The University of Alaska Fairbanks, Alaska’s flagship university, was founded in 1917. At statehood, our constitution established the university’s mandate to educate Alaskans. Today, more than 8,000 students across Alaska take classes with UAF in pursuit of degrees from occupational endorsements to doctorates. In addition, UAF is known for its strengths in Arctic research, workforce development and Alaska Native and Indigenous studies. We work hard to share the fruits of our discovery with Alaskans via data for local decision-makers, spinoff companies and Extension programming.

Nearly 20,000 University of Alaska Fairbanks alumni live and work in Alaska’s communities. They are the accountants, engineers, bankers, scientists, medical professionals and support staff who fuel Alaska’s business and industry. Growing our own is good business.

UAF is a major contributor to our state’s economic health and the quality of life in Alaska. The university has struggled with the cumulative effects of years of state budget cuts. Additional cuts will hinder our ability to provide students a well-rounded education, conduct research and provide important services to meet the needs of Alaskans.

- The governor is proposing a $134 million, or 41 percent, reduction to the University of Alaska’s state funding. This would be the largest budget cut in the university’s 100-year history.

- The impact of the governor’s proposed budget will be far greater than the $134 million cut to UA. The university drives Alaska’s economy. In addition to training and educating the workforce, UA generates $1.1 billion in economic activity annually, according to a 2015 study by the McDowell Group.

- The university’s budget contributes to Alaska’s economy. According to the 2015 McDowell Group study, the University of Alaska purchased $122.6 million in goods and services from more than 2,000 Alaska businesses and organizations. Approximately $39 million of that was spent in Fairbanks.

- The university is among the Interior’s largest employers.
• UAF has reduced over 650 positions since 2014. The governor’s proposed cut could mean the loss of more than 1,300 additional jobs throughout the UA system. Those are real people, not vacant positions.

• In the spring of 2018, UAF graduated more than 1,300 people with the skills Alaska businesses, nonprofits and government agencies need.

• More than 80 percent of our students are Alaska residents. Nearly 90 percent of our first-time freshmen come from Alaska high schools. UAF serves the needs of Alaska’s high school graduates and nontraditional students.

• UA research is an economic engine for Alaska. With UA research as a multiplier, every dollar invested in UA research brings over six dollars to Alaska. This is a good return on investment.

• UAF offers over 30 online degree programs ranging from occupational endorsements and certificates to graduate degrees. This allows students the flexibility to live and work anywhere in the world and receive a quality education.

• UAF has strong partnerships with business and industry. Graduates are prepared to meet Alaska’s unique challenges, and Alaska businesses look to UAF to provide their workforce.

• UAF has managed repeated reductions in state funding during the last five years. The cumulative effect of those cuts since FY15 is $76 million.

• A drastic reduction in state funding will likely cause a drop in other revenue streams. Tuition dollars drop when prospective students see a university cutting programs. Cuts mean fewer faculty members to apply for federal research dollars. These cuts could cause a snowball effect.

• The UA system’s current-year state general fund appropriation is $327 million. UAF received nearly $164 million, contributing to UAF’s overall budget of $456 million. Besides the state’s support, UAF’s budget comes from things like tuition and fees, federal research funding and grant overhead, all sources that rely on the state general fund to earn.

• The funding that the state supplies the university to operate is called undesignated general funds (UGF). The funding that the university earns from things like tuition, fees and federal research dollars is called designated general funds (DGF).