



Midnight Sun Local Section American Industrial Hygiene Association

July 12, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

The Midnight Sun Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association strongly supports the University of Alaska Anchorage's (UAA) proposal to create a 4 year degree program in Occupational Safety.

Currently, Alaskan students wishing to obtain a Baccalaureate Degree in Safety must do so in the Lower 48 states. Establishing an in-state program will make it easier for students wanting to pursue a career in safety to achieve their goal. An in-state program will also offer an attractive career option to new or returning college students. An in-state program will enhance the quality of the safety discipline in Alaska, as graduates begin entering the Alaskan workforce. This will result in better safety performance in the companies they work for, and have a positive impact on the community.

Alaska's economy is growing. There are large construction projects in Alaska's cities. There is expansion in the oil and gas industry. Mineral extraction activities are increasing. There are too few safety professionals to meet these needs in Alaska. Many of the practicing safety professional do not have formal educations in safety, and many are nearing retirement age.

The establishment of a Baccalaureate Degree in Occupational Safety would address a growing need in Alaska for qualified, degreed safety professionals.

Sincerely,

Jeff Carpenter, CIH, CSP
President, Midnight Sun Section, AIHA