

Research Report provided by Vice Chancellor Larry Hinzman:

September and October are great months for Alaskan science. There have been many very high level meetings and UAF has played a central role in almost all of them.

President Obama used Alaska as a setting to promote his concern and agenda with climate change. Since that time, many high level cabinet members, ambassadors, and agency leads have visited UAF. These include the President's Science Advisor, Secretary of the Navy, Secretary of Energy, Administrator of EPA and Director of NSF. UAF has become synonymous with Arctic expertise.

We are also many other things including a fine undergraduate institution that works hard to provide our students with research experience and the knowledge and training necessary to secure a place in the nation's workforce as productive members of society. We are central to Alaska's evolving economy, stimulating economic diversity by introducing new discoveries, patents, licenses and the capable workforce to move these ideas to reality. To demonstrate that capability, on September 20, we invited all of Alaska's legislators to visit UAF to learn more about our expertise and facilities. The primary purpose of this event was to demonstrate to our legislators and other community and state leaders that UAF is producing research that has practical value and positive economic impact for the state. They toured many of our laboratories and visited faculty, staff and students to better understand our capabilities. We also hosted a round table discussion to learn how we may better serve the state and help Alaska recover from this financial crisis. We prepared many fliers from units throughout the university to emphasize our value and productivity. These will be shared with those legislators who were unable to participate in person. It is essential that our people continue to communicate with all our legislators to persuade them make the changes needed to stabilize our economy.

UAF remains a research powerhouse, as demonstrated in several recent reports from U Arctic:

Funding: <https://dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.3811224>

Altmetric <https://dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.3811242>

Scopus

https://www.elsevier.com/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/204353/Arctic-Research-Publication-Trends-August-2016.pdf

Last week, several UAF researchers participated in events supporting the White House Arctic Science Ministerial. We were repeatedly told that this international meeting of ministers found its seed in discussions held at UAF in August 2015. There is more information here:

<http://www.arcticobserving.org/news/225-the-white-house-arctic-science-ministerial> and already there are active discussions regarding collaborations for implementation.

This week, the Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials will meet in Portland, Maine to continue to promote advances in Arctic science and policy. One product was creation of a digital elevation map of Alaska. <https://www.nga.mil/MediaRoom/PressReleases/Pages/Arctic3DAlaska.aspx> The need for improved elevation mapping was a high priority for UAF researchers and we pushed emphatically to have this included among the priorities of the US Chairmanship. This mapping capability will be expanded to include the whole Arctic.

The Arctic Council led by the US Chair continues to make good progress in achieving the goals laid out nearly two years ago, including an international agreement on Scientific Cooperation.

<http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/our-work2/8-news-and-events/408-sctf-ottawa-july-2016>

Everyone expects this agreement to be signed at the next Arctic Council Ministerial, to be held in Fairbanks in May 2017. So, this agreement is likely to be called the Fairbanks Declaration.

Listening Sessions were held with those who had concerns or suggestions for the Office of Research Integrity, the Office of Intellectual Property and Commercialization, the Animal Resources Center, and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research. Several were quite well attended and good ideas were solicited and will be acted upon.

Larry Hinzman

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