Aerial view of the NOAA Auke Bay Marine Station property and the adjoining UAS Anderson Building

University of Alaska Auke Bay Marine Station (ABMS) Property Proposal

Executive Summary

The rich natural, social, and cultural environment surrounding the Juneau Campus provides ample opportunities for UAS' place-based interdisciplinary programs. Acquisition of the 3.96-acre ABMS property is a strategic priority for UAS to provide a single on-campus location to consolidate the teaching, learning, research, and service activities for the STEM bachelor's degree programs in biology, marine biology, fisheries, environmental science, and geography as envisioned in the UAS 2012 Master Plan.[1]

Education, Research and Service Programs Proposed for the ABMS Property

The University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) offers distinctive place-based baccalaureate degree programs on the Juneau Campus which include marine biology, biology, fisheries, environmental sciences, mathematics, geography, social sciences, liberal arts, Alaska Native studies and outdoor studies.

Acquiring the ABMS property adjacent to the UAS Anderson Building will provide UAS with the opportunity to spatially co-locate multiple academic programs in the natural sciences to promote the development of interdisciplinary program convergence[2] on the Juneau Campus. Promoting convergence is a national priority for university programs in the natural sciences; convergence will be required of future scientists and citizens to address the complex scientific questions facing society. The acquisition of the ABMS property provides UAS with additional space for improving academic support services, applied research, marine operations, student recreation and outdoor studies programming opportunities.

The ABMS property is uniquely suited to support UAS' educational program and institutional mission. Acquisition of this property has the power to transform the student academic experience and the campus' engagement with interdisciplinary sciences. UAS proposes eight program components for the ABMS property:

Component 1: Natural Sciences Research Laboratory (NSRL) program: Relocate research and teaching activities from the off-campus Natural Sciences Research Laboratory (NSRL) to the ABMS.

Component 2. Environmental science and geography program: Relocate the interdisciplinary environmental science and geography instructional programs and faculty and staff office spaces from the Auke Lake side of the Juneau Campus to the ABMS property located next to the Anderson Building (which houses biology and marine biology programs) on Auke Bay to co-locate these programs' activities in one on-campus location.

Component 3: Marine fisheries program: Dedicate space for development of new programming in marine fisheries to support: (a) new course offerings in marine fisheries; (b) a new joint BS Fisheries degree program

[1] http://www.uas.alaska.edu/facilities_services/master-plan.html

[2] "Convergence is an approach to problem solving that cuts across disciplinary boundaries. It integrates knowledge, tools, and ways of thinking from science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines to form a comprehensive synthetic framework for tackling scientific and societal challenges that exist at the interfaces of multiple fields." NRC. 2014. The National Academies Press.

offered in partnership with the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF); and (c) oceanographic laboratory space and equipment to support teaching and research in marine fisheries.

Component 4: Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP): Dedicate space to the Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program (ANSEP) at UAS for offering and integrating academic support services and cultural program activities.

Component 5: Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center (ACRC) program: Relocate the UAS Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center (ACRC) faculty and staff from the USFS Pacific Northwest Research Station Juneau Forestry Sciences Laboratory (PNWRS JFSL) facility to the ABMS property.

Component 6: Applied research and economic development program: Dedicate marine laboratory facilities for interdisciplinary partnerships in applied research and economic development with agencies and private industry (e.g. fisheries, aquaculture, mariculture).

Component 7: Marine operations for support of teaching and research programs: Provide a university-owned dock and space to offer UAS students, faculty and community partners research vessel moorage, boat and trailer storage, and secure staging areas for marine operations in support of teaching and research.

Component 8: Student recreation and outdoor studies program: Dedicate space for student recreation and outdoor studies programs for support of co-curricular recreational activities, interdisciplinary academic instruction and equipment maintenance/storage.

Juneau Community Support for the UAS Mission and ABMS Property Acquisition

In February 2015 the City and Borough of Juneau adopted the Juneau Economic Development Plan.[3] UAS is an integral part of two of the plan's strategies: (a) *Attract and Prepare the Next Generation Workforce*; and (b) *Recognize and Expand Juneau's Position as a Research Center*. These initiatives strengthen Juneau's community commitment to support teaching and research at UAS, particularly in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields for workforce and economic development. UAS actively participates in the Juneau Economic Development Council's Research & Development Cluster Working Group.[4] In March 2016 the working group spearheaded a community effort to have Southeast Alaska recognized as a "*Community of Excellence in Research*" by the Alaska State Committee for Research.[5]

In March 2015 the City and Borough of Juneau adopted the Auke Bay Area Plan.[6] The plan highlights that the "University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) provides a breadth of higher education and outdoor programs that attract students from around the globe." The Auke Bay vision recognizes the importance of UAS students and programs to the community:

> "Auke Bay is a community that offers: gateways to many outdoor activities, including fishing, kayaking, boating, hiking, and bicycling; study and programs at the University of Alaska Southeast; and history and cultural significance for the Aak'w Kwáan who have made Auke Bay their home for millennia."

By acquiring the ABMS property UAS seeks the privilege of continuing the historical legacy of the ABMS as an interdisciplinary research and education center. UAS will ensure that the ABMS continues to serve as the hub for a regional network of university, agency and industry scientists doing collaborative and convergent research that will support our communities as they work to manage and sustain the natural resources of Southeast Alaska.

[3] http://www.juneau.org/archive/pdfs/20150226040900.pdf
[4] http://www.jedc.org/southeast-cluster-initiative-rd
[5] http://juneauempire.com/neighbors/2016-03-12/southeast-alaska-recognized-states-first-community-excellence-research
[6] http://www.juneau.org/aukebayplan/

University of Alaska
Application for the Auke Bay Marine Station Property
Abridged Version with Letters of Support

Federal Real Property Assistance Program
Submitted to United States Department of Education
August 26, 2016

Aerial view of the NOAA Auke Bay Marine Station property
and the adjoining
University of Alaska Southeast Anderson Building

Proposed Educational Program

University of Alaska (UA) System Profile

Alaska was still a territory in 1915 when the United States Congress set aside federal lands near Fairbanks for a land-grant college. In 1917 the Alaska territorial legislature approved a statute establishing the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines which opened in 1922. In 1935 the institution was renamed the University of Alaska.

The University of Alaska (UA) [1] system, which covers an area one-fifth the size of the contiguous United States, is governed by an 11-member Board of Regents, appointed by the governor and confirmed by the legislature. All but the student regent, who serves a two-year term, serve eight-year staggered terms. The board reviews and approves educational policy, degree programs, campus development, and budget requests. The board appoints the president, who is responsible for the administration of the system and serves as executive officer of the Board of Regents.

