

Kodiak College Celebrates Dr. Kitty Deal on Receiving Emerita Status

Kodiak College proudly celebrates Dr. Kitty Deal on being awarded *Emerita Status* by the University of Alaska Anchorage - the institution's highest honorary title for retiring faculty. This distinguished recognition honors individuals who have demonstrated exceptional service, sustained contributions, and a lasting impact over a career spanning at least a decade. Conferred by the Chancellor following a rigorous nomination and review process, Emerita status reflects the highest level of professional respect and gratitude.

Dr. Deal joined Kodiak College and the UAA School of Education in 2009, beginning a remarkable career defined by commitment to students, community, and the advancement of culturally responsive education. She earned tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2018, followed by promotion to Full Professor in 2022. In 2019, she completed her Ph.D. in Indigenous Studies: Education and Pedagogy from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Her dissertation, *Qik'rtam Litnauwistai: Island's Teachers*, made significant contributions to understanding how to recruit and retain Alaska Native pre-service teachers through place-based, participatory research.

Throughout her tenure, Dr. Deal has been a transformative force in teacher education. She has mentored and supported pre-service teachers, helped identify and develop new adjunct faculty, and strengthened pathways into the profession. Her leadership extended well beyond the classroom. She co-authored the Munartet grant, securing more than \$5 million in external funding to support arts-integrated, culturally responsive teaching practices across Kodiak Island schools. She also authored the *Growing Alaska's Teacher Workforce* grant, which established Alaska's first registered apprenticeship pathways for teacher preparation - an innovative model that will continue to shape the future of education in the state for decades.

Dr. Deal's nomination for Emerita status was initiated by the faculty of Kodiak College and supported by a broad coalition of colleagues and community partners, including Dr. April Counciller, Executive Director of the Alutiiq Museum and Archaeological Repository; Tonia Dousay, Dean of the UAA School of Education; faculty from the School of Education; and Kodiak College leadership. This collective support reflects the depth of her impact across institutions and communities.

"Dr. Kitty Deal's work has fundamentally shaped teacher education in Kodiak and across the State of Alaska," said the Kodiak College Director. "Her commitment to students, to community, and to culturally grounded education has left an enduring legacy. I am thrilled that her years of hard work and dedication to Kodiak College, Kodiak Island, the University of Alaska, and the State of Alaska are being recognized with this high honor."

Dr. Deal will retire from Kodiak College on June 30, 2026. While her formal role concludes, her influence will continue to be felt through the educators she has mentored, the programs she helped build, and the communities she has strengthened.

Kodiak College extends its deepest congratulations and gratitude to Dr. Deal for her extraordinary career and lasting contributions. Dr Deal will be honored at the Kodiak College Commencement May 8, 2026 @ 7pm in the Gerald C Wilson Auditorium.