

To: Senator Gary Stevens

From: Fred Villa, Associate Vice President, University of Alaska Statewide

Subject: Responses to questions forwarded by the Office of Senator Gary Stevens, Chair of the Alaska Senate Education Committee

Date: February 25, 2014

1. How long have you been in operation? *The University of Alaska was established in 1917.*
2. What is your governance structure? *The University of Alaska consists of three accredited universities and one accredited community college with 13 associated community campuses plus additional small community-based training centers. The system is governed by the UA Board of Regents with system leadership by the University of Alaska President, Pat Gamble.*
3. What manner of public/private partnerships do you share? *Due to the comprehensive nature of the UA system, all manners of public and private partnerships exist. Specifically in the area of workforce development and career and technical education (CTE), all programs supported by TVEP funds have industry advisory committees serving the campuses, colleges and schools. We also have strong relations and are considered a critical partner with State agencies particularly with the Alaska Dept. of Labor and Workforce Development and the Alaska Dept. of Education and Early Development in the implementation of the Alaska Career and Technical Education Plan. We work closely to leverage resources (faculty and facilities) with all of the regional training centers. The UA Mining and Petroleum Training Services also is leveraging a partnership with the Yukon College to utilize their mine training simulators for hard-skills training of new underground miners for Alaska, in Alaska.*
4. What specific training programs do you offer? *UA categorizes training programs supported by TVEP investments into Career Clusters as a way to demonstrate and track performance. By investment levels, UA currently supports the following career clusters through 58 different grant allocations at 23 different schools or colleges within the UA system: Health Sciences; Architecture and Construction; Mining, Manufacturing and Process Technology; Career Pathways; Education and Training; Fisheries, Agriculture and Natural Resources; Transportation, Distribution and Logistics; Business, Management and Administration; Information and Technology; Arts and AV Technology; Law and Public Safety; Human Services.*
5. How many participants do you currently have in those respective programs? *The current enrollment of students in the UA TVEP supported programs is approximately 10,489; this represents nearly 1/3 of all of the UA full-time student enrollment headcount. Broken down by UA career clusters student enrollment: Health Sciences (2,137); Architecture and Construction (628); Mining, Manufacturing and Process Technology (855); Career Pathways (*1,956); Education and Training (685); Fisheries, Agriculture and Natural Resources (302); Transportation, Distribution and Logistics (610); Business, Management and Administration*

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*(*2,670); Information and Technology (228); Arts and AV Technology (60); Law and Public Safety (30); Human Services (178). *Note: Outreach and recruiting efforts, not specifically enrollment in programs.*

6. What do you offer in the form of degrees and/or certificates in these programs? *The UA system offers more than 500 programs with UA awards of completion from occupational endorsement (min. 9 credits), workforce certificates (min. 30 credits), associate degrees (min. 60 credits), bachelor degrees (min. 120 credits), as well as master and doctoral degrees. Approximately ½ of the programs are considered workforce development, meaning students should be able to complete the program in two years or less.*
7. How many certifications have you issued and in what training fields, since you began operating? *From FY07 – FY12, the number of graduates from programs supported by TVEP increased more than 25 percent (3,084 to 3,871). This equates to more than 90 percent of FY12 graduates. UA campuses offer hundreds of non-credit certificate programs ranging from personal and community development to professional and technical skills development. For example, FY14 UA TVEP proposals identified more than 100 industry certifications offered in their courses including but not limited to: MSHA, IADC well control, OSHA 24 Hazwoper, NCCER (National Center for Construction Education and Research) multiple modules, veterinary technician licensing exam, Cisco CCNA and CCENT, Microsoft MTA, MCTS and CIPT, MSPS survey technician, pharmacy technician, Red Car/Firefighter Type 2, Alaska Off-highway Class D Driver's License, Personal Care Attendant, pre-nursing certification, UA Coast Guard certifications, Alaska Police Standards Council certifications, and many others.*
8. Describe the demographic profile of your student body. *More than 70 percent of UA students are pursuing a degree or certificate, and the remaining are non-degree seekers taking courses for personal or career enrichment. UA has an exceptionally high proportion of part-time students compared to similar institutions nationally, with 60 percent enrolling part-time, compared to 40 percent on average nationally. UA student demographics for FY13 include: 58.5% female and 41.5% male; 15% Am. Indian/AK Native, 1.3% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Is., 5.2% Asian, 3.1% Black, 57.9% White and 17.4% Not Reported.*
9. What are the technical and vocational labor demands in your region and how successful are you in satisfying that demand? *Due to the geographic locations of campuses and centers, the Alaska Dept. of Labor and Workforce Development Research & Analysis occupational forecasts and Economic Trends would most accurately describe the various demands that the UA system addresses. Our process for investing TVEP funds for programs is based on three overall criteria:*
 - i. *Alaska's Workforce Investment Board Priority Industries*
 - ii. *UA's Workforce Development Guidelines and Principles*
 1. *Career Pathways*
 2. *Economic Development*
 3. *High Demand Occupations*
 - iii. *Local UA Campus Priorities*

Each of these criteria are considered in order for proposals to be considered for TVEP funding.