There are three regionally-accredited universities in the UA system: UA Anchorage, UA Fairbanks and UA Southeast; each university has extended community campus sites across the state. A chancellor who reports to the president heads each university. These three regional universities, along with UA Statewide, make up the four major administrative units of the UA system.

University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) Profile

The University of Alaska Southeast[2] (UAS) mission is student learning enhanced by faculty scholarship, undergraduate research and creative activities, community engagement, and the cultures and environment of Southeast Alaska. UAS' vision is to be recognized as a destination of choice for students seeking excellent academic programs and engaging learning opportunities that integrate the environment and cultures of Southeast Alaska. UAS vigorously pursues this mission and vision in alignment with the UAS Strategic and Assessment Plan 2010-2017.[3]

UAS is a regional institution accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). UAS has campuses in Juneau, Ketchikan, and Sitka. UAS faculty and staff place a special emphasis on supporting student success by providing personalized services, proactive advising, and student support. With no community colleges in the area, UAS is presented with the regional challenge of providing community college, baccalaureate, and graduate programs from one institution.

UAS regional academic units include the School of Arts & Sciences, School of Education, School of Management, and School of Career Education. In fall semester of 2015 the UAS regional enrollment headcount was 967 full-time and 2,429 part-time students (Table 1.02b, p. 14);[4] 15 percent of UAS students are Alaska Native and/or American Indian (Table 1.04, p. 16).[5] Southeast Alaska is the ancestral home of the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples; their presence extends back several thousand years. The preservation and advancement of Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian cultures and languages are increasingly reflected in UAS programs and campus activities.

[1] https://www.alaska.edu/alaska/
[2] http://uas.alaska.edu/
[3] http://www.uas.alaska.edu/UAS_StrategicPlan/
[4] http://www.alaska.edu/swbir/ir/reports/ua-in-review/UAR2016/UAR-2016-Draft.pdf
[5] Ibid

UAS in the Juneau Community

UAS offers distinctive baccalaureate programs on the Juneau Campus which include marine biology, biology, environmental sciences, geography, mathematics, social sciences, liberal arts, Alaska Native studies and outdoor studies. Juneau is Alaska's capital city (population 31,300) and is the largest city and borough in Southeast Alaska (regional population 74,400). Juneau is geographically remote from the rest of the state and accessible only by water or air travel. The Alaska Marine Highway System connects Juneau to the road system by ferry; Alaska Airlines is the major air carrier serving the region.

UAS is a vital part of Juneau's economy which is based upon government, mining, fishing, tourism, and services. In February 2015 the City and Borough of Juneau adopted the Juneau Economic Development Plan[6] of which UAS is an integral part of two of the plan's strategy initiatives to: (a) Attract and Prepare the Next Generation Workforce; and (b) Recognize and Expand Juneau's Position as a Research Center. Both of these initiatives strengthen Juneau's community commitment to support teaching and research at UAS, particularly in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields for workforce and economic development. UAS participates actively in the Juneau Economic Development Council's Research & Development Cluster Working Group.[7] In March 2016 the working group spearheaded a community effort to have Southeast Alaska recognized as a "Community of Excellence in Research" by the Statewide Committee on Research (SCoR).[8]

In March 2015 the City and Borough of Juneau adopted the Auke Bay Area Plan.[9] The plan highlights that the "University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) provides a breadth of higher education and outdoor programs that attract students from around the globe." The Auke Bay vision recognizes the importance of UAS students and programs to the community:

> "Auke Bay is a community that offers: gateways to many outdoor activities, including fishing, kayaking, boating, hiking, and bicycling; study and programs at the University of Alaska Southeast; and history and cultural significance for the Aak'w Kwáan who have made Auke Bay their home for millennia."

UAS Juneau Campus Master Plan

The UAS Juneau Campus is situated on a spectacular setting between Auke Lake and Auke Bay with stunning views of water, mountains and glaciers. The Juneau Campus is the largest of the three UAS campuses and is the only campus with student housing; it has both a freshman dormitory and student apartments. The UAS Master Plan[10] was revised and updated in 2012 to better align it with UAS' mission; the Master Plan shapes the UAS campuses to take strategic advantage of the physical and cultural environments of Southeast Alaska.

The revised UAS 2012 Master Plan was approved by the UA Board of Regents in 2013[11] and serves as a dynamic document that engages the broader UAS community in identification of existing facility needs and to take advantage of anticipated opportunities in light of changing educational program needs. As the primary planning tool for campus development, the UAS Master Plan invites "continuous improvement" in responding quickly and flexibly to emerging needs and opportunities. The Master Plan is used by faculty and administration for guiding, developing, and evaluating capital funding needs, designing new facilities, re-purposing those facilities already in place, and in enhancing the built and natural campus environments.

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[6] http://www.juneau.org/archive/pdfs/20150226040900.pdf
[7] http://www.jedc.org/southeast-cluster-initiative-rd
[8] http://juneauempire.com/neighbors/2016-03-12/southeast-alaska-recognized-states-first-community-excellence-research
[9] http://www.juneau.org/aukebayplan/
[10] http://www.uas.alaska.edu/facilities_services/master-plan.html
[11] https://cms-prod-edit.alaska.edu/files/bor/130411-12_Summary_of_Actions.pdf

UAS is proposing to acquire the NOAA Auke Bay Marine Station (ABMS) to meet program needs and space priorities identified in the UAS 2012 Master Plan. The opportunity to acquire the ABMS property aligns well with the analysis and institutional priorities described in the 2012 Master Plan. The ABMS property was not identified as an opportunity for acquisition in the 2012 Master Plan because the property was leased by NOAA to the US Coast Guard (USCG) in 2007 when the NOAA Alaska Fisheries Science Center's Auke Bay Laboratories moved from the ABMS to the Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute (TSMRI) at Lena Point. Under the lease, the USCG assumed control of the ABMS property and the NOAA Auke Bay Laboratories (ABL) retained access to the site for use of office space, dive locker, and docking facilities. After the USCG occupied the ABMS, UAS did not have reason to believe this property would be available for future university acquisition so it was not included in the 2012 Master Plan.

In 2015 the UAS Master Plan Implementation Committee[12] reviewed the Juneau Auke Lake Strategy[13] for orienting new development of facilities around the campus center. This strategy envisioned that UAS would: (a) lease or sell the Natural Sciences Research Lab (NSRL) building and move programs to a new science space on the main campus; and (b) create a new physical home for environmental science and geography programs. The strategy also included recognizing the Tlingit cultural heritage of the Auke Lake and Auke Bay area.

