

**UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE**  
**DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS**  
**FY12 CAS SELF-STUDY**  
**ALCOHOL, DRUG & WELLNESS EDUCATION PROGRAM**  
**MAY 31, 2012**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**PURPOSE OF SELF-STUDY:**

The University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) Alcohol, Drug and Wellness Education Program was selected to take part in a Council for the Advancement of Standards (CAS) Self-Study to assess to which degree the program was in alignment with the national standards in higher education. Results of the Self-Study will be used to implement a plan for improving services and operations, and for overall program enhancement.

**MISSION:**

**UAA ALCOHOL, DRUG AND WELLNESS EDUCATION PROGRAM Mission Statement:** to create a University environment which encourages low-risk substance use choices through social-ecologically based institutional practices and policies.

**SELF-STUDY SUMMARY:**

I. OVERALL FINDINGS:

The UAA Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Program, better known as the Alcohol, Drug and Wellness Education (ADWE) Program, review team assessed each of the 12 programmatic areas identified, following the Council for the Advancement of Standards guidelines in Higher Education. For each area to be reviewed, the team gathered information and evidence to evaluate, and, using the CAS instrument provided, individually and then collectively assigned numerical value to demonstrate the level of perceived completion. Following the collective discussion, the group provided a written description of the areas needing attention and an action plan for each item.

In eight of the twelve areas assessed, the ADWE Program was identified as having “well met” or “fully met” the criteria identified in the CAS instrument. These areas include: Mission, Program, Organizational Management, Leadership, Human Resources, Diversity, Campus and External Relations, and Assessment and Evaluation. While there is still room for improvement on several items in these eight areas, the review team decided that the immediate focus of the program improvement plan should be on the areas where “minimally” or “not met” items existed.

The review team identified a few areas of the ADWE Program that were “minimally” or “not met” at this current period in time. The areas of Financial Resources, Technology and Equity/Access had at least one criterion that was “minimally met” and/or “not done,” signifying the need for additional focus. An ATOD Program needs

adequate funding to accomplish its mission and goals. The current quantity of work performed by the ADW Educator is equivalent to the work of a full-time professional. Because UAA's ADWE program can only support a part-time educator and has a limited budget, seeking additional internal and external funding will be a primary focus of the program's research efforts. Establishing additional funding resources will provide the ADWE staff member with more time to develop and execute programs, services and evaluations for the campus community. This limited budget also impacts the ADWE program's ability to possess sufficient technology to further its mission. The program would benefit from identifying additional access to large-scale printing services, campus/community media resources, and creative audio-visual equipment.

The ADWE program was rated "minimally met" in one item of the Equity and Access area: "Services are available and accessible to distance learner students or arrangements have been made for students to have access to appropriate services in their geographical region." The Review Team decided to score this item as "minimally met" because they believe this to be an area where the ADWE program has an opportunity expand efforts to the eight satellite campuses of UAA, including distance education, needs assessments, social norming campaigns, and referrals services. In addition, this area of Equity and Access could eventually grow to provide outreach to the other two University of Alaska primary campus communities in Juneau and Fairbanks.

Finally, the area of Facilities and Equipment had numerous criteria that were "not met" or "minimally met," and therefore will be a key area to focus on in the coming year. UAA's ADWE program does not have a permanent facility location and office area to continuously provide student/employee access and private space for student consultations. The CAS Standards also listed a resource center as an element to improve ATOD program mission and goals, of which is currently not available at UAA. The Dean of Student's Office will continue to search for adequate facilities in an accessible location so the ADWE program can provide a wide range of services, including a wellness resource area.

## II. IDENTIFIED AREAS OF STRENGTH AND WEAKNESS:

### STRENGTHS:

- The ADWE program mission is implemented and aligns with national standards for ATOD programs. It supports the Student Affairs and University key priorities through helping to foster a healthy and safe *environment for our diverse student population to reach their greatest potential*.
- The ADWE program mission bolsters student learning and development outcomes through intentional programming and is supported by developmental and behavioral health theories, as well as best practices in public health.
- The ADWE program has a staff member who is highly qualified, effective, and provides ethical professional leadership to accomplish mission and goals.

- The ADWE program has data collection and reporting standards that assess and inform others of the impact of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use upon social, academic, environmental, wellness, and civic areas. Information is also disseminated to the campus community regarding risk reduction strategies and resources.
- Data collection and reporting is also used for program evaluation and improvement in response to the changing needs of the UAA population, the surrounding environment, and evolving institutional priorities.
- The ADWE program maintains strong campus and external relations and coordinates with a variety of departments and organizations to deliver sustainable and engaging programs and services for the student population.

WEAKNESSES:

- The ADWE program is currently not adequately staffed to accomplish program mission and goals. The ADW Educator is currently a part-time position, but it needs to be a full-time position.
- The ADWE program does not have adequate facilities and equipment to support its mission and goals.
  - Lack of consistent and sufficient office space limits the amount and types of programming and services that can be offered and inhibits the program's ability to fully realize its mission.
  - Additionally, lack of consistent office location reduces access to students, employees, and outreach opportunities with the greater community.
- The ADWE program does not have adequate technology to support its mission and goals.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT:**

*LIST, IN ORDER OF PRIORITY, AND BRIEFLY DESCRIBE*

1. The ADWE program needs to seek additional funding to change the current part-time ADW Educator position to a full-time ADW Educator position.
2. The ADWE program will develop a website linked off the UAA Dean of Students Office webpage to disseminate the program mission and increase information sharing with university constituents and the larger community.
3. The ADWE program will identify a permanent or semi-permanent office area for Alcohol, Drug and Wellness Education, and advertise this location to UAA students.
4. The ADWE program will expand, finalize and approve program specific student learning and development outcomes to guide the program and services.
5. The ADWE program will conduct and record additional quantitative and qualitative evaluations to ensure the program and services continue to meet accountability criteria. The ADWE program evaluations will also be used to assess student and employee perceptions of substance use among their peers and colleagues.
6. The ADWE program will continue to investigate funding opportunities for additional ATOD and wellness programming and increasing access to relevant technology.
7. The ADWE program will continue to collaborate with community organizations to support more late night programming on campus, as the majority of UAA's alcohol violations occur late at night.

8. The ADWE program should embrace stakeholders within every department of student affairs to collaborate on programming initiatives, i.e., Safety Awareness Month and Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Awareness Month.
9. The ADWE program will increase cultural programming and collaboration with UAA departments addressing diversity. Alcohol, drug, and wellness education programming specific to particular diverse groups should be infused into themed programming months, i.e., African American History Month.
10. The ADWE program will increase programming to promote humanitarianism and civic engagement.