

From: [Betsy Dorn](#) on behalf of [LIO Juneau](#)
To: [House Finance](#); [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: FW: Primary, Secondary and UA education budget cuts
Date: Monday, March 07, 2016 11:31:06 AM

From: Maggie Matheson [mailto:mbmatheson@alaska.edu]
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2016 11:28 AM
To: LIO Juneau <LIO.Juneau@akleg.gov>
Subject: Primary, Secondary and UA education budget cuts

Dear Alaska Legislature,

I recently found out that the state is considering moving the School of Management (SOM) from UAF to UAA and making it a distance college. This news came as a shock to me. UAF SOM is I'd like to know why lawmakers think education is a budget we can destroy.

SOM provides so many clubs and organizations for the students. Associated Students of Business (ASB), Students Offering Leadership Development (SOLD), Students Who Enjoy Economic Thinking (SWEET), Native Alaskan Business Leaders (NABL), to name a few. SOM puts together Business Leader of the Year (BLOY) every year. This teaches students about planning, developing and networking relationships. SOM has developed the Arctic Innovation where we bring the community together to bring a concept to life. This teaches students to plan, the steps to conceptualize ideas, bringing the idea to life and seeing it through to enrich American lives and maybe even international lives. These can't be done online.

Through informal polls, I have come to find out that the SOM is an important asset to the UA system. Kids from around the state, around the country and around the world come to UAF in order to have a "real college experience" and the state wants to shut that down? It makes little sense to me. SOM is the college that graduates employable, young adults in Alaska.

I was also told that Economics 100 is being taken out as a prerequisite for the undergraduate program. More people need to understand economics, so we don't make the same mistakes we have in the past. Educating people on economic functions is the only way I can see of not making the same mistakes from our past. This is probably why our lawmakers are trying to slash education budgets.

I wrote to our legislators about the proposed budget cuts for our elementary and secondary schools. I have a big problem with cutting back on education. We don't get that money back when we are out of the red. Instead, we find other ways to waste our money. It's discouraging that our lawmakers and budgeters don't think education is something we should invest in. For those of you that don't know what SOM is, UAF has different colleges. SOM is the college that teaches business: Accounting, Business Administration, Economics, Homeland Security & Emergency Management, Master in Business Administration (MBA), Master of Science (MS) in Resource and Applied Economics, Master of Security and Disaster Management (MSDM), Ph.D. in Natural Resources and Sustainability, etc.

Now, I know some of the state officials are not educated. I understand that for some people,

education is not a priority. I understand that some people don't think education is important. I would like to address state officials who are currently slashing education budgets (for the UA system and for our primary and secondary school systems). There are numerous reasons why education is important. I will list them for your convenience.

Economic growth of the nation; when the people of a nation are educated, they'd definitely carve ways to be self-sufficient. An economically independent society is the stepping stone to combined productivity that leads to an economic growth of the nation on a whole.

Equality; if we want to see the world as a just and fair place where everyone is given equal opportunities, education is where we acquire it. Education is a must if we want to do away with the existing differences between different social classes and genders. It opens a whole world of opportunities for the poor so that they may have an equal shot at being well-paid. Education also plays a major role in women empowerment.

Makes you self-dependent; Education is very important if you want to be an independent person. It helps you become financially independent. Education also makes you astute so that you can make your own decisions.

Saves you from being fooled/cheated; Education saves you from being exploited and fooled. We live in a country where we enjoy a number of rights and freedom. It is easier to take advantage of innocent and illiterate people.

Makes you creative; Education is not only about mugging up facts, learning to read and write. That is literacy. Education goes beyond that as it includes an overall development of an individual. It makes you think out of the box. The creative wheels of your mind are set into motion which surely gives one an edge over the others.

More opportunities; Proper education opens a world of opportunities in every sector. You will have more life chances, more job positions in various companies, greater chances of getting a job and more flexibility when choosing a career.

Innovation; every discovery in the history of mankind, which has made our lives so much easier, would have been impossible without education. Education is simply a requirement for innovation.

Economic prosperity; countries like United States, Japan, Australia and Finland with a high literacy rate, are some of the world's richest countries. These countries have a high per capita income and enjoy high life standards. Education importance is huge because, without proper education, it is not possible for a country to develop or prosper.

Now, I ask those of you in favor of cutting our education budgets if this is something we want to take away from our Alaska youth? Do we want them seeking education outside of Alaska?

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Thank you,

Maggie Matheson, MBA
UAF Alumnus
Concerned Parent and Patriot

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Be a yardstick of quality. Some people aren't used to an environment where excellence is expected.

~Steve Jobs~