

Dec. 22, 2015

As we prepare for the upcoming holidays and the new year, I want you to know that I appreciate all you do for our university. I also want you to know that the coming year will be difficult, very difficult, as we face a third year of budget cuts from the state at the same time we are striving to meet the state's higher education needs.

Those needs range from high end research to a well prepared workforce and an informed citizenry. We are doing well at meeting those needs, but there is no end in sight for our opportunity to enhance our service to Alaska.

I hope you join me in taking a few days away from the office to enjoy the season with family and friends, to get out and enjoy the snow, and to rest up for 2016, a year that promises great challenges and opportunities.

Happy Holidays,

Jim