



July 29, 2019

*Submitted via email*

Re: Vital Role of University of Alaska in Fairbanks

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

Please do not eliminate local educational options in Interior Alaska in order to address the dire financial situation of the UA system. We strongly encourage you to adopt a plan which continues to provide education and training in Fairbanks. Our businesses, our employees, and our residents are counting on you. There is no doubt the proposed cuts will create far reaching and deeply entrenched consequences for the entire state, however, every region of the state deserves to have access to higher educational opportunities in the future.

UAF is an economic driver vital to the success of our community and the state of Alaska. Engineers trained at UAF are better prepared than students from the lower 48 to handle the special challenges of building and infrastructure projects in Alaska. Medical assistants trained at UAF's Community & Technical College are far more likely to remain in the Interior and reduce healthcare recruiting costs. University students, faculty, and contracts support local businesses whose success benefits the whole community. This is just to name a few of the many ways UAF contributes to the economy of Alaska's Interior through jobs, feeding our local talent pipeline, and increasing Arctic research and other business opportunities.

The Fairbanks Chamber has been advocating to the administration and legislature for months, and we would like to emphasize to you our continued support for a University of Alaska campus in Fairbanks. The Fairbanks Chamber is composed of member organizations who rely heavily on the University of Alaska Fairbanks to train qualified employees, perform the research which makes us successful in a challenging arctic environment, and attract new talent to Interior Alaska. The highly trained and skilled professionals that are developed locally are the people that stay, contribute to our community and economy, and become the future leaders that will continue a legacy of growth and development.

## EXECUTIVE PARTNERS

### DIAMOND

Alaska Airlines  
Denali State Bank  
Fairbanks Daily News-Miner  
Foundation Health Partners  
Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, TVC  
Orthopedics & Sportsmedicine  
Lockheed Martin  
Mt. McKinley Bank  
Vivamore Companies

### PLATINUM

Alyeska Pipeline Service Co.  
ConocoPhillips  
Doyon, Limited  
Fred Meyer Stores  
GCI  
Golden Heart Utilities  
Kinross Fort Knox Mine  
MAC Federal Credit Union

### GOLD

Alaska Executive Search  
BP Exploration  
Carlson Center  
Design Alaska  
Doyon Utilities LLC  
First National Bank Alaska  
Matson Alaska  
Northern Star Pogo LLC  
Ravn Alaska  
TOTE Maritime Alaska  
Usibelli Coal Mine  
WAL-MART Stores, Inc.  
Wells Fargo Bank Alaska  
Westmark Fairbanks Hotel &  
Fairbanks Princess Riverside Lodge

### SILVER

Ahtna Incorporated  
Alaska USA  
Alaska Railroad  
AT&T  
Everts Air Cargo, Everts Air AK  
Exclusive Paving/University Redi-Mix  
ExxonMobil  
Fairbanks Natural Gas  
Flowline Alaska  
Gene's Chrysler, Jeep & Dodge  
Golden Valley Electric Association  
Hale & Associates, Inc.  
Hilcorp Alaska, LLC  
HUB International  
JL Properties, Inc.  
Key Bank  
LifeMed Alaska  
Lynden  
McDonald's of Fairbanks  
Northrim Bank  
Personnel Plus  
Seekins Ford Lincoln  
Sourdough Fuel  
Spirit of Alaska Federal Credit Union  
TDL Staffing  
Tower Hill Mines-Livengood Gold Project  
Trilogy Metals  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Verizon Wireless  
Yukon Title Company



The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce represents over 700 business members throughout Interior Alaska. We work to advocate for the best business environment, promote economic strength and growth for Interior Alaska, and to develop the resources and networks enterprising people use to share knowledge.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marisa Sharrah".

Marisa Sharrah  
President/CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca J. Dean".

Rebecca Dean  
Board Chair