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Vincent Haneman

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University of Alaska (UAF) campus in Fairbanks, Alaska

Karen Cedzo said Alaska is the only state that employs so many engineers who have been trained out of state. Over ninety percent of the engineers working in the state have been imported. Vincent Haneman told the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce the single most common problem with technology in the state is the methods developed elsewhere and applied here do not work in the state. Haneman said they have grown fifty percent in the last two years. Laboratories are essential in giving their students insight and a feel for the phenomena for which they must deal. They are vastly overcrowded. The faculty-student ratio is far too high. The students don't get the opportunity to interface with the professionals they have on the staff. Equipment for these labs are too old and the technology has passed the equipment by a long time ago. They reason they are able to offer a quality product now at least in the School of Engineering because of the leadership of his predecessors. Cedzo said in the past fall an accreditation team reviewed the programs in both the School of Engineering and the School of Mineral Industry. The team commented on the outdated equipment and the high student-faculty ratio. Haneman said right now the enrollments are being limited in the lower forty-eight. They find a tremendous number of students coming back here. They are tired of being taught by graduate students and attending classes where they can only listen to a faculty member and never have an opportunity to visit with them. This same thing worries him at UAF. When he is starting to have student-faculty ratios of 21 and 22 per faculty member it leaves almost no time to interface with the students. He thinks it is essential to add five or six new faculty members immediately. Cedzo said Haneman is looking ahead to the future when the School of Engineering will have 600-800 enrolled. This is twice the present enrollment. In an effort to attract support from oil companies the School of Engineering is working to increase the opportunity for continuing education for engineers in the field. To that end several engineering courses are being offered at Prudhoe Bay.

Karen Cedzo reports on campus activities for the coming week.