Regarding program-based space needs, the 2012 Master Plan identified the addition of an academic classroom/office building (21,890 Gross Square Feet) as the number one Mid-Term Project Priority (2014-2019; pages 92-93). Long-term (2019 and beyond) the Master Plan assumes that the NSRL will have been sold/leased (page 42) and identifies the priority for a new Physical Science facility (25,200 GSF) located on the Juneau Campus (pages 94-95) to accommodate this shift of program operations. In analyzing space needs based on variance from national and university standards the Master Plan also identifies that the greatest space need on the Juneau Campus is for recreation and physical education (pages 42-43). The ABMS property is well-suited to meet both of these needs because it has historically supported similar science programs and it is well located for enhancing recreational and physical education programs.

Proposed Educational Program for the Auke Bay Marine Station (ABMS) Property

The rich natural, social, and cultural environment surrounding the Juneau Campus provides ample opportunities for the place-based interdisciplinary programs offered by the Departments of Humanities, Social Sciences and Natural Sciences in the School of Arts and Sciences. Acquisition of the 3.96-acre ABMS property is a strategic priority for the School of Arts & Sciences in order to provide a single on-campus location to consolidate the Department of Natural Sciences' teaching, learning, research, and service activities for the bachelor's degree programs in biology, marine biology, environmental science, and geography as envisioned in the UAS 2012 Master Plan.

Acquiring the ABMS property adjacent to the UAS Anderson Building will provide UAS with the opportunity to spatially co-locate academic programs in the natural sciences and promote the development of interdisciplinary program convergence[14] on the Juneau Campus. Promoting convergence is a national priority for university programs in the natural sciences; convergence will be required of future scientists and citizens to address the complex scientific questions facing society. Consultation with the faculty in the Department of Natural Sciences confirmed strong support for this property acquisition. UAS has endorsed this property acquisition with a commitment to utilize institutional funds, grants and gifts to develop the programs and facilities located there.

[12] http://www.uas.alaska.edu/vicechancellor/mpic.html

[13] Page 17; http://www.uas.alaska.edu/vicechancellor/docs/mpic-meeting-notes/2014-10-01/141001_mpic_master_plan_introduction_ppt_wkg.pdf

[14] "Convergence is an approach to problem solving that cuts across disciplinary boundaries. It integrates knowledge, tools, and ways of thinking from science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines to form a comprehensive synthetic framework for tackling scientific and societal challenges that exist at the interfaces of multiple fields." NRC. 2014. Convergence: Facilitating Transdisciplinary Integration of Life Science, Physical Science, Engineering, and Beyond. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.

The acquisition of the ABMS property provides additional space to take advantage of for improving student recreation and outdoor studies programming opportunities which are institutional priorities confirmed by both the UAS 2012 Master Plan and the special program review of the outdoor studies certificate and degree programs conducted in 2015-2016.

The proposed educational program for the ABMS property has eight components listed in relative priority order for space:

Component 1.	Natural Sciences Research Laboratory (NSRL) program
Component 2.	Environmental science and geography program
Component 3.	Marine fisheries program
Component 4.	Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP)
Component 5.	Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center (ACRC) program
Component 6.	Applied research and economic development program
Component 7.	Marine operations for support of teaching and research programs
Component 8.	Student recreation and outdoor studies program

Program Component Descriptions and Rationale

Component 1: Natural Sciences Research Laboratory (NSRL) program

Relocate research and teaching activities and staff from the off-campus Natural Sciences Research Laboratory (NSRL) to the ABMS property.

a) Purpose of the program component

The purpose of the relocation of faculty and staff along with their research and teaching activities from the NSRL to the ABMS property is two-fold. The first purpose is to eliminate the physical separation of the NSRL operations from the main Juneau Campus (the NSRL is located 2 miles south of the main Juneau Campus on Glacier Highway). The second, and most important purpose, is to add a property to the campus that will maximize the ability of the faculty, staff and students in the Department of Natural Sciences to collaborate to teach, learn and do research in adjacent buildings on Auke Bay. Interdisciplinary baccalaureate programs in environmental science, geography, biology, marine biology and fisheries will be strengthened and enhanced by the creation of a contiguous waterfront complex that houses all of the biological and environmental science programs on the Juneau Campus.

b) Why the program component needs to be implemented

The spatial separation of UAS' biological and environmental science facilities has created programmatic "silos" due to the separation of faculty, staff and students located at: (a) the Anderson Building , which houses the biology and marine biology programs; (b) the main campus on Auke Lake , which houses the faculty offices and teaching classrooms for environmental science, geography, geology and physics; (c) the NSRL, which houses the research and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) labs and research staff for environmental science, geography, forestry, and chemistry; and (d) the off-campus US Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station Juneau Forestry Sciences Laboratory (USFS PNWRS JFSL), which houses the research faculty and staff of the Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center.

The second and third floors of the NSRL provide infrastructure (gas lines, compressed air, fume hoods, and electrical supply) to support the use of analytical chemistry instrumentation and the GIS computer laboratories for research and teaching purposes. The NSRL is currently used to support what faculty consider

is an incompatible mix of analytical and field-based research activities. Processing of field samples with wet and "dirty" equipment tends to cause temperature and humidity fluctuations. These uses interfere with the maintenance of the adjacent "clean" lab spaces dedicated to environmental controls for analytical instrumentation used for chemical and biological analyses.

Sample introduction and data acquisition on NSRL analytical instrumentation is software-driven and requires intermittent monitoring by faculty to ensure the quality of analyses. Travel from the main campus, where faculty offices and teaching resources are located, to the NSRL limits faculty time for sample analysis and student supervision in the labs to non-teaching weekdays, evenings or weekends when the faculty operator is able to remain on-site for continuous time periods.

The facilities available on the ABMS property Main Building would provide a better configuration of space to support both field and analytical laboratory work now conducted at NSRL. Based on the historical utilization of the ABMS facilities, the existing laboratory spaces in the Main Building can address the UAS need to separate sensitive analytical instrumentation in labs away from the temperature and humidity fluctuations caused by foot traffic and the associated dust and dirt from field equipment and samples.

c) How the program component will directly benefit students

The relocation of the NSRL program operations to the ABMS property directly benefits students in all of UAS' bachelor's degree programs through increased on-campus opportunities for interdisciplinary natural science courses and hands-on undergraduate research experiences in accessible faculty research laboratories. Relocating environmental science and geography research laboratories to the ABMS property will allow students greater ability to participate in undergraduate research activities in labs with faculty mentors. Greater access to employment opportunities as research technicians and laboratory assistants for grant-funded research will directly benefit students as a result of the relocation of the NSRL operations to the Juneau Campus.

