

Date: February 2, 2020

To: John Stalvey, Interim Provost

From: Denise Runge, Dean

Re: AY20 Expedited Program Review Findings

Program/s in this review: Automotive Technology (UC, AAS)

Specialized accrediting agency (if applicable): ASE Education Foundation

Campuses where the program is delivered: Anchorage

Members of the program review committee:

- Darrin Marshall, Director
- Kelly Smith, Assistant Professor
- David Palacek, Assistant Professor

Centrality of Program Mission and Supporting Role The Automotive Technology program is very well-aligned with the mission of UAA and of the CTC. The program meets a clear workforce need, preparing individuals who obtain immediate employment with automotive dealerships and repair shops, fleet maintenance, and related positions. In Alaska, mechanics earn an average salary of over \$50,000 per year, and job openings are plentiful. The program enjoys strong external partnership support, serving the needs of industry and of its enrolled students. A number of its courses are shared with the Diesel Technology programs.

Program Demand (including service to other programs), Efficiency, and Productivity Demand for the program has remained steady during the review period despite general enrollment declines at UAA, and the program has taken steps to become increasingly efficient. The programs had an average of 55 majors per year, with 59 during the 2019 review year. Due to the nature of the lab where much of the instruction takes place, course capacities are limited to 18, and in a few cases even fewer, students.

Most sections are close to capacity, with an average class size of 13.8. Despite its small class sizes, the program has managed to contain instructional costs. For 2019, the student credit hours per full time equivalent faculty member, or SCH/FTEF was 339.8. Its tuition revenue per credit hour is \$211.6 and its cost per credit hour is \$195.5, for a ratio of 1.08, indicating the program is covering its instructional costs. Overall the program is experiencing constrained capacity while keeping its costs relatively low.

Program Quality, Improvement and Student Success The program has been recognized by its accreditor, by national program rankings, and by industry for its quality. The Automotive Technology program is accredited by the Automotive Service Excellence, or ASE Education Foundation. For several years it has been listed on the “best schools” rankings as a top-20 program in the U.S. It’s partnerships with several major automotive manufacturers are further evidence of quality, as those partnerships require high levels of faculty excellence and extensive ongoing professional development. Recent improvement efforts, especially those centered around student success, have the potential to positively impact the program. The AAS program currently retains more than fifty percent of its students after the first year, slightly higher than the university-wide associate’s degree programs rate. For both the AAS and certificate program, however, students tend to take much longer than two years to complete their degrees. With the addition of the division’s Student Success Advisor and more active mentoring by faculty, the program is working to improve both of these metrics.

Program Duplication / Distinctiveness Duplication: both UAS and UAF offer certificate programs. Automotive technician programs are, by their nature, characterized by relatively small numbers of students. Employment for graduates of these programs is primarily local; relatively few students would move to another area to be trained as a technician. For both of these reasons, the existence of multiple programs in the state is justified and appropriate to serve the needs of industry. Distinctiveness: only the UAA program is accredited, and it is the only program to hold the extensive formal partnership agreements with several manufacturers.

Commendations and Recommendations *Commendations:* The program is commended for incorporating additional industry partnerships in recent years, as this greatly expands the opportunities for its graduates. The program is further commended for its efforts at recruitment and retention. *Recommendations:* The program should continue to explore alternative modes of delivering its programs in order to further enhance productivity and efficiency.

Decision *Continuation:* Program is successfully serving its students and meeting its mission and goals. No immediate changes necessary, other than regular, ongoing program improvements.