflatable boat that students learn to operate, dive off of and use for towing.

In April, the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute provided the 2024 update of The Economic Value of Alaska's Seafood Industry report. According to the report, the seafood industry contributes \$6 billion to Alaska's economy and employs more than 48,000 workers. Markis noted significant growth potential in the industry, attributing

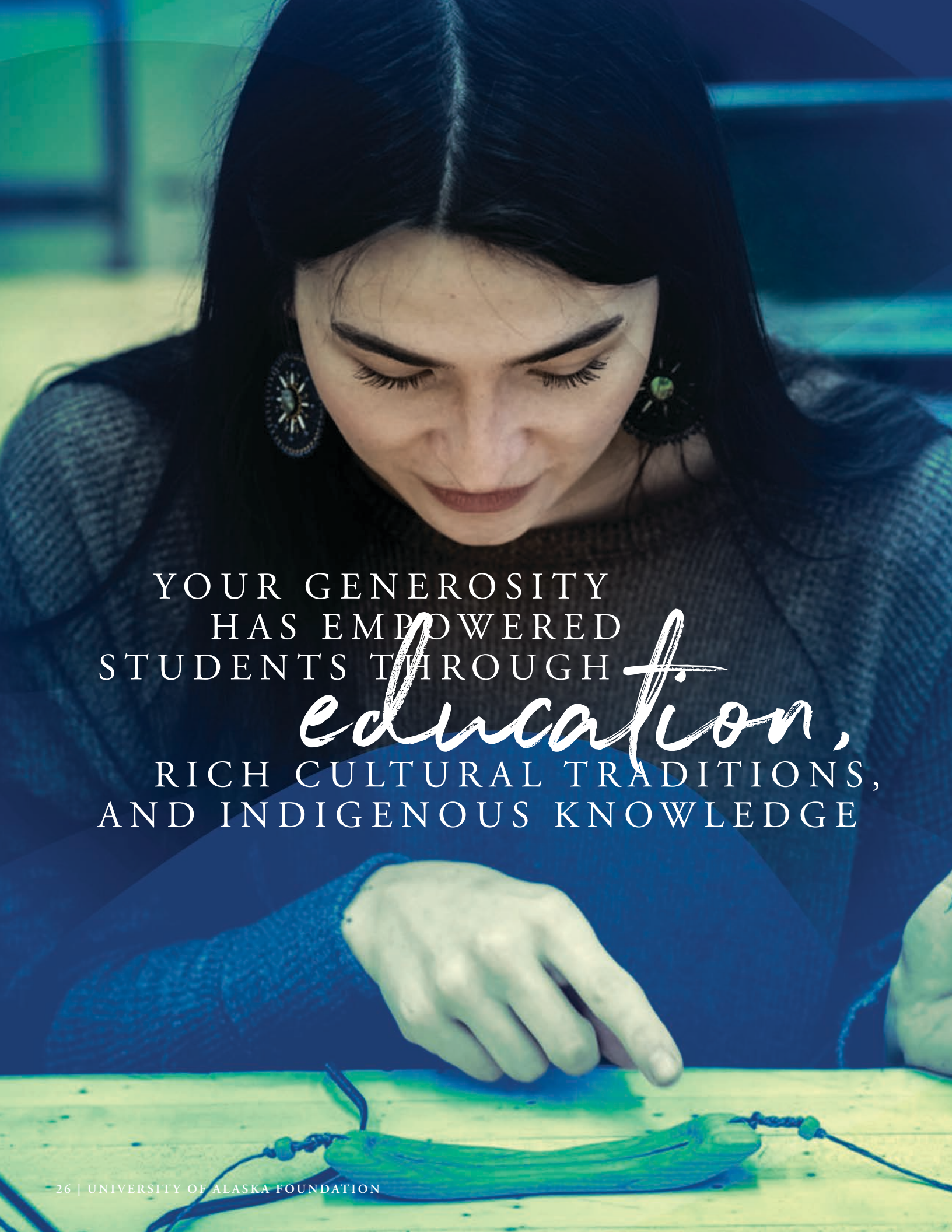
it to increasing global demand for aquaculture and mariculture. He is grateful for the ongoing support from industry partners and individuals, who contribute to the program's workforce development efforts and its commitment to teaching responsible and sustainable practices.

