UAA is an open access university. About 30% of our students are the first in their families to attend college. More than 80% work full or part time as they earn their degrees. Many are caring for family members, are veterans or current military. The majority commute. Each of these is considered a “risk factor” for completion. This just means our students need additional support, and we work hard to provide it for them.

UAA is in the top 15% of universities in the U.S. in terms of return on investment, according to a report by Georgetown’s Center on Education and the Workforce that considered 4,500 colleges and universities. In our peer group, we’re No. 1.

UAA creates revenue for our city. According to Visit Anchorage an international food studies conference held at UAA in June 2019 generated over $1 million in revenue. An August 2019 conference on data science organized by UAA faculty brought in more than $5 million.

Despite an overall drop in enrollment after serious budget uncertainty, UAA saw one of its largest incoming freshman classes in fall 2019, with 38% of incoming freshman entering with a 3.5 GPA or higher. UAA saw a bachelor’s-degree completion rate increase of 7% in a span of only two years. In this world, that’s a huge accomplishment.
UAA is not without its share of challenges. Events and uncertainty over this last summer affected enrollment and public perception. We’re so grateful for the support of our community as we continue to grow stronger every day.

UAA’s role in the community is strongly recognized. Community partners have put their trust in UAA and understand the importance and statewide impact of our programs. We recently received a $1.77 million grant from Premera Blue Cross Blue Shield to support rural health care access as well as a generous gift from the Atwood Foundation.

UAA’s alumni community is 57,000 and growing – 72% of our alums remain in Alaska. Most have chosen to live and work in the Anchorage Bowl or Mat-Su Valley, supporting and invigorating the Anchorage workforce.