

University Funding Support

Doniece Gott

From: Julie Andrews <Julie.Andrews@sdmts.com>
Sent: Friday, April 06, 2018 10:46 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Request of Support for the University of Alaska's Budget

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

My son is a graduate student at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks (UAF). My husband and I have both been to the university before and after his acceptance and have been awed by the quality and professionalism of the staff.

An undergraduate from the University of California, Davis, our son's desire was to continue his studies in Wildlife Biology at what he considered the best school for it...UAF. It was difficult getting into the program because there's already limited funding for graduate studies.

We had the great opportunity to meet with Assoc. Professor Falk Huettmann, his graduate advisor, and were totally impressed with his current field of studies in Machine Learning used for species prediction models. So impressed, that when he came to San Diego for a conference, we introduced him to our son's mentor, Walter Munk, professor of geophysics emeritus and holds the Secretary of the Navy/Chief of Naval Operations Oceanography Chair at Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California. Professor Munk was thrilled to meet him and learn about his work and how it might possibly line up with work being done at Scripps. Afterwards, he told us what a brilliant guy Falk was and was thrilled at the work UAF was doing.

In terms of environmental issues and concerns so relevant today, it's important to not only fully fund Universities that have specialize studies in critical current issues, but current issues where student can and will make a difference. Please support and show our young people that you believe in their futures.

Regards, Julie Andrews

Julie Andrews

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Doniece Gott

From: Tsigonis, Jean M. <Jean.Tsigonis@foundationhealth.org>
Sent: Friday, April 06, 2018 11:00 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: UAA

Dear Legislators:

Just want to encourage you to support our University of Alaska. The education of our students is essential. As a provider in the health care system, I rely on the steady supply of our health care workforce. We need nurses, x-ray technicians, certified nurse assistants, medical assistants, and physicians. Many of our staff at the Tanana Valley Clinic have received their education through UAF, UAA and UAS as well as the Community Technical College. Access to and provision of health care is essential for our state.

Thanks for listening.

Jean Tsigonis, MD, MPH

Doniece Gott

From: Aaluk Edwardson <aaluk.s.edwardson@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 06, 2018 9:05 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: April 6, 2018 Senate Finance Committee testimony

Hello Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

The Senate Finance Committee is hearing public testimony today. I am not in Alaska to be able to testify in support of funding the University of Alaska so I am sending my support via email.

I was born and raised in Utqiagvik . I am Iñupiat Eskimo and Norwegian. I've been a University of Alaska student, patron and supporter since I was 12 years old, when I participated in a theater and fine arts summer camp at UAF. When I was 16 years old, I worked with UAF as a high school student on a project that involved sequencing the genetics of caribou from the Teshekpuk and Porcupine herds. I worked in labs with real genetics researchers. After I graduated from Barrow High School, I began working in higher education in registration and eventually recruitment. A few years later, I found myself at Dartmouth College, studying theater, sociology and environmental studies. A few years after I graduated from Dartmouth, I began working for NASA as a science writer.

I share all this with you because how I engaged with the University of Alaska system throughout middle and high school helped me discover and continue to refine a deep passion I have for education and higher education specifically.

Currently, I work with Iñisaġvik College and the University of Alaska Fairbanks as a teacher. I am also a playwright and still a pretty big science nerd. If not for the opportunities provided to me through the UA system, I'm not sure I would be where I am today.

Supporting Alaska state Universities is an investing in helping people grow. When people grow, communities grow. University systems provide space and resources communities to explore the biggest questions and challenges facing society today. We need more people building their mental, emotional and physical capacities to tackle Alaska's biggest problems. We need healthy and well-funded universities.

The Alaska legislature should support the University of Alaska. I ask the Senate to honor the Board of Regents request that \$341M be allocated to the University of Alaska.

Thank you for the time and effort you have put into governing these important matters. I can only imagine how challenging it may be to figure out what to fund when and why. As a proud Alaskan, I am very grateful for the work you do.

Quyanaq,

Aaluk Edwardson
Artist. Teacher. Collaborator.
www.aalukedwardson.com

Doniece Gott

From: Joshua Knicely <knicelyjoshua@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 06, 2018 9:35 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support the University of Alaska

I'm e-mailing to ask that the Senate honor the Board of Regents request of \$341 million to the University of Alaska (or provide more funds). The kinds of research UA does paves the way for Alaska's future. Without the investment in basic research, the economy weakens and our state falls behind.

Thanks,

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Joshua Knicely
University of Alaska Fairbanks

Doniece Gott

From: Wendel Raymond <wendel.raymond@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 06, 2018 7:30 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Funding UA

Alaska State Senate Finance Committee,

I would like to voice my support for proper and increased funding to the University of Alaska System. I have been a graduate student at UAF College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences since 2014 and I have seen first hand the negative effects of reduced funding. Staff positions have stayed vacant for years as state of the art buildings begin to deteriorate around staff, faculty, and students. Faculty positions have remained unfilled for years, reducing course offerings and scientific rigor which reflects poorly on our program as a whole. I understand that nothing is free but I believe that investing in higher education UA wide is a direct investment in Alaska's future. From the fisheries department alone at CFOS nearly 50% of graduate are currently employed in the State of Alaska. I urge you an all members of the Alaska Legislature to visits UAF's campus in Juneau, and to check out some of the world class research being conducted here. Thank you.

<https://www.uaf.edu/cfos/about-us/locations/juneau/>

<http://apecs-ak.org/>

<http://juneauempire.com/news/local/2018-04-05/otters-nuclear-rockfish-and-whale-watching-s-impact-uaf-fisheries-masters>

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Doniece Gott

From: Wilbur, Jack <jack@designalaska.com>
Sent: Friday, April 06, 2018 6:27 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: UA Operating Budget

I support an increase in UAs operating budget. A vibrant University is important to me, to my family, to my community, and to my employer. UAF provides me and fellow members of my community with recreational opportunities at the Student Recreation Center, opportunities to enjoy great music at Charles Davis Concert Hall, and our wonderful community radio station KUAC. My daughter is a graduate student in biology at UAF working with Brian Barnes on arctic ground squirrels. My employer, Design Alaska, depends on UAF for engineering graduates to staff our engineering departments. Please, in this time of budget stress, allow UA to sustain high quality programs.

Thank you,
Jack Wilbur

Doniece Gott

From: Joshua Knicely <knicelyjoshua@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 06, 2018 10:14 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Re: Support the University of Alaska

I realized in my previous e-mail I have my affiliation listed. I am in no way representing my affiliation. My previous e-mail is purely my personal opinion and is not meant to represent the opinions of any other person or organization.

Joshua Knicely