Component 2. Environmental science and geography program

Relocate the environmental science and geography instructional programs and faculty and staff office spaces from the Auke Lake side of the Juneau Campus to the ABMS property located next to the Anderson Building (which houses biology and marine biology programs) on Auke Bay to co-locate these programs' interdisciplinary teaching, research and service activities in one on-campus location.

a) Purpose of the program component

The move of the environmental science and geography program faculty, staff and instruction from their currently distributed campus locations to the facilities available on the ABMS property, which is adjacent to the Anderson Building, would co-locate all of the baccalaureate-level science programs on the Juneau Campus. This consolidation would result in a tremendous boost to UAS faculty teaching and research capabilities by adding large, aesthetically-pleasing spaces dedicated to the environmental sciences and geography programs. These programs currently do not have co-located teaching, research and office spaces. Consolidation of the environmental science and geography programs with the biology and marine biology programs on a beautiful Auke Bay property would enhance the quality and visibility of UAS' signature interdisciplinary STEM programs.

b) Why the program component needs to be implemented

The UAS environmental science and geography instructional programs have one dedicated teaching laboratory and one lecture classroom with a small storage closet for all physical science instructional

materials and field supplies. These programs share general assignment classroom space in the main Egan Classroom building with the Departments of Humanities and Social Sciences. Teaching in the Egan Classroom building requires capping enrollments below current levels of student demand. The separation of the program's storage room requires that faculty be responsible for the cumbersome (or sometimes impossible) transport of classroom demonstration equipment and materials across campus to the Egan Classroom building.

The lack of dedicated instructional space for environmental science and geography courses doesn't allow for the establishment of educational displays of instructional materials that are essential to effective learning in STEM programs and enhance the campus as a learning community. The ABMS Main Building and adjacent buildings have classroom space that can be dedicated to program instruction as well as storage rooms that could be used for housing, organizing, and making easily accessible the large quantity of scientific materials that the faculty uses for teaching both in lecture and lab classroom settings.

The UAS environmental science and geography program faculty offices are currently located in a building converted from a double-wide trailer and in a windowless office within the Department of Humanities office suite. The faculty offices in the ABMS Main Building are spacious, have abundant natural light provided by large windows overlooking Auke Bay, and are all on the same floor of a single building. Importantly, the Main Building has sufficient office space for co-locating all faculty, lab staff, term research professors, teaching and research assistants, and graduate students affiliated with the program. Locating biological and physical science faculty offices in the adjacent Anderson Building and ABMS Main Building will enhance the development of interdisciplinary collaborations among faculty and will facilitate student-faculty interactions across all natural science programs.

UAS's small student-to-faculty ratio is a distinctive feature of our academic offerings. The lack of a dedicated "home" space for environmental science and geography programs makes it difficult for faculty to develop a program identity and create a student-centered learning community, both of which are important factors in student retention and success. The insufficiency of common space and study room(s) dedicated to environmental science and geography program students makes it more challenging for students to meet to study together, to work on collaborative projects that are required in upper division courses, or to socialize with their peers and faculty mentors in an academic setting.

c) How the program component will directly benefit students

By relocating the environmental science and geography programs in the ABMS Main Building students can attend classes in classrooms and labs that are dedicated to each science discipline taught within the program. A dedicated teaching space will allow faculty to focus on improving student learning outcomes rather than on how to share teaching space with other non-science disciplines. Student-centered learning spaces would enable students to work collaboratively with their classmates and peers while interacting with faculty members who have their offices located in close proximity. Students would also have more study spaces designated for their use and opportunities for work-study jobs in research and teaching labs. A dedicated space that enhances student access to faculty and related program resources would improve academic performance and increase satisfaction of program students.

Component 3: Marine fisheries program

Dedicate space for development of new programming in marine fisheries to support: (a) new course offerings in marine fisheries to be offered to add a curricular emphasis area to the BA/BS Biology and the BS Marine Biology degree programs; (b) a new joint BS Fisheries degree program offered in partnership with the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) College of Fisheries & Ocean Sciences to be offered on the Juneau Campus; and (c) oceanographic laboratory space and equipment to support teaching and research in marine fisheries at UAS.

a) Purpose of the program component

Acquisition of the ABMS property and marine dock facilities supports UAS' strategic priority for new programming in the area of marine fisheries.[15] This strategic initiative is in response to the state's workforce development need for fisheries research and resource management professionals identified by the UA Fisheries, Seafood, and Maritime Initiative (FSMI) [16] and the Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Plan (AMWDP).[17] UAS faculty will develop new coursework for an emphasis area in marine fisheries to augment existing biology and marine biology degree programs using facilities available on the ABMS property. UAF and UAS are also expected to develop a new joint UAF/UAS undergraduate Fisheries Bachelor of Science degree in alignment with the UA Strategic Pathways framework[18] which prioritizes undergraduate fisheries programs for the UAS Juneau Campus.

b) Why the program component needs to be implemented

The AMWDP (pages 36-42) highlights the importance of growing the number of skilled Alaskans who take professional positions in management, research, and enhancement of Alaska's fisheries. As with many other Alaskan occupations, incumbents in these positions are "graying" as they near retirement age and the state has identified a need to develop a workforce of younger individuals who have the skills, knowledge, and expertise to sustain Alaska's rich marine resources long into the future. The goal of UAS' marine fisheries initiative is to increase the number of baccalaureate-level graduates that enter the workforce and/or graduate programs to pursue a career in the regional fisheries industry and agencies. UAS fisheries graduates will become the state's future fisheries field technicians, research biologists, biometricians, and hatchery managers.

UAS has hired a new tenure-track faculty member to add teaching expertise and research capacity in marine fisheries. Dr. Michael Navarro started his appointment as Assistant Professor of Marine Fisheries at UAS in August 2016; he comes to UAS from California State University Monterey Bay where he has been a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Scholar in ocean sciences for two years. Due to insufficient laboratory space in the Anderson Building Assistant Professor Navarro must share research laboratory space, storage space and dive locker space with Professors David Tallmon and Sherry Tamone.

c) How the program component will directly benefit students

Expanded programming in marine fisheries at UAS benefits students from the Southeast Alaska region who have expressed strong interest in programs leading to careers in the regional fisheries industry and/or management agencies. The ABMS property will enhance student learning and engagement by taking advantage of the exceptional field-based opportunities for fisheries instruction and undergraduate research in the Auke Bay area. A distinctive marine fisheries program located on the waterfront will attract additional full-time students to the Juneau Campus' residential program and enhance UAS' campus learning community and student life.

Component 4: Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP)

Dedicate space to the Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program (ANSEP)[19] at UAS for offering and integrating academic support services and cultural program activities.

[15] http://www.uas.alaska.edu/UAS_StrategicPlan/docs/strategic-plan-public_10-17.pdf
[16] https://www.alaska.edu/fsmi/
[17] https://www.alaska.edu/fsmi/AKMaritimeWFDPlan_HighRes_5-22-14.pdf
[18] http://www.alaska.edu/pathways/
[19] http://www.ansep.net/index

a) Purpose of the program component

ANSEP is a longitudinal academic model for student success in STEM fields that works with Alaska Native and rural students from the time they are in middle school to provide academic support through high school, college and graduate school. ANSEP increases university recruitment and retention rates through hands-on middle and high school outreach initiatives, rigorous summer bridging programs, focused academic learning communities, organized student cohorts, networks of peer and professional mentors, community-based learning, professional internships and undergraduate and graduate research projects.

