



January 25, 2019

President Christopher Koch
Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation
1140 19th Street NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20036

Dear President Koch,

The University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) is grateful for the opportunity to respond to your letter of January 11, 2019 informing UAA of the Accreditation Council of the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation's (CAEP) decision to revoke accreditation of UAA's initial licensure programs in early childhood education, elementary education, secondary education, special education and early childhood special education.

I wish to assure you, the Council and all of our stakeholders that we are rapidly taking steps to address areas noted by the Accreditation Council for improvement and stipulations. While our first concern must be – and is – to address the needs of our current students, I also want to bring to your attention the major steps we are taking to address deficiencies and to fully prepare these programs to regain accreditation at the earliest opportunity.

- To address the immediate concerns of our current students, UAA is working with the University of Alaska System and the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED). DEED announced on January 15 that “institutional recommendations for initial licensure coming from UAA will continue to be recognized by DEED’s Certification Office for students completing their initial licensure preparation programs during the Spring 2019 semester and Summer 2019 session.” UAA is continuing to demonstrate to DEED and the Alaska State Board of Education and Early Development that, since the self-study report was submitted, significant progress has been made to address the CAEP standards. For example, in Fall 2017 UAA students exceeded the CAEP requirement that admitted cohorts reach the 50th percentile on a nationally normed test.
- To address the overarching issue of standards-focused data collection, analysis, reporting and improvement across programs, the School of Education has adopted edTPA, the performance-based, subject-specific assessment and support system developed at the Stanford Center for Assessment, Learning and Equity. All initial licensure programs are now using this assessment system.
- Additionally, all initial licensure programs are using nationally-recognized assessments: Student Teacher Observation Tool, Educator Disposition Assessment, Network for Excellence in Teaching survey and the PRAXIS examinations. The programs will be adopting case study

methodology to assess the impact of program completers on K-12 students. A workshop has been scheduled for June to discuss the methodology and its implementation, which will commence in fall 2019.

- To further address data management, the institution is allocating resources internally to ensure that the additional data and reporting needs of programs with specialized accreditation are addressed. The first priority will be to focus on the education programs leading to initial licensure.
- UAA is in the final stages of hiring a permanent School of Education director. The finalists are aware of the current accreditation status, as well as the provost and my expectations that the programs regain accreditation at the soonest possible opportunity. I take full responsibility to ensure that UAA leadership at every level understands and engages their roles to support the new director and the program faculty in these efforts.
- Finally, in January 2019 the UAA School of Education engaged a consultant to provide guidance to the advanced programs as the faculty work toward continuing accreditation. The best practices and tools adopted from this expert guidance will be of benefit to the faculty in the initial licensure programs.

On November 30, Southcentral Alaska was hit by a 7.0 earthquake and immediate 5.7 aftershock. In the aftermath of the “2018 Anchorage Earthquake,” UAA fully demonstrated its emergency preparedness, resilience and sustainability to re-open 70 buildings with 3.2 million square feet within five days. With the loss of only one instructional day equivalent, UAA students completed the fall semester and graduated on time! I will bring the same focus and initiative to support UAA’s initial licensure programs and help regain CAEP accreditation for our students and the State of Alaska.

On behalf of UAA, I wish to express my gratitude to the site-visit team, CAEP staff and CAEP Accreditation Council. The self-study process, site visit and evaluators’ report provide important guidance to further improve documentation of the real achievements and successes of our students and programs.

Most sincerely,



Cathy Sandeen
Chancellor

Cc: Chancellor’s Cabinet
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Interim Director, School of Education