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University of Alaska System Governance Leaders:

In parallel to a grassroots effort underway by one or more governance bodies to craft and recommend to the UA administration a set of guiding values or principles for the University of Alaska system, the Summit Team has also discussed and debated such a concept (see attached).

Summit Team members initiated and unanimously support the formal adoption of UA system-wide shared values and principles. Although policy and regulation broadly address general matters like ethics, misappropriation, misconduct ... there is much to be said for adopting deeply meaningful institutional values and principles that set expectations for the university community beyond what is mandated by law, policy or regulation.

Therefore, the Summit Team looks to system governance leaders for consensus on such a set of core values and principles. The Summit Team favors INTEGRITY, EXCELLENCE, SERVICE, and INNOVATION as UA's core values.

We look forward to your consideration. Thank you.

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*Elisha Baker*

Elisha Baker, UAA Provost/VC AA

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*Tom Case*

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Susan Hennrichs, UAF Provost/Executive VC

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*Brian Rogers*

Brian Rogers, UAF Chancellor

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*Dana Thomas*

Dana Thomas, UA Vice President AA&R

cc: LaNora Tolman, UA System Governance Executive Officer



University of Alaska

## Principles and Core Values: What They Should Mean to Us

The University of Alaska should be committed to valuing high ethical standards as a way to uphold and maintain the public's trust and confidence. We shall recognize that our personal and professional actions affect not only our own individual reputations, but also collectively comprise that of the University of Alaska. It is essential then to promote a mission environment that inspires everyone who is a part of the university community to do their best work, earn the respect of Alaskans, and contribute to our students' positive university experience. These attributes are in alignment with the university's goals to continually improve as the state's intellectual, and learning centerpiece, grow our status as a world-class research university, and be the employer of choice in Alaska. Accordingly, the following University of Alaska core values would form the enduring ethical principles that guide members of the university community in those endeavors. They are:

**No. 1: Integrity** The first core value among equals. Individually and as an education community we act and communicate truthfully, forthrightly, and responsibly. We celebrate selflessness and setting the positive example. We accept accountability for our decisions. We believe that character counts.

**No. 2: Service** The foundation of our individual performance on behalf of the state and our students. We believe that service's greatest reward is in the fulfilling experience of assisting others to be successful.

**No. 3: Excellence** The pursuit of merit or distinction beyond normal standards. Excellence has its roots in ancient Greek writing, and remains basically unchanged today. Excellence is widely admired as a multi-cultural concept. We believe that in our university environment, excellence signifies the continuous pursuit of skill and mastery by students, faculty, and staff in all that we do.

**No. 4: Innovation** Producing inventive, new ideas. Innovation and excellence are complimentary concepts. Innovation is a high return activity which can be culturally integrated into the organization's pursuit of excellence. Innovation is not a passive undertaking. Conviction is a commendable hallmark of innovation.