UAS and ANSEP (which is located at the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA)) have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to support the development of an active ANSEP component at UAS. UAS and ANSEP are collaborating under the terms of the MOU to create a clear pathway for students to complete the Bachelor of Science degree at UAS with particular emphasis in marine biology or biology.

Under the program MOU, ANSEP students interested in biology, marine biology or fisheries are connected with UAS' ANSEP coordinator for academic advising. Currently there are >25 undergraduate students affiliated with ANSEP at UAS. These students form a cohort that participates in academic support activities which include: study recitations, weekly lunches, social events, and interdisciplinary undergraduate research. Future plans for ANSEP expansion at UAS include agency and industry-supported programs to engage middle and high school students in STEM activities on the Juneau Campus. UAS plans to develop ANSEP as a regional strategy to recruit Alaska Native students from across the Southeast Alaska region to attend college in Juneau and to pursue careers in STEM fields.

b) Why the program component needs to be implemented

Currently the Juneau Campus does not have adequate facilities to dedicate a program space for ANSEP activities. ANSEP activities are scheduled opportunistically across available general assignment classroom spaces. The UAS ANSEP coordinator regularly turns down offers of free program materials and supplies from UAA because of the lack of dedicated ANSEP program storage space. The ANSEP coordinator has to share a faculty office in the Anderson Building; shared office space is inadequate for having confidential or sensitive student-faculty advising discussions. The inadequacy of space for ANSEP at UAS is in stark contrast to the space situation at UAA where ANSEP has its own dedicated building[20] designed to serve students as a hub for learning, safety, and a community of belonging.

Under the program MOU, UAS is committed to provide a welcoming environment for ANSEP students on the Juneau Campus. Space dedicated to ANSEP on the ABMS property on Auke Bay would enhance UAS' welcome to Alaska Native students and would be used by students for studying, tutoring, conferences and other student-centered support services. The ABMS property will make it possible to expand UAS' commitment to ANSEP activities on the Juneau Campus and to bring them into alignment with the quantity and quality of those offered on the Anchorage and Fairbanks campuses.

c) How the program component will directly benefit students

The ABMS property is located on Auke Bay which has been the home of the Aak'w Kwáan Tlingit people for hundreds of years. ANSEP students will directly benefit from the ABMS property by having a program home that provides a place to learn and to develop a learning community located in a beautiful place of cultural significance to Alaska Native people. The UAS Juneau Campus meets the criteria for being a Native

[20] http://www.ansep.net/about/ansep-building

American Serving Nontribal Institution[21] and seeks to develop programs that serve Alaska Native and Native American students as part of its mission for student learning enhanced by the cultures and environment of Southeast Alaska.

Student academic support activities that will directly benefit students by being housed on the property include study groups, tutoring, weekly social events, outreach/recruitment activities and faculty-mentored undergraduate research. Opportunities for program collaboration between ANSEP and the UAS' Native and Rural Student Center[22] on the ABMS property will directly benefit students by providing a place to blend academic support services and student life activities on the Juneau Campus.

Regional pre-college students will also directly benefit from expanded ANSEP space on the Juneau Campus because ANSEP is interested in hosting regional summer bridge programs (traditionally located in Anchorage) on the UAS Juneau Campus. These pre-college summer activities would bring hundreds of middle and high school students and their teachers to campus each year and engage them in STEM through ANSEP's proven program of K-12 district collaboration and support. ANSEP students will directly benefit from increased funding from ANSEP partners such as the USFS, NOAA, Alaska Department of Fish & Game and regional Alaska Native Corporations who have expressed interest in expanding ANSEP activities at UAS.

Component 5: Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center (ACRC) program

Relocate the UAS Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center (ACRC)[23] faculty and staff from the USFS Pacific Northwest Research Station Juneau Forestry Sciences Laboratory (PNWRS JFSL) facility to the ABMS property.

a) Purpose of the program component

The ACRC mission is to build partnerships and catalyze collaborative ecological, economic and social research in the Pacific Coastal Temperate Rainforest (PCTR) to support vibrant and resilient communities and ecosystems. ACRC activities include: (a) pursuing partnerships and funding for large-scale research programs and infrastructure; (b) developing a portfolio of ACRC-partner projects; (c) facilitating new collaborations and co-production of actionable science through meetings, seminars, and workshops; (d) training students in ecosystem science; and (e) delivering useable information to policymakers and stakeholders. ACRC is supported by a MOU and funding partnership between UAS and the USFS.

The PCTR ecosystem extends from central British Columbia, Canada to southcentral Alaska, and includes the largest remaining old-growth forests in North America. The PCTR supports some of the most robust fisheries on the continent, and is home to tens of thousands of people who depend on a resource and tourism-based economy for their livelihoods. The PCTR region is characterized by an intricate geologic and evolutionary past, a rich cultural history, and complex linkages between marine and terrestrial ecosystems. The PCTR is being transformed by climate change, as well as by global economic drivers such as tourism, energy prices, and timber demand.

A coordinated research program in the PCTR led by the ACRC facilitates a better understanding of these patterns, processes and impacts. Given the current rates of ecosystem change and the potential for profound systemic shifts in the region and beyond, research catalyzed by ACRC is essential for the effective management of PCTR resources and the resilience of coastal communities in Southeast Alaska.

b) Why the program component needs to be implemented

[21] http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/idues/t3t5-eligibles-2015.pdf
[22] http://www.uas.alaska.edu/juneau/nrsc/
[23] http://www.uas.alaska.edu/acrc/

The ACRC is currently co-located with the JFSL which is part of the USFS PNWRS which is located adjacent to the UAS Juneau Campus. The ACRC's co-location with JFSL has strengthened the partnerships between the USFS and the university, allows students to work in state-of-the-art labs, and facilitates collaboration among researchers from both institutions. However, as ACRC has grown over the past several years, office and lab spaces have become insufficient. ACRC is now constrained within the JFSL building, even though there is a grant-funded need to hire at least two more ACRC staff in the next year. Acquisition of the ABMS will provide ACRC with needed space for growth of grant-funded research that employs UAS faculty, staff and students. Location of ACRC on the ABMS property will allow for greater interdisciplinary collaboration of faculty staff and students with the ACRC program.

c) How the program component will directly benefit students

Relocating the ACRC will directly benefit students by providing access to ACRC research faculty and agency partners on campus. Students will benefit from an on-campus location for ACRC through better access to student employment in research labs and agencies funded by ACRC. Students will benefit from expanded opportunities to get involved with hands-on research with ACRC and USFS mentors. Student employment at ACRC can translate into opportunities for permanent professional positions after graduation. ACRC and its agency partners prefer to hire UAS graduates as permanent research technicians and program staff.

