

## Modernize the student experience

- Strongly supports students with families.
- Holistically supports students by nurturing and encouraging physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health.
- Ambitiously expands access to undergraduate research opportunities.

As UAF builds towards 2025, the vision for modernizing the student experience is not merely to capacitate students by endowing them with knowledge and understanding in the classroom but also to position students such that they can actively respond to stakeful problems that they care about, problems they are invested in and engaged by. In order to achieve this important goal, it is essential that students are empowered to become boundary spanners and change agents. Boundary spanners are visionaries. They see how traditional fields of knowledge can be integrated and transcended. Change agents are energetic innovators, and they set ideas in motion.

### **Who are we now?**

UAF is a strong institution bearing exciting and, in some cases, unparalleled opportunities for its students. In particular, by virtue of its highly favorable faculty to student ratio.

In particular, modernizing the student experience at UAF by 2025 will rely on three major areas of growth. Those will provide ample opportunity for students to access 1) experiential learning, including faculty-led travel experiences, diverse internships (including, ideally, paid internships), pre-doctoral positions and field-based research experiences, 2) a vibrant culture of student innovation, research and active learning, including opportunities to become engaged at the research institutes and in programming that focuses on service learning, and 3) a campus environment that supports the student's holistic well-being.

### **Examples of opportunities for aspirational change**

- Every academic program at UAF can develop its own robust low-residency program for online students interested in traveling to Alaska from all over the world throughout their online degree.
- Establish a Center for Teaching Excellence through which faculty can gain access to cutting-edge pedagogical techniques.
- Expand the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activity to focus on guaranteeing that 100 percent of all students engage in research.
- Fold all UAF recreation, health and mental health services into a singular, dynamic center focusing on a holistic approach to student wellness.
- Establish the Center for Scholar Development, focusing on recruiting and improving student applications for highly prestigious national and international scholarships, such as Rhodes, Truman and Goldwater.
- Establish the UAF Student Success Center, bringing together comprehensive and highly coordinated academic advising, student support, course registration, supplemental instruction, career advising and peer mentorship in a single highly interactive, welcoming space.
- Revise the UAF policy regarding developmental education at UAF in order to maximize the potential for student success.
- Significantly reduce high fail-rate gateway courses by providing strong supplemental instruction and peer mentorship.
- Establish new and groundbreaking graduate education programs across a variety of interdisciplinary fields.
- Expand internship and leadership programming to establish a distinguishing reputation for service-based learning, experiential education and civic engagement.
- Further expand living-learning community residential programs on campus.
- Establish a modern, accessible day care facility for students with families. While students are in class, their children (of all ages) can be monitored in a safe, interactive and engaging environment.
- Establish a dog park on campus.
- Revitalize the library to feel like the town hall of campus — its center of gravity — such that curiosity and research remain at the core of UAF's shared purpose.
- Extend new programs to further interlink our campus and its students with rural Alaska and in particular the rural campuses.
- Following the lead of the State University of New York system, establish widely expanding public support for tuition relief for Alaska students whose family incomes fall under a given threshold.

## **Concluding remarks**

The modernizing the student experience team was diversely constituted by participants hailing from all corners of campus — including academics, residence life, athletics, advising, recreation, and beyond. In addition to the staff and faculty who served on the committee, we also included several students, alumni and community partners. In addition to meeting regularly throughout the year, the team invited several administrators, staff leaders and stakeholders to conduct presentations. We also facilitated student focus