"We are so proud to have the continued support of industry for the UAS Applied Fisheries Program. It is essential we are providing the hands-on learning opportunities students want and industry needs," said UAS Chancellor Aparna Palmer. ■



**Scan the QR code to learn more about the Education Tax Credit.**





YOUR GENEROSITY  
HAS EMPOWERED  
STUDENTS THROUGH  
*education,*  
RICH CULTURAL TRADITIONS,  
AND INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE



# HONORING A LEGACY BY SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH A CONCENTRATION IN NATIVE ART

Alaska Native artist Ronald Senungetuk was a sculptor, silversmith and woodcarver of international acclaim. Born in the village of Wales, Senungetuk began his career at the University of Alaska Fairbanks as an art professor in the early 1960s. In 1965, he established the Alaska Native Art Program and became the director of the Native Art Center. In 1977, he was promoted to chair of UAF's Department of Art, a position he would retain until retiring in 1986. The University of Alaska Fairbanks paid tribute to the impact of Senungetuk and his career by honoring him with emeritus status upon his retirement and with an honorary doctorate of fine arts in 2015. In 2020, he passed away at the age of 86.

The Ron Senungetuk Art Endowed Scholarship was established by Turid Senungetuk and the family to honor her husband's legacy at UAF. The scholarship supports undergraduate or graduate students with a concentration in Native Art. A pioneer in Native Art education, UAF offers a Master of Fine Arts degree in Native Arts, a distinction shared by only a few universities in the U.S. It is also the sole school in Alaska to offer a Bachelor of Fine Arts in this field.

The Native Art Center provides a forum for visiting Alaska Native artists and offers studio space equipped with Indigenous and contemporary tools. Senungetuk was a world-renowned artist but considered the Center one of his most outstanding achievements. Since its inception, the Center has been instrumental in paving the way for higher education for rural Alaska Native artists.

Current Department Chair and Professor of Native Art, Da-ka-xeen Mehner, greatly appreciates the Senungetuk family's generosity in supporting students. Financial support makes a lasting impact, enabling students to further their education and craft. Mehner noted how forward-thinking it was for the family to not restrict the scholarship to Native Art majors, but to open it to students with a concentration in Native Art.

The Ron Senungetuk Art Endowed Scholarship was awarded for the first time in 2023-24. The inaugural recipient was Christopher Ehlers. Ehlers developed his passion for wood carving after taking Native Art classes at UAF. Ehlers' work is highlighted in these images. ■





# COLLEGE PREPARATION PROGRAM HELPS TRANSITION BETWEEN RURAL HIGH SCHOOLS AND URBAN COLLEGES

Denise Wartes served as a pillar for the Rural Alaska Honors Institute for 33 years, first as an assistant and then as the program manager until her retirement in 2019. A very passionate advocate, Wartes started with RAHI in 1989, six years after its inception, and saw multiple generations of lives changed through the six-week program that welcomes rural and Alaska Native students to attend a college preparation program on the University of Alaska Fairbanks' Troth Yeddha' Campus.

The Rural Alaska Honors Institute fosters student success, providing youth with an experience that blends academia, community involvement, outdoor recreation and preparation for the transition between rural high schools and urban colleges. Each cohort typically brings

together 50 students from across rural Alaska in the summer following their junior or senior year of high school. Students get a headstart of up to 10 credits over six weeks in subjects that have historically included Indigenous Cultures of Alaska, biomedical research, math, process technology, writing and more.

