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Carla Kirts, interviewee

Karen Cedzo, interviewer

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Karen Cedzo said agriculture is controversial, political and basic to a land-grant institution. The School of Agriculture and Land Resources Management at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) has yet to offer a degree in agricultural education. Carla Kirts is the first assistant professor of agricultural management at UAF. She is one of three women with a Ph. D. in the field of agricultural education. Carla Kirts said about two or three months before she was accepted she received an announcement about the job at UAF. She always envisioned taking a traditional position in a department where you are one of five or six other positions in an agricultural education department. At UAF it is the first position funded and called agricultural education. She has a chance to develop a program. Agriculture is more than just farming. She said her job is two-fold. She will be developing an agricultural education program so eventually they will have a B.S. program. She will also be working within the School of Natural Resources and teaching a couple of courses. She will also be working with the high school and postsecondary teachers throughout the state. There is one community college in the state developing an associate's degree in agriculture. The students who graduate with a two year degree will have the option to stay in Alaska for their four year degree if the UAF program is developed. She has to tailor the new program for Alaska and not base it on other states. It has to be developed on Alaska's needs.

Karen Cedzo reports on the campus calendar and activities.