

James R. Johnsen, Ed.D.

President

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January 18, 2019

Dear Teacher Education Students –

I want to personally apologize to you for the disruption, concern, and confusion caused by the revocation of the University of Alaska Anchorage teacher education initial licensure program's accreditation. The university has failed you in our promise to deliver a degree from a CAEP accredited program. That is a breach of trust that the Board of Regents, Chancellor Sandeen, and I commit to rectify.

Resolving this problem and your needs is our highest priority. We have successfully worked with Commissioner Michael Johnson and the state Department of Education and Early Development to approve licensure for UAA's spring and summer semester graduates, which has been secured, and we will continue those efforts in the days ahead to obtain approval for teacher licensure for all affected students no matter when they are set to complete the program. Our continued work also means tasking an internal team to facilitate transfer if you choose to pursue your degree at UAF or UAS, which both have accredited programs. We hope that you will stay at UAA, but it's your call and if you decide to transfer, we commit to doing everything we can to make that happen as seamlessly as possible. And, I will keep you informed as we go.

To that point, the Board of Regents plans to hold a meeting with you, the education faculty, and the public in the near future to talk with you directly and hear your concerns. We will be in touch shortly to provide the details.

I welcome your thoughts, so if you would like to contact me or Chancellor Sandeen personally, please email us at ua.president@alaska.edu or uaa.chancellor@alaska.edu. I hope you will participate in the upcoming Board of Regents meeting.

With the full support of the Board and Chancellor Sandeen, I personally promise that we will do all I can to make this right for you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'James R. Johnsen'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Jim Johnsen

President, University of Alaska