Component 6: Applied research and economic development program

Dedicate marine laboratory facilities for interdisciplinary partnerships in applied research and economic development with agencies and private industry (e.g. fisheries, aquaculture, mariculture).

a) Purpose of the program component

There is a general lack of applied research in Alaska, particularly in areas that could enhance the economy of Southeast Alaska. Historically UAS has received inquiries from entrepreneurial individuals who would like to partner with faculty for applied research to advance knowledge with commercial value to marine-related businesses in the state. The ABMS property would provide UAS with facilities and water resources (seawater and fresh) to develop new partnerships with public or private entities for applied research projects in fisheries, aquaculture and mariculture. UAS faculty-led research can provide the basic scientific foundations for marine and coastal-related business ventures which are critical to the economic future of Southeast Alaska.

b) Why the program component needs to be implemented

Currently the state's primary aquaculture business is oyster farming, but there is interest in the culturing of other species, including: clams, sea urchins, sea cucumbers and seaweeds. The Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation has established the Alaska Mariculture Initiative[24] as an industry strategy for growth in Alaska. Business ventures involving aquaculture of new species need research to be successful. Public-private partnerships funding research will help to shorten the time it takes to get these fledgling businesses operating and profitable. As new businesses grow, the university's role will shift to workforce development by educating and training students to work in aspects of these businesses and/or their regulation.

The priority for mariculture in Southeast Alaska is documented by regional planning by Southeast Conference, the regional economic development organization. Southeast Conference has identified mariculture in the region's 2016-2020 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy[25] as the number one

[24] http://www.afdf.org/projects/current-projects/alaska-mariculture-initiative/
[25] http://www.seconference.org/sites/default/files/Southeast%20Alaska%20Economic%20Plan%202020%20Final.pdf

priority objective for growth in the seafood industry. Mariculture is the number five priority strategic objective for the Southeast region; the region's goal is to develop and grow mariculture into a $1 billion industry in 30 years.

The importance of developing applied research at UAS for development of Southeast Alaska's emerging mariculture industry is evidenced by the recent appointment of UAS Professor Michael Stekoll to the Governor's Alaska Mariculture Task Force.[26] The purpose of the task force is to provide recommendations to the state in order to develop a viable and sustainable mariculture industry producing shellfish and aquatic plants for the long-term benefit of Alaska's economy, environment, and communities.[27]

Since 2014 Professor Stekoll has successfully collaborated with private funding partners for applied research on seaweed mariculture. UAS is currently constrained due to inadequate laboratory space in the Anderson Building to expand this applied research partnership. By acquiring the ABMS property's laboratory space UAS can expand both the scope of the applied research activities and the number of community partners that engage in applied research at UAS.

In April 2014, the UA Board of Regents adopted policy for "Shaping Alaska's Future"[28] that addresses five themes, two of which speak directly to the importance of the UAS' role in applied research partnerships with industry for economic development. Theme 4[29] outlines that pursuit of research and development to enhance Alaska's communities and economic growth is the policy of the UA system. This is to be achieved by becoming the first choice of state and federal entities and private industries in Alaska to meet their research and development needs. Theme 3[30]outlines that engagement in productive partnerships with public entities and private industries is the policy of the UA system. This is to be achieved by meeting the needs of the public sector and private industry for skilled employees and for research solutions via partnerships that are strategic, are mutually beneficial, and address the needs of the state; the university is expected to be flexible, innovative and responsive in working with partners.

c) How the program component will directly benefit students

UAS acquisition of the ABMS property for developing applied research partnerships to support growth of the mariculture and fisheries industries of Southeast Alaska will benefit students from the biology, marine biology, and environmental science and geography programs. Students in these programs will have the opportunity to be trained in the scientific knowledge that leads to a bachelor's degree but with the relevant skills to secure employment in the emerging businesses and industries that support these regional economic development partnerships.

Students will gain experience learning and working in hands-on labs and programs that will have tangible application in the workforce. Some students will want to apply this training to further their education by enrolling in a graduate program. Some students will be qualified for entry-level positions in state or federal programs involved in regulation of these new enterprises. All UAS students will gain appreciation for the science that forms the foundation upon which many marine and coastal-related businesses rely.

Component 7: Marine operations for support of teaching and research programs

Provide a university-owned dock and space to offer UAS students, faculty and community partners research

[26] https://gov.alaska.gov/newsroom/2016/03/governor-walker-signs-administrative-order-to-diversify-alaska-economy-with-mariculture-industry/
[27] http://gov.state.ak.us/admin-orders/280.html
[28] http://www.alaska.edu/shapingalaskasfuture/
[29] http://www.alaska.edu/shapingalaskasfuture/research-and-development/
[30] http://www.alaska.edu/shapingalaskasfuture/partnerships/

vessel moorage, boat and trailer storage, and secure staging areas for marine operations in support of teaching and research.

a) Purpose of the program component

UAS natural science programs are fully engaged in understanding the natural environment of Southeast Alaska "From Icefields to Oceans."[31] Integral to this program commitment is support for interdisciplinary field work which includes student and faculty access to the marine environment of the fiords and estuaries accessible from Auke Bay.

The ABMS property has historically served the region as a marine station for interdisciplinary biological and environmental research.[32] A marine station is defined as a center of scientific research, education, and outreach that is embedded in the environment in a location that is protected to serve both the university that owns the facility and the larger scientific community that uses it. The research conducted at a marine station is focused on local and regional environments, but marine stations commonly catalyze national and international scientific collaborations. [33] Operation of the ABMS dock facility would give UAS the world-class distinction of having a marine station dock facility dedicated to the support of undergraduate education located on the Juneau Campus.

> *"I believe that in the not too distant future a much larger share of biological research, from biochemistry to ecology, will be conducted at field stations that consist of nature preserves and have ready access to laboratories equipped to analyze and monitor processes at every level of biological organization, including the molecular. Field stations will also serve as key centers of education at all levels.* ***Universities and other institutions wise enough to invest in such stations now, even in the face of limited financial resources, will assure themselves of a much larger share in the future action."*** Edward O. Wilson[34]

b) Why the program component needs to be implemented

All UAS natural science programs have strong field-based teaching and research activities that are conducted in the marine environment in and around Auke Bay. UAS owns and/or operates five small boats (12 foot length to 27 foot length) which serve as teaching and research platforms for SCUBA diving, fishing for field sampling, seawater collection, instrument deployment, and marine mammal observations. UAS has no secure boat moorage or storage space on the Auke Bay waterfront to support marine operations so faculty and students must utilize the public transient-use marinas in the area. UAS-owned boats are all trailered; trailered boats need to be put in and taken out of the water for each use, which is time consuming and laborious at public boat launch facilities which are insufficient for supporting marine operations in teaching and research.