10. What is your annual budget? What other sources of funding do you have besides TVEP?

The table below provides a summary of the University of Alaska's overall revenue sources, with instruction and student related activity making up about 45% of total expenditures, with the remainder applied to research and service activities. TVEP funding is primarily applied to instructional activities and comprises about 1.3% of revenue for that function. Student tuition and fees make up approximately 1/3 of revenue for this area.

UA Funding by Source FY10-FY14 Management Plan (Thousand \$)

Funding Sources:	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014
1002 Fed Rcpts (Fed)	131,558.5	132,798.7	137,953.7	147,944.3	150,852.7
1003 G/F Match (UGF)	4,777.3	4,777.3	4,777.3	4,777.3	4,777.3
1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	320,076.9	332,005.3	343,277.4	352,881.6	365,890.8
1007 I/A Rcpts (Other)	14,170.0	15,301.1	16,201.1	16,201.1	16,201.1
1037 GF/MH (UGF)	300.8	605.8	605.8	605.8	655.8
1048 Univ Rcpt (DGF)	288,813.8	300,319.7	314,092.1	327,835.6	300,068.3
1061 CIP Rcpts (Other)	7,300.0	7,630.7	9,530.7	10,530.7	10,530.7
1092 MHTAAR (Other)	1,617.0	1,693.2	1,481.5	1,481.5	1,745.0
1151 VoTech Ed (DGF)	4,723.6	5,201.9	5,042.6	5,449.1	5,380.0
1174 UA I/A (Other)	51,521.0	51,521.0	58,121.0	58,121.0	58,121.0
1175 BLic&Corp (DGF)	-	-	-	-	-
Total Budget	824,858.9	851,854.7	891,083.2	925,828.0	914,222.7

11. What annual level of TVEP funding have you received historically and to date? *UA was an original recipient of the TVEP funding when it was established by HCSCSB 289 (FIN) 2000 for FY01. At that time the UA distribution was 52% of the total at \$1,700.0. Legislative reauthorizations changed percentages and distribution levels. During the timeline from FY01-FY09 UA TVEP receipts totaled \$25,936.7 for an annual average of ~\$2,882.0. Under the current authorization of TVEP (FY10-FY14) the UA system has received an additional total of \$27,911.3 or annual average of ~\$5,582.3. The grand total to the UA system for TVEP since FY01 has been \$53,848.0.*

12. What specifically do TVEP funds pay for at your training center? *UA TVEP funds are categorized into continuing, first time, and one-time funding. Continuing funding refers to programs that*

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have or are being evaluated for their effectiveness in delivering workforce development impacting programs. Successful programs are required to seek and acquire revenue to displace TVEP grants. TVEP grants are reduced by 5% after the third year of funding to further encourage industry or other support to meet the programs operational costs. First time grants are used for the initial start-up of programs or to meet longer term needs for programs when they are first identified. If funding is required past the first year, it would move into the continuing category. One-time funding is typically used to replace, add, or upgrade technology and facilities to ensure programs are relevant to the current practices used in the workplace. Currently the UA TVEP is distributed with ~72% invested in continuing programs, ~13% invested in first-time grants, and ~15% funding one-time requests.

13. What would you do if TVEP were reduced or eliminated? Increased? *If TVEP was increased the University of Alaska would approach the distribution of TVEP funds as it does now resulting in even greater impact for the State. Our current funding level only allows us to address about ½ of the top tier proposals from the UA campuses. If TVEP were reduced or eliminated it would negatively impact UA's ability to respond to existing and emerging workforce development needs, especially during times of tight budgets. Programs on continuation funding would be at risk and funding for new programs and technology upgrades to train students in highly technical fields would be severely restricted. Rural campus programs that depend on this funding to upgrade labs and offer programs would additionally be at risk to provide job training in their regions.*

How UA TVEP Works: UA annually initiates a process for TVEP grant applications. There are no entitlements. Every program seeking funding must submit a proposal if they hope to receive a UA TVEP grant, regardless if continuing, first-time or one-time in nature. Each grant application must meet the principles and guidelines for investment stated above (Question 9). Those requests are tiered and ranked by the UA campuses and submitted to the UA Workforce Development Committee who in turn deliberate the proposals. Recommendations from the committee are given to the UA President. Based on his final decision, the grants are awarded.

