



UNIVERSITY of ALASKA
ANCHORAGE

Presentation to the House Finance Subcommittee Chair: Rep. Tammie Wilson

Leveraging Grant Funds and Research Results through Commercialization

By:



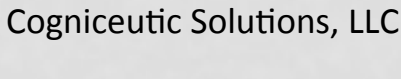
**Dr. Helena S. Wisniewski
Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Studies
Dean, Graduate School**

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LEVERAGING GRANTS AND RESEARCH RESULTS

- **UAA leverages grants and research to benefit Alaskans, by commercializing results and contributing to:**
 - Economic development,
 - Alaska based industry,
 - Public service,
 - Training and instruction,
 - Research on state related priorities and areas of concern,
 - Enhancing national recognition for the university and Alaska.
- **For FY 15 UAA's projected grant revenue is \$30,467,735, up from \$28,579,376 in FY 14. Of the \$30M, the state contribution to support and supplement research and grants is \$10,586,391.**

LEVERAGING FACULTY AND STUDENT GRANT SUPPORTED RESEARCH THROUGH ITS COMMERCIALIZATION TO BENEFIT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Office of Research and Graduate Studies**, under leadership of the Vice Provost for Research & Graduate Studies (VPRGS), nurtures, develops and promotes commercialization to benefit economic development, and manages UAA's patent portfolio. Significant achievements since FY11:
 - **Invention disclosures increased** to 38 up from 2 in FY11,
 - **Patents pending** increased to 21 up from 1 in FY11, and
 - **Number of patents awarded** has more than quadrupled.
 - **UAA is licensing patents and creating startup companies** - \$16,000 in royalties to date.
- **The VPRGS with the inventors formed the first three UAA startup companies –**
 -  Zensor, LLC
 -  CFT Solutions, LLC
 -  Cogniceutic Solutions, LLC
- **Startups can produce a significant revenue stream** for the university, create jobs, and provide new industries. At a previous university VPRGS sold two startups bringing revenues of \$22M.
- **To facilitate commercialization VPRGS established a commercialization infrastructure** – approved by UA BOR - Seawolf Holdings, LLC a subsidiary of UAA licenses university patents to bring resultant products to market, holds equity on behalf of the university; Seawolf Venture Fund, LP will provide early stage investment.
- **Increasing national recognition** through AUTM; and National Council of Entrepreneurial Tech Transfer (investment opportunities).
- **Patent Wall of Fame** – recognizes faculty who were awarded patents and provides an incentive. First student inducted in December 2014.

LEVERAGING NEW FEDERAL FUNDING

- **UAA has recently been selected by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as the Lead of a new DHS National Center of Excellence (COE).**
Expected funding is **\$17 Million over 5 years.**
- **The PI and COE Executive Director, Dr. Wisniewski, the Vice Provost for Research at UAA. University partners include UAF** and universities and companies across the US and in Canada.
 - **Provides national recognition** as one of the 12 DHS COEs; **positions** the university for additional funding. **First time DHS selected an institution in Alaska to be a center lead.**
 - **Provides benefits to the community and** state by addressing USCG challenges in Arctic maritime domain awareness, and other DHS missions.
 - **A focus is to commercialize and transition products based on research results** to DHS, and industry. This will contribute to the UAA IP portfolio for licensing, startups and economic benefits. SBIRs and STTRs from DHS are limited to the DHS COEs.
 - **Benefit to Alaskan based corporations/entities** - GeoNorth, an Alaskan Native Corporation is a partner; and the Port of Anchorage.
 - **A UAA's startup** – ZENSOR is approved to develop, build and test new platforms, based on its technology, for the COE.
 - **F&A - Grant expected to provide \$2.9M in F&A to UAA.**

LEVERAGING INTERNAL FUNDING

- **Innovate Awards – leverage internal funding** and providing incentives to faculty. The awards provide seed money to launch critical endeavors and encourage collaboration.
- **These Awards have brought UAA a financial return on research investment of over 3 to 1.**
- They have also led to publications in peer review journals, presentations at international conferences, patents pending.
- **Two** of the UAA startups received innovate awards that enabled their success.

EXAMPLES OF EXISTING UAA PROGRAMS, AND CENTERS THAT LEVERAGE EXTERNAL FUNDING TO BENEFIT ALASKANS

- **ANSEP – nationally recognized program that helps Alaska Natives succeed in STEM areas - 95% successfully transition to science/engineering degree programs.** For FY 15, Will leverage \$862,100 in federal grants, and \$4,960,000 in state grants to continue its work in public service, and teaching to continue its benefits to Alaska Native students.
- **The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) contributes to economic development** by providing no-cost advising services and low cost educational programs to entrepreneurs to start, or grow their small business. It leverages \$630,000 in federal funding from the US Small Business Administration coupled with a State earmark of \$630,000 for 1:1 matching funds.
- **UAA Business Enterprise Institute (BEI)** links economic development programs across the University of Alaska (UA) system. Received a new contract from the Army Corp of Engineers, funding amounts expected are \$1.2M per year – averaging \$100K per month.
- **Center for Behavioral Health Research and Services (CBHRS)** - focuses on pressing community health problems in Alaska, relating to human behavior: alcohol misuse, suicide, homelessness, and chronic diseases. It leverages \$1,102, 200 in federal funding and \$357,500 from the state.
- **AHEC** - strengthens systems to deliver comprehensive and culturally relevant health care to rural Alaskans.

LEVERAGING SPECIAL CATEGORY GRANTS AND F&A

- **Leveraging Special category grants.**
 - INBRE, EPSCoR, CTRs – provide the basis to prepare for additional competitive funding.
 - INBRE and EPSCoR funding was leveraged to win \$1,447,035 in competitive funding in FY13 and FY14.
- **Leveraging F&A:** Total **projection for FY 15** is \$7,412,254, and of this amount the state portion is \$846,911.
 - Leveraged to support infrastructure, ensure delivery of grant objectives, and furthering research and commercialization.
 - **The distribution is:** 12.8% to UA statewide, and at UAA 41.7% for facilities and infrastructure, and 45.5% to support delivery of grant objectives, grant application support and research endeavors.

CLOSING REMARKS

- Leveraging grants and research benefits the University, economic development, and positions for additional federal funding and enhances national recognition for the university and the State.
- The State can consider the university a resource and leverage its expertise to help define new directions and help make Alaska a hub for innovation that grows the Alaskan economy, attracts new investment, industry and talent to the State and retains talent in the State.
- Many States in the lower 48 have taken this approach and their economy benefitted from it. They used their universities to help create innovation clusters that attracted new investment, industry and talent to the state, and retained talent in the state.