



# The Juneau Chamber of Commerce

9301 Glacier Hwy, Suite 110 • Juneau AK 99801

## Board Members

- Eric Eriksen, President**  
AEL&P
- Dan Fabrello, Past President**  
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Juneau Empire
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Alaska USA FCU
- Max Mertz**  
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- Bill Peters,**  
True North FCU
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Don Abel Building Supply
- Travis McCain**  
Alaska Litho
- Hayden Garrison**  
Creative Source
- Charlie Williams**  
Valley Paint Center
- Linda Thomas**  
Alaskan Brewing Co
- Erica Simpson**  
Alaska Excursions
- Dan Bruce**  
Baxter, Bruce & Sullivan

## Benefactor Members

- Alaska Airlines
- Alaska Communications
- Alaska Marine Lines
- AVISTA
- Exxon Mobil
- Fred Meyer
- Huna Totem Corp.
- Juneau Empire
- Juneau Radio Center
- Northrim Bank
- Sealaska

## Platinum Members

- AEL&P
- Alaska USA FCU
- Alaskan Brewing Company
- Alaska Litho
- Allen Marine
- Bartlett Regional Hospital
- BP Alaska
- CBJ (Manager's Office)
- Capital Office Systems
- Chad Erickson State Farm
- Chatham Electric
- Coastal Helicopters
- Coeur Alaska, Inc.
- ConocoPhillips
- Coogan Construction
- Delta Western
- Elgee Rehfeld & Mertz
- First Bank
- First National Bank of Alaska
- GCI
- Goldbelt, Inc.
- Hecla Greens Creek Mining
- Key Bank
- SEARHC
- Shattuck & Grummett
- Samson Tug & Barge
- Sportsman's Warehouse
- Taku Glacier Lodge
- Taku Oil
- True North FCU
- UAS
- Wells Fargo Bank of Alaska
- Westmann and Associates

Jim Johnsen, President  
University of Alaska

December 9, 2016

*Delivered via email*

On behalf of the board of directors and members of the Greater Juneau Chamber of Commerce, I urge you and the board of regents to select UAS as the lead campus for teacher education.

We understand the challenges and tough decisions that have accompanied the severe cuts in the University's budget. However, we believe that the record of accomplishments for overseeing teacher education by UAS for the university system supports leaving that leadership in place.

- UAS serves teacher education students across the entire state—from Ketchikan and Metlakatla to the North Slope
- UAS Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) programs (Elementary, Secondary, Special Education) are model programs. UAS developed these long ago and has demonstrated their success in producing higher numbers of quality teachers
- The UAS Education program produced 80% more graduates annually than UAF in the past six years—198 on average versus 108 at UAF. The overall cost for educating a UAS student (full time equivalent) is two-thirds of that at UAF—about \$22,000 at UAS vs over \$33,000 at UAF
- UAS is efficient in producing quality teachers. It produced 15 graduates for every full-time faculty member versus 8 graduates/faculty at UAA and 5 at UAF
- UAS has the longest sustained program for educating Alaska Native teachers and administrators—PITAAS (Preparing Indigenous Teachers and Administrators for Alaska's Schools). Over the past five years, UAS graduated 159 Alaska Native educators versus 62 at UAF and 32 at UAA. In the same time period, UAS educated 27 newly certified Alaska Native teachers versus 17 at UAF
- Juneau School District reports that 48% of new teacher hires recently came from UAS. This is up significantly in recent years. Overall, 48% of all certified staff historically have come from elsewhere; recent hires show a strong uptick in UAS hires

From a business perspective, the total UAS budget across the Juneau, Ketchikan and Sitka campuses is a material component of our economy. Redirecting student tuition and fees from the UAS to the UAF campus could mean the loss of an additional \$2.8 million from Southeast; a significant portion of the total budget.

The facts that have been shared throughout our community are compelling and we urge you and the board of regents to protect and maintain UAS as a comprehensive regional university.

Respectfully

Craig E. Dahl, Executive Director  
The Greater Juneau Chamber of Commerce