



August 5, 2026

Dr. Aparna Palmer
Chancellor
University of Alaska Southeast
11066 Auke Lake Way
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Chancellor Palmer:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) at its meeting on July 7-10, 2026, concerning the Spring 2026 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness of University of Alaska Southeast.

Accreditation

Reaffirm Accreditation

Status of Previous Recommendations Addressed in this Evaluation

- Finding Type 1: Spring 2025 Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review - Fulfilled

Commendations

The Commission commends University of Alaska Southeast for:

1. Its dedication to Alaska's coastal and indigenous communities. The BEARS and CACANE teams, along with specialized advisors, help retain and graduate indigenous students and create a sense of belonging. The campus showcases local heritage through arts and cultural elements, and indigenous languages are taught, spoken, and valued throughout the university.
2. Well-established, effective processes for assessing general education learning outcomes. Faculty and members of the general education learning outcome (GELO) committee engage in meaningful evaluation of student learning.
3. Its inclusive strategic planning process, which has resulted in widespread support and enthusiasm for the plan within the UAS community.
4. Its commitment to shared governance, demonstrated through the strong relationship between administration and Faculty Senate, and the quality of Senate processes.

Recommendations Substantially in Compliance but in Need of Improvement

The Commission recommends that University of Alaska Southeast:

- Recommendation 1: Spring 2026 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Provide evidence that its budget planning process is inclusive and offers meaningful opportunity for participation and comment by appropriate stakeholders. (2020 Standard(s) 2.E.2; 1.B.3)
- Recommendation 2: Spring 2026 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Evaluate a systematic and effective program of academic advisement and ensure the advising requirements and responsibilities of advisors are defined, published, and made available to students. (2020 Standard(s) 2.G.6)

Future Evaluations

- Mid-Cycle Review Spring 2029
 - Recommendation 1: Spring 2026 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
 - Recommendation 2: Spring 2026 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Year 6 - Standard 2 - Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review Spring 2032
- Year 7 - Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness Spring 2033

NWCCU is committed to an accreditation process that adds value to institutions while contributing to public accountability, and we thank you for your continued support of this process. If you have questions about any of the information in this letter, please contact your staff liaison, Dr. Ed Harri, at eharri@nwccu.org.

Sincerely,



Selena M. Grace
President

cc: Dr. Scott Billingsley, Provost
Mr. Scott Jepsen, Chair, Board of Regents, University of Alaska
Mr. Matt Cooper, President, University of Alaska
Ms. Shannon Beets, Assistant Dean, Institutional Assessment and Accreditation, University of Nevada, Reno
Kerry Thomas, Executive Director, Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education