A UAS-owned dock would allow small boats to be moored on the water adjacent to campus for days to weeks at a time providing easy and efficient access. Boats and pieces of marine equipment are currently stored at the Anderson Building and in modified 20-foot shipping containers located off campus behind the NSRL Building. Secure moorage and waterfront storage is particularly desirable given recent incidents of theft and damage to boats and equipment stored at NSRL in January 2016.

UAS has agency and community partners that are committed to developing cooperative funding agreements

[31] https://www.alaska.edu/files/epscor/pdfs/Icefieldtoocean_Pamphlet_Final.pdf
[32] http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/history/facilities/aukebaylab.htm
[33] National Academies Press, 2012. Enhancing the Value and Sustainability of Field Stations and Marine Laboratories in the 21st Century. http://www.nap.edu/read/18806/chapter/1
[34] Ibid (emphasis added)

with UAS to ensure the continued operation of the dock facilities for teaching and research. Partners that have expressed interest in collaborating with UAS for use of the dock facilities include the UAF; NOAA ABL; Douglas-Island Pink and Chum (DIPAC, a private, non-profit salmon hatchery); USFS, and Alaska Department of Fish &Game.

The UAS School of Career Education offers a regional marine transportation program[35] that provides training in Juneau for students who seek a deck department career path, from entry level to deck officer, with USCG-approved instruction. Collaboration between Arts & Sciences and Career Education faculty to utilize the university-owned dock on the ABMS property is anticipated to: (a) train career-seeking students in vessel operations skills; and (b) train natural science students in marine safety skills for conducting research from boats in Alaskan waters.

c) How the program component will directly benefit students

Acquisition of the ABMS property and its tidelands lease along with the existing dock facility and cranes will provide UAS with a marine station capability that will benefit students with access to efficient, safe and secure marine operations. Students will benefit from the dock's ability to support and enhance interdisciplinary activities for teaching and marine research in Auke Bay. Students will have a dedicated dock facility to learn safe, small boat handling skills; gain hands-on experience in conducting scientific operations in the marine environment; and practice skills that will enhance their employability and/or benefit them in future graduate studies.

Component 8: Student recreation and outdoor studies program

Dedicate space for student recreation and outdoor studies programs for support of co-curricular recreational activities, interdisciplinary academic instruction and equipment maintenance/storage.

a) Purpose of the program component

The UAS outdoor studies program brings a unique liberal arts approach to outdoor education and recreation by combining academic coursework with physical education and outdoor skills classes to foster critical thinking, careful decision making, safe backcountry practices and student leadership. Many classes blend outdoor skills with philosophical reflection and critical academic work to challenge UAS students to think about their recreational and outdoor experiences in broader cultural and historical contexts.

b) Why the program component needs to be implemented

UAS has offered students recreational and outdoor studies programs for over 16 years.[36] The outdoor recreation gear associated with delivering the range of outdoor physical education and skills classes—from mountaineering to fly fishing to kayaking to rock climbing—requires large classrooms, ample storage space, and dedicated program space for equipment maintenance and repair. The classroom and gear storage for the recreation and outdoor studies programs is located in the Student Recreational Center (SRC).[37]

Current SRC facilities at the Outdoor Recreation Center[38] are insufficient for providing a dedicated outdoor studies gear maintenance and repair shop to ensure protection of the program's investment in outdoor gear. Expensive gear for water sports, including kayaks and dry suits, are currently stored outdoors or in a trailer

[35] http://www.uas.alaska.edu/apply/programs/applied_tech/maritime.html
[36] http://www.uas.alaska.edu/arts_sciences/humanities/programs/ods/
[37] http://www.uas.alaska.edu/juneau/rec/index.html
[38] http://www.uas.alaska.edu/juneau/rec/rental_orc.html

with inadequate climate control. The SRC building storage area requires special key-card approval by the Alaska National Guard which shares the SRC facility in joint use with UAS. Locating outdoor studies program gear storage and maintenance on the ABMS property would allow for greater access for instructors and students alike and ensure better use and care of program gear.

c) How the program component will directly benefit students

The ABMS property would directly benefit UAS students by the addition of dedicated facilities for instruction, storage and maintenance of UAS-owned outdoor gear and equipment. Dedicated classroom space proximal to a UAS-owned dock will benefit students with added opportunities for hands-on, outdoor educational and recreational classes offered in fly fishing, sea kayaking, and pack rafting. The ABMS property will directly benefit students with enhanced and expanded outdoor studies opportunities in the marine environment of Auke Bay.

Letters of Support – attached

a) Pacific Northwest Research Station , Forest Service, US Department of Agriculture
b) Juneau Economic Development Council
c) Alaska Fisheries Science Center, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, US Department of Commerce
d) Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP)

USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Pacific Northwest Research Station
1220 SW 3rd Ave, Suite 1400
P.O. Box 3890
Portland, OR 97204-3890
503-808-2100
FAX: 503-808-2130

File Code: 6400
Date: August 25, 2016

Barbara Shawyer
Real Property Specialist, US Department of Education,
Federal Real Property Assistance Program
L-OM-2-2W119
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Ms. Shawyer and members of the review panel,

The University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) in Juneau, AK, engages in regional undergraduate education and research through distinctive baccalaureate programs. The programs include marine biology, biology, environmental sciences, geography, mathematics, social sciences, liberal arts, Alaska Native studies and outdoor studies based in the rich natural and cultural environment of Southeast Alaska. UAS is proposing to acquire the NOAA Auke Bay Marine Station (ABMS) to meet program needs and space priorities identified in the UAS 2012 Master Plan. Acquiring the ABMS property will give UAS the privilege of continuing the historical legacy of this site as an interdisciplinary hub for a network of university, agency and industry scientists doing collaborative and convergent research on the natural environment of Southeast Alaska.

The ABMS property is uniquely suited to support UAS' educational program and institutional mission by transforming the student academic experience and the campus' engagement with interdisciplinary sciences. The U.S.D.A. Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Research Station (PNW) has been a close partner in education and research with UAS. PNW supports UAS in the acquisition of the ABMS property. The ABMS facility will broaden both organizations' ability to expand research, education and outreach through collaborative projects. In addition, the facility will expand the ability of both PNW and UAS to serve the local and regional communities through creating new knowledge that can guide natural resource management actions and enhance community resilience to a changing environmental context in Alaska. As a former scientific tenant of the ABMS facility, we also look forward to guiding UAS in the logistical transition to the laboratory and administrative facilities and establishing a thriving regional education and research center.

