

From: [Putt Clark](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: University Funding
Date: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 10:06:20 AM

Dear Honorable Representatives of the Finance Committee:

Please consider maintaining the Governor's proposed budget for the University. The University system is like a heartbeat for Alaska. It is integral not only bringing funding IN to Alaska, via grant funding to multitudes of programs, but it also helps to supply a more educated populace.

I would hope this doesn't need stating, but given there are some who seem only to have contempt for education, I will say this: an educated population is the FOUNDATION of a healthy, happy and financially secure society. Don't cut the feet off of Alaska by slashing the funding to the UA system.

My own mother graduated from UAF. A single mother of two, she took out student loans to pay for her education and for our survival. We grew up poor in a cabin with no running water. Her early income as an English teacher was barely a living wage. She gradually earned more over the years and managed to buy her own property.

When I came of age, I attended UAF as well. My brother, his wife and my husband all graduated from UAF, and now, my oldest son attends UAF.

Budget cuts equate to the loss of programs and leads to many people going ELSEWHERE for their education. Some programs can never compete with specialized schools "Outside", however, it's important to maintain them to a lesser degree so our Alaskan students have a strong foundation to become successful in their field. It would be better to at least have our youth attend in Alaska for their first few years of college, then transfer elsewhere, than to lose them entirely to schools outside. Think of THAT financial loss!

Please reconsider the cuts, and maintain the funding for the University system.

Thank you,

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