

September 3, 2010

Melissa Myers, President  
Construction Financial Management Association, Last Frontier Chapter  
Unit Company  
620 E. Whitney Road  
Anchorage AK 99501

RE: The Construction Financial Management Association Ron Jones Scholarship

Dear Ms. Myers,

On behalf of the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) and especially the students and the faculty of the Construction Management program in the Community and Technical College, I would like to thank you and your organization for the generous scholarship program that you have recently initiated for construction management students. In particular, I would like to thank Michael Fall and the other officers and staff of Unit Company for their initial financial contribution to get the program started.

I know that CFMA has been very interested in the development of the Construction Management program here at UAA since it started in 2004. Several members of our faculty have spoken at your luncheon meetings and members of CFMA have provided expert advice to our faculty and provided guest speakers for classes.

Additionally, Dr. Alan Peabody, one of our CM faculty and also a CFMA member, had significant assistance and support from a "really great guy" (to quote Alan) named Ron Jones. In fact, before Ron passed, he had submitted his resume to us to for consideration to teach in the program as an adjunct professor. We congratulate you on your decision to name this scholarship after him and agree that it is very appropriate for CFMA to create this lasting tribute to his memory.

The UAA Construction Management program began in 2004 with the approval by the UA Board of Regents for the Construction Management degree in Alaska. We started the Associate of Applied Science in Construction Management (AAS-CM) and students immediately began to enroll. In 2006, we began the development of the Bachelor of Science in Construction Management (BSCM) curriculum which was approved by the Board of Regents in 2007.

We designed the curriculum for both the AAS-CM and the BSCM to align with accreditation requirements of the American Council for Construction Education (ACCE). Last year we were accepted by ACCE and given "candidate status". This year we are preparing a self-study of the program that will be submitted for consideration by ACCE for full accreditation. If all goes well, we hope to have an accreditation site visit as early as Spring 2011. Achieving ACCE accreditation will be a significant step forward for the UAA Construction Management program.

Since the start of the CM degree programs, we have had a total of 24 graduates. This doesn't seem like a lot but we know that these graduates are already beginning to make an impact on the Alaska construction industry. We are anticipating that after four full years of offerings in the BSCM program, that we may have as many as 20 more graduates in May of 2011. Since the State of Alaska, Department of Labor Occupational Forecast predicts that the construction industry will create 40 – 50 new construction manager positions each year, we feel like we are making a significant contribution to educating Alaskans for Alaska jobs.

In 2007, we had about 50 active majors in the program; currently we have about 135. Of course, these are both full-time and part-time students. Another measurement of program activity is the number of student credit hours (SCHR's) attributed to the CM program. In our first academic year of operation in 2004 the CM program generated 235 SCHR's. That number rose steadily each year since then and in the academic year ending in May, 2010, CM generated 1553 SCHR's. Currently we are operating at 86% of capacity. Additionally, we have had important internal support from the University of Alaska for the CM program and have grown from 2 full-time to five full-time faculty positions. We anticipate that the CM program has now plateaued in terms of statistics and will continue to produce a regular group of new entry-level employees for professional positions in the Alaska construction industry.

As a final note, UAA's CM program enjoys significant support from the Alaska construction industry in the form of a very active and engaged Construction Management Advisory Committee. The membership of the group is made up of about 20 construction professionals representing contractors, banks, project management firms and owner agencies like the US Army Corps of Engineers. If you are available, we would like to invite you and Mr. Fall to attend our next luncheon meeting here at the University Center campus on Friday, November 12, 2010, so that we can introduce you to this important group. Please let me know if you will be able to attend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Callahan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeffrey C. Callahan, Assistant Professor  
Construction Management  
(907) 786-6425.