The Rural Alaska Honors Institute depends on private support and partnerships, with about 60% of program expenses funded by outside donors – including individuals, Alaska Native Corporations and industry partners. Recognizing this, Wartes, together with her late husband, Mark, established The Denise and Mark Wartes Rural Alaska Honors Institute Endowment, which is the only endowment dedicated to RAHI. The endowment primarily supports scholarships

and also allows for flexible spending; it can provide direct program support when not used for scholarships. Wartes intentionally made that decision, wanting the fund to be as open as possible to meet the program's critical needs.

The highly competitive program is at no-cost to the student; all expenses, including airfare to Fairbanks, are covered. Students live in dorms and spend weekdays in classes and study halls. Weekends offer organized recreational and volunteer activities. Alumni have gone on to become doctors, educators and more – benefitting from RAHI's tracks dedicated to research and teaching – among other professions. RAHI alumni stay in close contact, utilizing social media groups and attending a reunion held each fall. When alumni at the reunion were asked how RAHI





prepared them for success in college and beyond, attendees were quick to answer,

“It prepared me to live in a college environment and to manage my time with classes, homework, and study time.”

“It gave me a headstart on completing college classes and a view of what campus living was like.”

According to the current program manager, Brianna Pauling, these sentiments mirror comments that many graduates have shared throughout the years. Established in 1983, RAHI measures success through graduation rates; the program now boasts 1,896 graduates through the 2023 cohort. Following RAHI graduation, 100% of participants graduate high school and 46% go on to obtain their college certificates or degrees.

While Pauling is the only year-round employee, about 30 people are involved with each cohort, including faculty, counselors and mentors. Pauling added that most faculty return year after year to work with the incredibly rewarding program. Through the program’s 40+ years, dedicated faculty like Wartes and Pauling have invested their time and talents to inspire the next generation of RAHI alumni.

The impact of the program extends far beyond graduation rates. Best said by 2023 RAHI graduate, Madison Grapengeter, “[RAHI] has changed my perspective on so many things and I’m glad to know it was made possible by such amazing people.” ■

# INCREASING ACCESS TO EDUCATION, CHAMPIONING STUDENT SUCCESS

Caroline “Carrie” E.B. Lewis had a deep connection to Alaska, having made it her home since the early 1960s after a single visit to the state. A graduate of Tufts University, she was trained as a medical tech. An avid alpine skier, she bragged that she was one of the first outsiders to ski at Alyeska, later joining the ski patrol. Despite her modest lifestyle, Lewis was a generous philanthropist, primarily supporting education and health care initiatives. **Her motivation was clear: she was driven by a desire to support Alaskans, make education attainable and ultimately improve the quality of life for her fellow Alaskans.**



Lewis began contributing anonymously to the University of Alaska Anchorage through her donor-advised fund, with the only restriction on her giving being “no bricks or mortar.” First-generation student scholarships were a priority of the chancellor at the time, and Carrie’s annual contributions supported that effort. She enjoyed hearing the stories of impact through the thank you letters she received from scholarship students and chose to endow the First-Generation Student Scholarship Fund in 2012. At the same time, she also created the Alaska Endowment for Excellence, a fund that’s only restriction was, again, “no bricks or mortar.” She wanted the chancellor to have the flexibility to respond to evolving high-priority and pressing needs within the university community.

Upon her passing in 2020 at the age of 90, Lewis left an incredible legacy gift in excess of \$16 million, devoted to ensuring access to education and supporting student success through two endowments she had previously established.

In honor of Lewis, UAA is utilizing the funds to support its aspiration of putting students first. The Learning Commons, a collaborative peer-to-peer learning initiative that provides tutoring and coaching at no cost to students, is one area benefiting from Lewis’ generosity. The Learning Commons’ outreach includes the Writing Center, Math Lab, Communication & Presentation Coaching, English Language Learning support and subject-specific tutoring. Both in-person and online support is available through the program.

