



# UNIVERSITY of ALASKA SOUTHEAST

Developing Alaska's most precious resource – its people

## THE CHALLENGE WE FACE:

Alaska's governor proposed cuts to the state's investment in the University of Alaska by 41%, or \$134 million. This would be the largest budget reduction in the university's 100-year history. The cut would have wide-ranging impact on students, programs, and campuses. The proposed cut is so drastic that it would very likely lead to closing campuses, elimination of programs, and laying off employees.

You can support UAS and higher education by reaching out to members of the Alaska State Legislature and tell them why UAS matters to you and your community.

## Talking Points

- ▶ UAS serves students and communities throughout Southeast Alaska and, through online programs, students throughout the state. UAS is made up of three campuses—Juneau, Ketchikan, and Sitka—that work together effectively to **fulfill our mission of student learning and student success**.
- ▶ UAS has a **budget of approximately \$55 million**, about half of which comes from the state's general fund investment. Over that past four years, **state general fund dollars for UAS have been cut by 19%**. The additional cuts proposed by the governor would severely impact UAS ability to meet the needs our students and our communities.
- ▶ UAS offers a **broad array of programs**: from workforce development to baccalaureate degrees to master's degrees in Education and Public Administration. The UA Board of Regents formally recognized UAS as the **system's lead university in teacher education** given the quality, effectiveness, and productivity of our programs.
- ▶ Our **Alaska College of Education** offers both undergraduate and graduate degrees and courses on campus and online. **UAS Education graduates are employed in schools throughout the state of Alaska.**
- ▶ UAS is a **significant employer in our region**, with approximately 230 faculty and staff at our three campuses. It is also a **major economic engine** in the region. The Juneau Campus alone had contracts worth \$3.4 million with vendors, most of which are in Southeast Alaska.
- ▶ UAS offers **distinctive interdisciplinary bachelor's degrees in Liberal Arts and Social Sciences**. These degrees are available both on campus and online. As an example, UAS offers programs in **Alaska Native languages and Northwest Coast Arts. Nineteen percent of our students are Alaska Native/American Indian**. UAS has partnerships with Sealaska Heritage Institute, Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes, and Ketchikan Indian Community to support Alaska Native students. UAS hosts the PITAAS program (**Preparing Indigenous Teachers and Administrators for Alaska's Schools**) that provide scholarships for future teachers.
- ▶ **A UAS education is affordable** compared to many other public universities. UAS tuition falls at about the midpoint of cost of attendance at similar universities in the Pacific Northwest. Many of our students are employed as they attend college and they take pride in graduating without burdensome student debt. UAS recently **reduced tuition by 25% in many career and technical education classes** to encourage more students to enroll.

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# Talking Points

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- Because of its location in coastal Alaska, **UAS specializes in marine-related degree offerings**, including academic degrees in marine biology, fisheries and environmental science as well as technical degrees in fisheries technology, marine transportation, and marine trades. Students in these programs have incredible opportunities for **internships and practicum experiences** with federal and state agencies such as NOAA and ADF&G and in the private sector.
- UAS Business and Public Administration programs produce highly sought-after **graduates in accounting, management, human resources, and public administration**. Students throughout the state have access to these online degrees, making them some of the most popular of all at UAS. Graduates from these programs work in the public, private, and non-profit sectors as accountants, business managers, entrepreneurs, and human resource professionals.
- UAS' Juneau Campus offers a **friendly, safe, and enriching learning environment** that includes cultural and arts activities, student clubs, outdoor opportunities, and intramural sports. The John R. Pugh Freshman Residence Hall creates a warm and inviting campus community for incoming students. These options are embedded in recruitment and retention of students.
- The **UAS Center for Mine Training** offers courses providing an **introduction to mining occupations** and is designed to produce **Mine Mechanics** for nearby Greens Creek and Kensington mines.
- UAS programs focus on **providing high-impact learning opportunities** for students, including undergraduate research, internships and practicum experiences, and the Senator Ted Stevens Legislative Internship Program in Alaska's capital.
- **UAS Ketchikan and Sitka campuses each offer specialized programs** that meet important workforce needs. Ketchikan offers workforce development programs in **marine trades, marine transportation, and welding**. The campus partners in offering US Coast Guard certification programs vital to our maritime economy. The Sitka Campus offers programs in **Fisheries Technology, Health Information Management, Law Enforcement, and Medical Assisting**—all high demand workforce areas.
- A recent survey of UAS graduates by McDowell Group showed that **81% of those surveyed were 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied'** with the quality of their education.
- UAS is an **active partner with employers, school districts, and community partners** throughout Southeast Alaska. Partners include:
  - Vigor Alaska
  - Alaska Marine Highway System
  - US Coast Guard
  - First Bank
  - Ketchikan Indian Community
  - DIPAC
  - Alaska Glacier Seafoods
  - First National Bank
  - Elgee Rehfeld LLC
  - Coeur/Kensington Mine
  - Hecla/Greens Creek Mine
  - Bartlett Regional Hospital
  - SEARHC
  - Goldbelt Inc.
  - Sealaska Corporation
  - Northrim Bank
  - and many more*

**THANK YOU**  
for being an  
advocate for the  
University of Alaska  
and for the



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*of* **ALASKA**  
**SOUTHEAST**