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January 13, 2006

Dear ADEC Core Members,

Declining federal revenues have prompted the need for an alternate means to keep our statewide distance education work in place. Federal funding to support ADEC will expire in June of this year, and we cannot depend on more federal earmark support. In other words, if we want ADEC to continue, we must find a way to support ourselves.

I asked Scott Christian to develop a basic budget for ADEC's continuation. This budget suggested a funding need of \$200,000 for a half-time director, a part-time program specialist, office expenses, and limited travel for the ADEC Fall Conference and Executive Committee Meeting.

In response, I agreed to provide \$100,000 to support ADEC for FY07. However, this is contingent upon the other members contributing an equivalent amount, and a participating agency or organization providing office space as an in-kind contribution. In addition, ADEC will need to accept responsibility for establishing an advisory board for the Internet2, Sponsored Education Group Partnership for Alaska. I would anticipate maintaining the UA commitment beyond FY07, if the proposed aspects of this new self-supporting partnership can first be realized and then sustained.

I make this commitment to ADEC because there is no other entity to accomplish the work of the consortium. I see four main tasks for next year:

- continue to facilitate professional development for instructors, instructional designers, administrators, and technicians through the fall conference, partnerships, and events;
- continue to prioritize and coordinate distance education programming across institutions in the best interest of Alaskans, and as part of this process, continue to seek state and federal funding;
- put together a structure to administer Internet2 for all Alaskan educational organizations and institutions; and
- Undertake research and projects that would benefit the development of distance education in Alaska in accordance with the Executive Committee.

I hope that you will join the University of Alaska in providing financial support so that ADEC can continue. I look forward to seeing you at the ADEC Executive Committee Meeting on February 22.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark R. Hamilton'.

Mark R. Hamilton  
President