**E**ckground/Context

ka's economy is heavily dependent upon extraction and resource development industries; the future well-being of the state economy requires diversity cation, innovation and new industry. e University of Alaska is uniquely suited to drive change in our economy and to educate graduates who will lead a new era of economic development. To meet the challenge of transforming Alaska's economy we must increase the number of scientists, mathematicians, engineers, technicians and other innovators working in the state. We must also monetize our research through the attainment of invention disclosures, patents and discoveries that bene the Alaska's economy. To accomplish this goal requires overcoming historically low educational attainment rates, addressing disparities in rural education opportunities and shi ing the culture of education in the state.

prepared to address the needs of Alaska industries.

## **Increase Alaska's New Economy Index**

- e State New Economy Index uses 25 indicators to measure the extent to which state economies are knowledge-based, globalized, entrepreneurial, IT-driven, and innovation-oriented. Alaska's 2017 rank is 42nd, down from 32nd in 2014.
- Long-established industries such as agriculture, mining, manufacturing, and professional services are rapidly evolving into tech-enabled industries. e University of Alaska must play an instrumental part in developing the workforce and innovation to strengthen existing major industry sectors while advancing new, emerging tech-dependent industries in Alaska.