



## Health Care Providers Invest in UA Nursing Program

Alaska's five largest health care providers have committed \$1.8 million over the next three years, including \$500,000 for the current academic year, to share the cost of expanding the University of Alaska's nursing education programs. The university is matching that commitment through capital and other resources.

The donations and legislative appropriations will mean that the University of Alaska can implement its plan to double the number of nursing graduates by 2006.

The health care industry partners are the Providence Health System of Alaska, Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation, Alaska Regional Hospital and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium/Alaska Native Medical Center. Additional partners are expected as the program is implemented.

In the face of worsening statewide and national nursing shortages, and with the support of the Alaska Legislature, the Board of Regents established a task force of industry professionals and nursing

educators to develop recommendations to meet the state's current and future nursing workforce needs.

The task force's recommended strategies included increased use of dispersed clinical sites, developing or expanding delivery at seven distance sites (Fairbanks, Kodiak, Juneau, Bethel, Kenai, Ketchikan and Sitka),

*"We need to know that Alaskans are graduating from nursing school and coming to work for us"*

*-Paul Sherry*

and incorporating or expanding the distance delivery of courses allowing students to remain in their communities while pursuing a degree.

"We need to know that Alaskans are graduating from nursing school and coming to work for us," said Paul Sherry, chief executive officer for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium which helps run the Alaska Native Medical Center. "It doesn't work for us to recruit from the Lower 48 and internationally. We need young Alaskans."

Karen Perdue, associate vice president for health at the University of Alaska, introduced the health administrators who appeared at the Board of Regents' meeting this month to announce the partnership with UA.

## Board of Regents

### Chair

Chancy Croft (1995-2003)

### Vice Chair

Elsa Demeksa (1997-2005)

### Secretary

Frances Rose (1999-2007)

### Treasurer

Brian Rogers (1999-2007)

Michael Burns (1997-2005)

Mary K. Hughes (2002-2009)

Marlene Johnson (2001-2009)

Byron Mallott (2002-2009)

Kevin Meyers (2000-2007)

Joe Thomas (1995-2003)

Joe Usibelli, Jr. (1999-2007)

### Board Office

Jeannie Phillips

202 Butrovich Bldg.

P.O. Box 755300

Fairbanks, AK 99775-5300

(907) 474-7908

[www.alaska.edu/bor/](http://www.alaska.edu/bor/)

[sybor@alaska.edu](mailto:sybor@alaska.edu)

The University of Alaska Board of Regents is the governing body responsible for the university policy and management through the president. Regents are appointed by the governor for eight-year terms, subject to legislative confirmation. A student regent is appointed for two years from candidates nominated on each campus. (Regents' term of office shown in parentheses.)

## Future Board Meetings

**November 12, 2002**  
**Anchorage**

**December 5-6, 2002**  
**Fairbanks**

### **Regents Consider Tuition Hike**

With the university's FY04 operating budget in development, regents began consideration of the administration's request for 10 percent tuition increases in each of the next two fiscal years.

Tuition at the University of Alaska has increased annually but only at the rate of inflation, about 3.5 percent, each year since 1995. President Mark Hamilton is recommending that for next year there be an increase of 6.4 percent in addition to the 3.6 percent inflation adjustment for a total increase of 10 percent.

"The university has started new programs, hired new faculty, built new buildings and greatly increased its services to students, all items that come with a price," Hamilton told the regents. "In view of the value that has been added, this tuition increase is well justified."

Action by the Board of Regents on the tuition proposal is scheduled for the Nov. 12 meeting which will be held at the UAA Commons on the UAA campus in Anchorage.

### **New Associate Degree Programs**

Regents approved two new associate degree programs, an Associate of Applied Science in Theatre at Prince William Sound Community College in Valdez, and an Associate of Applied Science in Computer Systems Technology at UAA. The board also approved the extension of UAF's Bachelor of Education Degree program until Dec. 31, 2006, which is the same as the State Board of Education's deadline. The extension will allow those students who have completed most or all of the coursework to pass the Praxis I test to complete the program, and qualify for state licensure as teachers. UAF estimated the extension would benefit 4-10 students.

### **Ulmer Meets with Regents**

Lt. Gov. Fran Ulmer, the Democratic nominee for governor, met with the regents on Friday morning at the invitation of Board Chair Chancy Croft and University President Mark Hamilton. The Republican nominee for governor, U.S. Sen. Frank Murkowski, was also invited to meet with the regents, but was unable to do so because of

his Congressional schedule. Ulmer said if she is elected governor, she will meet annually with the Board of Regents to talk about university and higher education issues.

### **Strategic Land Plan Okayed**

The Statewide Office of Land Management's Strategic Plan for 2001-2025 was approved by the board. The university owns approximately 182,000 acres of land throughout the state. This includes approximately 13,000 acres designated as educational property and 169,000 acres designated as investment property.

University land designated for investment purposes includes approximately 137,000 acres of land owned in fee; 15,000 acres of surface rights; 4,500 acres of subsurface rights; and 12,000 acres of one-time timber harvesting rights.

Copies of the strategic plan are available from the Statewide Office of Land Management, 3890 University Lake Drive, Ste 103, Anchorage, Alaska 99508-4669, or go to the website at [www.ualand.com](http://www.ualand.com).

*Published after each Board of Regents' meeting by the Office of Public Affairs, 206 Butrovich Building, P.O. Box 755340, Fairbanks, AK 99775-5340.  
(907) 474-7272, [syserve@alaska.edu](mailto:syserve@alaska.edu). Written by Director of Public Affairs Bob Miller, layout by Nile Mueller.*

University of Alaska  
Board of Regents  
202 Butrovich Bldg.  
P.O. Box 755300  
Fairbanks, AK 99775-5300