Sincerely,

Felipe Sanchez

FELIPE SANCHEZ
Acting Station Director

JEDC.org
612 West Willoughby Ave. Suite A
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone 907-523-2300
Fax 907-463-3929

August 25, 2016

Barbara Shawyer, Real Property Specialist
U.S. Department of Education
Federal Real Property Assistance Program
L-OM-2-2W119
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

RE: University of Alaska Application for acquisition of the Auke Bay Marine Station Property in Juneau, Alaska

Dear Ms. Shawyer and members of the review panel,

The University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) is proposing to acquire the NOAA Auke Bay Marine Station (ABMS) located adjacent to its Juneau, Alaska, campus in order to meet program needs and space priorities identified in the UAS 2012 Master Plan. Acquiring the ABMS property will give UAS the privilege of continuing the historical legacy of this site as an interdisciplinary hub for a network of university, agency and industry scientists doing collaborative and convergent research on the natural environment of Southeast Alaska. The ABMS property is uniquely suited to support UAS' educational program and institutional mission. Acquisition of this property has the power to transform the student academic experience and the campus' engagement with interdisciplinary sciences.

The Juneau Economic Development Council supports a Research & Development Working Group dedicated to advancing opportunities to build research capacity in our region. The UAS acquisition of the ABMS property will help UAS further its mission to enhance student learning by faculty scholarship, undergraduate research and creative activities, community engagement, and the cultures and environment of Southeast Alaska—goals that are consistent with the aims of the Research & Development Working Group and vital elements to the economic wellbeing of our community. Southeast Alaska has been designated as a *Community of Excellence in Research* by the University of Alaska's State Committee on Research. The Auke Bay Marine Station is a vital component of Juneau's research network and we would like to see it continue in this role.

Sincerely,

Brian Holst
Executive Director
Juneau Economic Development Council

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Alaska Fisheries Science Center
7600 Sand Point Way N.E.
Bldg. 4, F/AKC
Seattle, Washington 98115-0070

August 25, 2016

Ms. Barbara Shawyer, Real Property Specialist
U.S. Department of Education
Federal Real Property Assistance Program
L-OM-2-2W119
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

RE: University of Alaska Application for acquisition of the Auke Bay Marine Station Property

Dear Ms. Shawyer and members of the review panel:

As the director of NOAA's Alaska Fishery Science Center, I would like to lend my support for the application submitted by the University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) to acquire the surplus NOAA Auke Bay Marine Station property. NOAA and its predecessor agency, The Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, had occupied that location since 1961. In the mid-1970s when the University of Alaska located next door with the construction of the Anderson Building it forged the beginnings of a strong partnership between our two institutions which continues to this day.

A number of our current staff are graduates of the University of Alaska system and we continued to conduct long-term collaborative research projects with the faculty and staff, despite having moved to a new location which allowed us to surplus the property. The mission of UAS to promote student learning, faculty scholarship, and undergraduate research are ones that directly benefit our agency. In particular, I believe that the recent efforts by UAS to diversify the student body (e.g., getting more Alaskan native students into their undergraduate programs) will significantly improve the diversity of our Center's workforce in Juneau. By taking over that location and consolidating and expanding upon their natural resource, including fisheries, and environmental science programs we believe it will provide long lasting benefits for Alaska and the nation by producing the next generation of scientists and educators, that will help our agency carry out its mandate for the responsible stewardship of marine resources.

In conclusion, we support the application submitted by the University and look forward to continuing and expanding our strong partnership.

Sincerely,

Douglas DeMaster, Ph.D.
Science and Research Director

ANSEP
ALASKA NATIVE SCIENCE & ENGINEERING PROGRAM
INSPIRATION • GUIDANCE • OPPORTUNITY

August 29, 2016

Barbara Shawyer, Real Property Specialist
U.S. Department of Education
Federal Real Property Assistance Program
L-OM-2-2W119
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

RE: University of Alaska Application for acquisition of the Auke Bay Marine Station Property

Dear Ms. Shawyer and members of the review panel,

The University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) mission is student learning enhanced by faculty scholarship, undergraduate research and creative activities, community engagement, and the cultures and environment of Southeast Alaska. UAS offers distinctive baccalaureate programs on the Juneau Campus which include marine biology, biology, environmental sciences, geography, mathematics, social sciences, liberal arts, Alaska Native studies and outdoor studies.

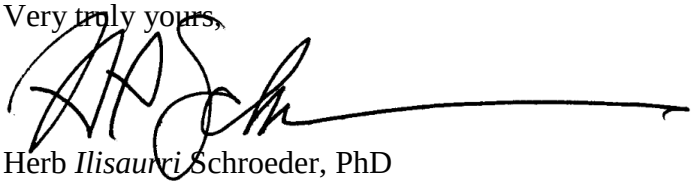
UAS is proposing to acquire the NOAA Auke Bay Marine Station (ABMS) to meet program needs and space priorities identified in the UAS 2012 Master Plan. Acquiring the ABMS property will give UAS the privilege of continuing the historical legacy of this site as an interdisciplinary hub for a network of university, agency and industry scientists doing collaborative and convergent research on the natural environment of Southeast Alaska. The ABMS property is uniquely suited to support UAS' educational program and institutional mission. Acquisition of this property has the power to transform the student academic experience and the campus' engagement with interdisciplinary sciences.

PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS, AND ENGINEERING MENTORING 2004
ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES DENALI AWARD 2005
NACME National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering, Inc. REGINALD JONES FOUNDER'S AWARD 2009
HARVARD Kennedy School ASH CENTER for Democratic Governance and Innovation TOP 25 INNOVATIONS IN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT 2012
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION AWARD 2013
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY MINORITIES IN ENERGY AWARD 2014

ANSEP supports UAS in the acquisition of the ABMS property and will realize the following benefits:

- provide a distinct space for ANSEP students faculty and staff for study recitations, weekly lunches, social events, recruitment, and interdisciplinary research,
- foster engagement across disciplines within the university,
- provide hands on applications to academic learning,
- allow water access by multiple agencies (city, state, federal and non-profits),
- facilitate ANSEP partners located in Southeast Alaska to better engage ANSEP students at UAS,
- allow water accessibility by UAA and UAF ANSEP students,
- develop or expand existing ANSEP programs at other campuses to involve marine resources that are accessible in Juneau, and
- provide ANSEP students the opportunity to participate in new classes and programs within UAS into more marine specific arenas such as diving, merchant marine licensing, and submersible underwater technologies.

Very truly yours,



Herb *Ilisaurri* Schroeder, PhD
Vice Provost for ANSEP and Founder
Professor of Engineering