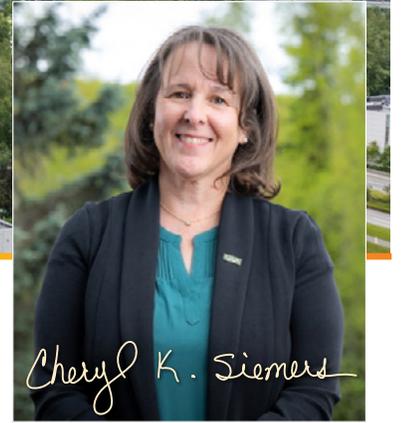


YOUR JOURNEY. YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR IMPACT.



Chancellor's

# UAA Community Report



## Summer greetings

I am honored to begin this new role as interim chancellor at UAA. Thank you for the warm welcome I've received. My journey at our university spans 20 years as both an alumna and faculty, as well as director of Kenai Peninsula College. This experience taught me that collaboration is essential to achieving our university's mission. I am passionate about how our university creates opportunity as a place of teaching, research and service. I look forward to working with UAA's dedicated faculty and staff to help our students in their journey and am excited for what we can accomplish together as we bring UAA through this time of transition. For me, it all starts with listening – and I want you to know that my door is always open for you.



## Board of Regents meeting

Last week, I had the opportunity to attend the UA Board of Regents meeting in Fairbanks. The meeting primarily focused on approval of the FY26 budget and advancing our university's work in student recruitment, retention and graduation. The operating budget passed by the legislature includes a 6% increase from last year, covering fixed cost increases and a comprehensive 2.75% salary increase for university employees. Lawmakers also provided capital budget funding to address campus deferred maintenance and support strategic initiatives like the Alaska Leaders Archive. At the meeting, the regents honored Zac Clark, UAA associate director of Student Life and Leadership, with the Staff Make Students Count Award, recognizing his outstanding contributions to our students.

## Chancellor Parnell retirement

At their meeting, the Board of Regents recognized the service of former Chancellor Sean Parnell upon his retirement after a distinguished public career. His leadership helped make our university a place of optimism and collegiality. He instilled a strong sense of purpose at UAA, achieved through collaboration, shared governance and putting students first. Chancellor Parnell built a strong foundation for our university's future. UAA is stronger today thanks to his service. It's a legacy I hope to continue in my time working with you.

## UAA Spring commencement



Earlier this month, UAA held spring commencement ceremonies in Anchorage and on the community campuses. We celebrated the accomplishments and hard work of the 1,800 UAA students who graduated this academic year. These graduates join more than 72,000 UAA alumni worldwide.

The Anchorage campus ceremonies featured a speech from former Student Regent Alibiona Selimi and a commencement address by U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski.

## Serving those who serve our country

UAA is proud to serve those who serve our country. Our university has been named a Military Friendly School for the 17th consecutive year. The award evaluates colleges and universities on their investments in serving military and veteran students, including student retention, graduation and job placement rates. This honor recognizes UAA's commitment to active-duty military, veterans and their families.



## Growing UAA enrollment

UAA is actively enhancing its recruitment and retention efforts. This spring, enrollment by credit hours increased by 2.8% compared to last year, with UAA now serving over 12,000 students. Our university's dual mission is driving growth in key areas of workforce development. In fiscal year 2024, UAA saw a 50% increase in the award of occupational endorsements and a 19% rise in the conferral of associate degrees. Additionally, UAA's retention rate for full-time bachelor's students is the highest it has been in over a decade.

Between 2019 and 2024, UAA produced more than half of the degrees and credentials conferred by the UA System. These achievements are the result of tremendous efforts from our faculty and staff. UAA is committed to attracting students from across Alaska and beyond, and we will continue to grow enrollment by making high-quality, affordable education accessible to all.



## Continuing high-quality academic programs

Recently, UAA received some very positive feedback from our programmatic and institutional accreditors. This included continued accreditation for the programs at the College of Business and Public Policy, as well as the School of Education's early childhood development program. UAA also completed a milestone in the reaffirmation of our accreditation by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). Our university has been continuously accredited by NWCCU since 1974. This spring, UAA's year-six review was accepted by the commission with no findings identified. This is a testament to the policies, processes and structures our staff and faculty have in place and puts our university in a strong position as we prepare for our site visit in October.



## Congressman Begich tour

Recently, UAA hosted Congressman Nick Begich for a tour of our Anchorage campus. The visit highlighted UAA's role as Alaska's largest workforce provider and the work of our faculty in cutting-edge disciplines like AI and engineering. The congressman met with nursing and medical students at the UAA College of Health and learned how the university is contributing to the growth of our state's health workforce. The visit coincided with the annual ConocoPhillips Arctic Science Endowment showcase.



## ConocoPhillips Arctic Science Endowment

On March 20, UAA welcomed leaders from ConocoPhillips Alaska to campus for our annual Arctic research showcase. UAA faculty presented sponsored research funded by the ConocoPhillips Arctic Science and Engineering Endowment Award. Since 2008, this partnership has advanced solutions to important issues facing Alaska's resource industries. The endowment has provided millions in funding to further UAA's applied research mission to meet real-world challenges with real-world solutions in Alaska.

## Seawolf Athletics

Seawolf Athletics is wrapping up a great year! The UAA women's basketball team won their seventh GNAC conference championship and advanced to the second round of the NCAA tournament. Our ski team finished seventh at the NCAA national championships, and four Seawolf gymnasts earned All-American honors at the Women's Collegiate Gymnastics National Invitational. The Seawolf track and field team saw great success this spring. Tobin Schmidtke won the conference championship in the decathlon and Liv Heite set a new school record in the 100 meter hurdles. Sprinter Joshua Caleb won the conference championship in the 60 and 200 meters and earned GNAC Male Track Athlete of the Year honors. Seawolf athletes continue to be great ambassadors for UAA, with a 3.5 average GPA and contributing thousands of hours of service in our communities. This spring, 32 Seawolf athletes earned their degrees, with 17 graduating with honors.



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ALASKA ANCHORAGE.

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