
Fw: Investing in Bristol Bay

From Alice Ruby <alice.ruby@dillinghamak.us>
Date Fri 9/18/2026 12:02 PM
To Abigail Flynn <abigail.flynn@dillinghamak.us>
Cc Jack Savo <jack.savo@dillinghamak.us>

Hi Abigail. Would you include this email from the University in the information section of the council packet please.

I asked Jennifer Dewinne to share BBAHc's plans by speaking at a council meeting. She accepted the invite but wanted to wait till they closed on the building. She can also maybe talk about their plans for the Aleknagik building and the apartments on Windmill Hill. I will check with her in the next week or so.

Alice

From: University of Alaska Office of the President <ua-president@alaska.edu>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 2:31 PM
Subject: Investing in Bristol Bay

To my fellow Alaskans,

Thank you for sharing your thoughts and concerns about UAF's Applied Sciences Building during last week's public testimony

I appreciate the time you took to speak with passion, concern and deep care for your community. The Board of Regents and I listened carefully to what you shared. We heard that you felt blindsided, confused and that decisions about your opportunities were being handed down from Fairbanks and Anchorage without consideration for you or your voice. I assure you that was never our intent and not our process. We are a public institution, and your voice is central to our shared success. I apologize that we fell short on this occasion.

The message we've heard from you and the Bristol Bay community has been clear and consistent since we began conversations about the building last year. We understand the building is an important regional asset and that it should continue to serve Bristol Bay. We've also heard your requests to bring more classes and opportunities to the region. At the same time, as we've shared consistently, the University is a public organization and must be a responsible steward of our resources.

To balance these needs - keeping the building as a community asset, bringing classes to the region, and the University's fiduciary responsibility - I can confirm that UAF is in discussions to sell the building to the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation.

The proposed sale is designed to benefit the University, BBAHC, and the Bristol Bay community. Here's how:

- The university will use some proceeds from the sale to support the main Bristol Bay Campus facility and launch a new community campus delivery model, which brings courses from UAF, UAA and UAS to the region.
- This means the courses you've asked for can be available starting in the spring 2027 (January-May) semester. We've heard strong interest in learning skills useful for living and working in the region, with courses on Toyostove repair, welding and construction, maritime, as well as courses in Alaska Native knowledge systems like tribal governance and traditional arts led by our elders and culture bearers. Learn more about this new model on our [website](#).
- In the meantime, classes previously held at the building have been relocated to UAF's main campus facility and will continue as planned.
- BBAHC anticipates leveraging the facility to expand regional clean-water testing, support housing needs associated with healthcare services, and strengthen workforce training and development for the region.
- UAF will lease back one apartment, and may look for additional off-campus leased space as needed.

Bristol Bay Campus depends on active participation from the community. Today, I'm asking for your input on which courses from UAF, UAA and UAS we should bring to the Bristol Bay Campus. While we won't be able to bring every course to Dillingham, many are on the table—and that is where you come in. Please tell us what you want to learn through [our feedback form](#).

On behalf of the Board of Regents, UA values our relationship with Bristol Bay. To further our relationship, I look forward to visiting Dillingham this fall with a small group of senior leaders for ongoing conversations on our shared future.

I appreciate you taking the time to hold us accountable, and we look forward to continued collaboration with the community to keep the region strong.

Sincerely,

Matt Cooper
President
University of Alaska

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