14. Do you operate a residential facility in conjunction with your programs? If so, please give some history of its construction and current manner of operation and maintenance. Current number of residents? *Residential facilities are available at the three main university campuses in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau as well as some of the regional campuses including: Valdez, Soldotna and Bethel. Total capacity at the residential facilities is 2,519 at the main university campuses and 175 at the rural campuses.*
15. What is our student/teacher ratio? *Student/teacher ratios vary by course, enrollment, setting, safety, and accreditation requirements. Typical field and technical labs may have student/teacher ratios of 5 to 1, and more traditional type classroom activities may range closer to 8-20/1.*
16. How many faculty do you employ? Describe their certification levels. *UA system employs adjuncts, term-, and tenure-track faculty depending on their specific teaching assignments.*

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Qualifications can range from subject matter expertise and industry experience with professional certifications and licenses, to associate, bachelor, master or PhD degree levels as required for the accreditation of programs or industry training standards. The University of Alaska system employed 1,072 regular instructional full time faculty equivalents and 1,177 adjunct faculty in fall 2012.

17. Describe how your training center benefits your local community or region. *The impact of the University of Alaska's investments with TVEP funds on the State cannot be estimated nor overstated. We have supported the creation of programs and regional training centers including the Fairbanks Pipeline Training Center, University of Alaska Southeast Mine Training Center and the Delta Career Advancement Center. The UA TVEP investments helped develop, expand and more than double the number of highly qualified nurses and engineering students, and increase the capacity for process technology students for the oil-gas-mining industries. UA TVEP investments currently include fisheries technology, apprenticeship technology, pharmacy technology, vet techs, marine-, road-, and heavy equipment diesel technology, millwright and welding technology, surveying technicians, Alaska's Middle College, Future Educators of Alaska, wild land fire science training, career pathways for dual credit programs, health information systems training, occupational health and safety technicians, and technical equipment and systems upgrades for programs across the UA system.*

18. Please share any other highlights and needs of your training center. *UA TVEP investments mirror the industry-led workforce development plans and priority industries across the State and the Alaska Career and Technical Education Plan. Those plans include: Alaska Construction Plan, Alaska Health Workforce Coalition Workforce Development Plan, Alaska Oil & Gas Plan (under development), Alaska Mining Workforce Development Plan (under development), Alaska Education Consortium, and the Alaska Fisheries, Seafood, Maritime Workforce Development Plan (under development). Our top six investments are in Health, Construction, Oil Gas & Mining, Career Pathways, Education, and Fisheries.*

UA TVEP: created the first federally recognized apprenticeship program for core drillers to assist the mining industry; UA career pathways and career clusters are a basis for postsecondary outreach to students seeking guidance and information to plan their futures after high school; is providing bridge-funding for students seeking dual credit through the Tech Prep (technical preparation) program now led by the UA Transitions Coalition; transitioned Denali training funds for nursing and health careers into programs that are available across Alaska; partnered with the Alaska Rural Honors Program to offer process technology and introduction to education careers as part of their curriculum; purchased a mobile refrigeration training simulator that travels to communities throughout Alaska to provide local training to fish harvesters and processors; provided modern low-sulfur diesel engines for students to understand new technology as it was being implemented; provided funding to develop the industry-led Fisheries, Seafood, Maritime Workforce Development Plan; continues to support programs that are identified by the State and employers as critical needs for the workforce.

19. Are there other regional training centers you feel should be receiving TVEP funds? *Further distributing the limited pool of funding available through the TVEP should be based on demonstrated impact of the workforce development programs by education/training providers and not strictly driven by geographic location. Unnecessary duplication of services and investing in additional infrastructure is costly verses encouraging the mobility of training programs and services available to where and when needed. Accountability to the State also requires justifying the tax structure to employers who are paying the U/I tax that support the TVEP.*

20. Do you believe the current allocation structure for distributing TVEP funds is adequate and fair? If not, how would you recommend adjusting it? *Performance should reflect the centers' ability to provide programs that meets the needs of employers. The economic models that each TVEP recipient uses should be represented in the level of funding and accountability measures of each center so it can be assessed for the service it provides both regionally and to the State. The current allocation of TVEP appears to be fair. However, funding to the UA system has proven to be effective and efficient and could provide even greater results from a larger investment by the State.*