



To: UAA Campus Community
Fr: Mike Driscoll, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor
Date: August 19, 2011
Re: The College of Health

I am pleased to report that the new UAA College of Health has been formed with effect from 1 July 2011. On June 2nd the University of Alaska Board of Regents approved the UAA proposal to reorganize our health programs in a new health-based college. The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities has also reviewed this action and, by letter dated June 21st, informed us of their approval.

The new college brings together in one institution the programs located in the former College of Health and Social Welfare (CHSW), the WWAMI School of Medical Education previously housed in the College of Arts and Sciences, and the School of Allied Health, formerly a part of the Community and Technical College.

With the formation of the new college, UAA aims to expand our capacity to address Alaska's health challenges, enhance student success in health education, develop teaching and research initiatives between and across academic disciplines, and strengthen our capacity to compete for external funding. The new college will work with the UAA Office of Health Programs Development to develop and strengthen the mutually supporting relationships between UAA and our many partners in the UA system and the larger community of health providers in Alaska and outside.

This project began in September 2010 with an announcement by then- Chancellor Ulmer and myself. That set in motion a lengthy and extensive series of consultations with faculty and staff, our many partners in the health provider community, and the UA Statewide leadership team, all of which took place over several months and culminated in approval by President Gamble, the Board of Regents, and the Northwest Commission.

In concert with Chancellor Case, I want to extend my gratitude to all those who have worked on this project, who have participated in many detailed discussions, and who have taken the time to review and comment on our proposals. It could not have been done without a genuine UAA community effort.

Susan Kaplan, associate dean of the former College of Health and Social Welfare, has been named acting dean of the new College of Health. I will appoint an interim dean shortly, and a national search for a permanent dean will begin this fall.

We are moving to address the myriad details that are involved in implementing the reorganization. Staff in the involved units and the central administration are working together

on the details of migrating budgets and staff to the new college. I will shortly announce the process for selecting the Directors for the WWAMI School of Medical Education and for the School of Nursing. There are bound to be some transition issues whose resolution will extend for some time yet, but I am confident that the remarkable creativity and adaptability of everyone involved will ensure continued success.

As we proceed, it is important to be mindful that we are building Alaska's Health University in service to the state, its communities, and its peoples. No task is more important at this moment in UAA's history.