



## SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

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To: Fairbanks North Star Borough School District School Board

From: Steve Atwater, Interim Dean 

Re: UAF School of Education Update

- I. **Symbiotic Relationship.** The relationship between the School of Education (SOE) and the FNSBSD is strong and symbiotic. Each year the SOE teacher preparation and school counselor programs place student interns and practicum students in District classrooms. In return, each year the District hires dozens of SOE prepared teachers and counselors. The interns spend a full year in a school(s) working with their mentor teachers. The UAF SOE thanks the FNSBSD for this good relationship and very much appreciates the willingness of several District teachers and counselors to help with the internship and practicum processes. As a part of our continuous improvement process members of my leadership team have begun meeting with Dr. Gaborik and her leadership team on a quarterly basis to ensure that the SOE is current with District initiatives and priorities and that the FNSBSD knows of changes to programs as the SOE.
- II. **Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP).** The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development requires the UAF SOE to meet the CAEP Accreditation Standards. This is achieved through the UAF SOE completing a self-study and then CAEP personnel conducting a site review. The five CAEP Standards are based on a continuous improvement model and include Standard 4 that requires the SOE to demonstrate the impact of its completers on P-12 student learning and development, classroom instruction, and schools and the satisfaction of its completers with the relevance and effectiveness of their preparation. This self-study was completed in August with a site visit scheduled at the end of April. Thank you to FNSBSD for their willingness to work with us on Standard 4 and for supporting our processes that are followed for gaining feedback on our completers.
- III. **Educators Rising.** The K-12 Outreach Office that is housed in the School of Education oversees the state's implementation of Educators Rising. Educators Rising is a national organization (formerly Future Teachers of America) that offers resources and support for high school students who are interested in becoming a teacher. The Department of Education and Early Development supports this work and paid for the development of a four-course career pathway in education that Educators Rising students follow. The four courses tied to this pathway are housed

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UAF is an AA/EO employer and educational institution.

at the K-12 Outreach Office. Twenty-six Alaska school districts have student chapters of Educators Rising. Fairbanks is engaged in preliminary work to begin a chapter.

- IV. **Strategic Pathways.** Since I met with you last year, the move to have a single UA College of Education has pivoted to now include one college of education at UAS and two divisions of education at UAA and UAF. The UAF School of Education will thus, be moved to a division inside of an existing college. This change, while significant to UAF, will have little or no impact on UAF education students. We will continue to offer our programs preparing teachers, counselors and students for graduate degrees. This move for the School of Education will occur at the end of the fiscal year.