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# STATE OF ALASKA

ALASKA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

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SB 488

## ENDOWED CHAIRS

1. The earnings from an endowed chair usually provide an individual faculty member with the financial support and flexibility to explore new teaching methods, to formulate and test new theories and to disseminate his findings. By enhancing support for research and teaching, endowed chairs enable a university to attract and retain distinguished scholars.
2. The existence of an endowed chair in a particular discipline creates a nucleus for attracting other distinguished faculty and students, enhancing the quality of the department and, over time, the reputation of the university as a whole.
3. All of the great universities in the nation have endowed chairs. U.C.L.A. has 14 endowed chairs alone.
4. The endowed chairs can be in disciplines from which research will provide tangible benefits to the Alaskan citizenry (e.g., fisheries biology, geology, etc.)
5. An endowed chair usually provides the salary and benefits of the professor. Moreover, the income from an endowed chair may be used for the hiring of a secretary or assistant to handle routine matters (thereby freeing the professor to spend more time for students and research) or to provide research assistantships to students under the direct supervision of the professor.

Background Information for SB 488

Schools contacted:

Private: Harvard, Yale, Univ. Southern California (USC)

Public: Univ. Calif. at Los Angeles (UCLA), Univ. of Oregon, Univ. of Washington

Institution	Endowment Size Per Chair	Endowment Source	Earnings Used For	Restrictions
Harvard	\$1 million	Private	Salary/Benefits	By discipline
Yale	\$1 million	Private	Salary/Benefits	By discipline
USC	\$1 million	Private	Salary/Benefits	By discipline
UCLA	\$500,000 to \$1 million	Private	No basic salary - Research Asst's, equipment, etc.	By discipline
U of Oregon	\$500,000 to \$1 million	Private	Salary/Benefits	By discipline
U of W	\$1 million	Private	Salary/Benefits	By discipline