The Recruitment and Retention of Alaska Natives into Nursing program is another area receiving Lewis’ support. The RRANN program supports Alaska Natives and American Indians through their nursing education to increase the number of highly skilled and culturally competent nurses and promote positive change to improve the quality of health care within Alaska communities.

Lewis’ transformative gifts illustrate her devotion to higher education in Alaska. Roberta “Bobi” Rinehart, UAA director of development, emphasized that Lewis “wanted to help more Alaskans pursue their academic dreams in their home state,” and that is what she did. “We are humbled to have the opportunity to carry her vision forward,” Rinehart said. ■





# stories of impact

As we look ahead, our vision is a vibrant, bold tomorrow for all Alaskans. To achieve this vision, our university system strives to:

- Support students and empower them through education
- Champion the unique qualities and strengths of each student
- Prepare our workforce through specialized training
- Serve as an incubator of ideas, support business and grow our economy
- Lead research and knowledge-sharing, relevant to Alaska and the Arctic region
- Provide the skills and scientific knowledge needed to address some of the world's biggest challenges
- Partner with and learn from Alaska's first peoples, to honor and celebrate rich cultural traditions and Indigenous knowledge

For we are much more than the University of Alaska, we are the University FOR Alaska. And we remain steadfast in our purpose, committed to honoring Alaska's yesterday by strengthening its tomorrow.

Thank you for joining us along this journey. You create a bright future for Alaska!

Together, shaping tomorrow... *for alaska.*

Read more stories about the impact that the *For Alaska* campaign has had.



*For Alaska*



**Empower Alaska**

# CAMPAIGN SUCCESS (FY17-24)

TOTAL DOLLARS RAISED

**\$277 M**

TOTAL # OF GIFTS

**120,469**

## BY UNIVERSITY

UAA	\$89 M
UAF	\$167 M
UAS	\$14 M

## BY GIFT TYPE

Cash	\$219.18 M
Pledge	\$24.86 M
Stock/Property	\$13.15 M
GIK	\$5.41 M
Other	\$0.05 M

## BY SOURCE

Corporation	\$112.68 M
Friend	\$63.98 M
Alumni	\$37 M
Foundation	\$38.08 M
Other org	\$25.36 M

## DONORS

Total donors	21,777
First-time donors	12,020
Alumni donors	8,054
UAA	9,695
UAF	11,599
UAS	926

## NEW FUNDS CREATED

New funds created to support students, faculty and programs across UA	465
New scholarship funds	234
New professorships/chairs to support faculty excellence	8
New endowed funds, creating support in perpetuity	191



# UA FOUNDATION FY24 FINANCIALS

## ASSETS *(as of Jun 30, 2024)*

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$	4,511,431
Interest and Dividends Receivable		728,179
Contributions Receivable, Net		6,605,431
Other Receivables		734,616
Other Investments		57,081,830
Pooled Endowment Funds		500,466,793
Remainder Trusts Receivable		679,219
Bequests Receivable		118,800
Other Assets		293,499
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>571,219,798</b>

## FUNDS DISTRIBUTED *(as of Jun 30, 2024)*

Athletics	\$	1,820,379
Business and Management		2,056,181
Campus Support		3,563,775
Community and Technical College		364,917
Education		88,845
General Support		611,004
Health		1,093,428
Liberal Arts and Social Science		794,271
Science and Engineering		7,207,784
Students Aid		7,485,977
Students and Public Support		6,565,180
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>31,651,741</b>

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THANK YOU TO EVERYONE  
WHO SUPPORTS THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA.

TOGETHER, WE ARE SHAPING  
TOMORROW... *for alaska*

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As we build a more diverse, equitable and inclusive future, we acknowledge the Indigenous People of the land on which we work and live. We honor our Alaska Native people.

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*For Alaska* campaign art created by Amanda Rose Warren to represent the waters of Southeast, the mountains of South Central and the northern lights of the Interior and the North.

