



## UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## University of the Arctic Chooses Joint Leads for the UArctic Graduate Area

The University of the Arctic has chosen the University of Lapland in Finland and the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, in the US as joint leads for the UArctic Graduate Area.

This is a major development for UArctic. Eystein Markusson, Chair of the UArctic Field School expresses his enthusiasm over the decision: "After having lead the initial process of developing the graduate area of the University of the Arctic I am extremely pleased to see the commitment from UAF and ULapland to cooperate in taking on the leadership of the graduate process of the University of the Arctic. I am confident that cooperation between two of the founding members of UArctic will bring vitality and new insight into the future development of the UArctic."

After a decision made by the Council of UArctic, consisting of representatives of UArctic's 110 members, to establish the UArctic Master Programme as a part of the UArctic Graduate Area, the University of the Arctic first made a call for a lead institution for the UArctic Graduate Area in early fall 2007. Five institutions from five countries submitted proposals. An external evaluation team of experts in Higher Education cooperation conducted a thorough review of the applications, and made their recommendation to the Board of Governors of UArctic. The external evaluators, working independently, were:

- Brendan Barrett, United Nations University
- Ken Coates, Waterloo University, Canada
- Bill Heal, Durham University
- Anita Day Nuttall, University of Alberta, Canada
- Volker Rachold, International Arctic Science Committee
- Gard Titlestad, Nordic Council of Ministers

Based on the applications and external as well as internal reviews the UArctic Board of Governors has decided to select the University of Lapland and University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) as joint leads for the UArctic Graduate Area.

Chancellor Steve Jones, University of Alaska Fairbanks, also the Chair of the Board of Governors of UArctic, comments: "The University of Alaska Fairbanks, America's Arctic University, is pleased to join another major Arctic University, the University of Lapland, in co-leading UArctic's promising movement into the graduate program area. We are eager to continue our collaboration with ULapland in service to advancing knowledge and graduate education across the Arctic region."

Rector Mauri Ylä-Kotola, University of Lapland, shares Chancellor Jones' enthusiasm and commitment: "The University of Lapland is delighted to have been chosen to lead one of the UArctic Strategic Area together with the University of Alaska Fairbanks. We look forward to working with UAF and all other UArctic member institutions in developing Graduate Area program activities that are representative of the entire Circumpolar Arctic."

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The University of the Arctic (UArctic) is a cooperative network of universities, colleges, and other organizations committed to higher education and research in the North. Our members share resources, facilities, and expertise to build post-secondary education programs that are relevant and accessible to northern students. There are currently 110 member institutions and organizations from across the Circumpolar North. Our overall goal is to create a strong, sustainable circumpolar region by empowering northerners and northern communities through education and shared knowledge. We promote education that is circumpolar, interdisciplinary, and diverse in nature, and draw on our combined strengths to address the unique challenges of the region. The University of the Arctic recognizes the integral role of indigenous peoples in northern education, and seeks to engage their perspectives in all of its activities.



UArctic is endorsed by the  
International Polar Year (IPY)

## **For More Information:**

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