



UNIVERSITY
of ALASKA

President
Leadership Profile
January 2026



WittKieffer

Executive Summary

The University of Alaska seeks a visionary, strategic, and collaborative leader with experience managing large, complex organizations who will bring a modern understanding of higher education to serve as its next President.

The University of Alaska (UA), founded in 1917, is America's Arctic University and the northernmost public higher-education system in the United States. The UA inspires learning, and advances and disseminates knowledge through teaching, research, and public service, emphasizing the North and its peoples. As a land-, sea-, and space-grant system with three separately accredited universities and 11 community campuses across the state, UA plays an essential role in educating Alaska's workforce, expanding the boundaries of Arctic research, and strengthening communities from Southeast Alaska to the North Slope.

Offering nearly 500 degrees, certificates, and endorsements, including more than 100 eLearning programs, UA served more than 20,000 students in 2025. More than 100,000 alumni claim UA degrees, and the research expenditures for the University grew to \$274 million in FY25. The three universities, along with their associated community campuses, are a vital part of the state's future and the communities they serve.

The University of Alaska empowers Alaska's future. The UA system provides the vast majority of Alaska's post-secondary education, conferring 90% of the state's higher education degrees. Ninety percent of students who graduated between 2011-2023 were working in the state within a year of graduation, and 75% stayed and worked long-term.

The President oversees an authorized budget of approximately \$1.1 billion. Roughly \$331 million of that budget is Unrestricted General Funds authorized by the state.

The President's office is housed at the System Office in Fairbanks. The designated presidential home is the University's [Grace Schaible House](#), a welcoming home named after one of Alaska's most influential philanthropists.

Today, UA stands at a critical moment, continuing to grow enrollment, enhance partnerships with Tribal and Alaska Native organizations, modernize operations, and meet the statewide demand for a highly skilled workforce. The next President will lead a geographically vast, research-intensive, and workforce-driven system that serves as one of Alaska's most important public institutions.

The role calls for a leader who can embrace the innovation and drive that have defined UA since its founding. It remains a time to welcome cooperation, tackle complex challenges, and build confidently for the future. The next President must bring vision, political and financial acumen, a commitment to shared purpose, and an understanding that progress in Alaska depends on strong partnerships, well-directed effort, and service to the people of the state.

To submit a nomination or express personal interest in this position, please see Procedure for Candidacy at the end of this document.

Role of the President

The University of Alaska (UA) President serves as the chief executive officer of the statewide university system, composed of three separately accredited universities - the **University of Alaska Anchorage**, the **University of Alaska Fairbanks**, and the **University of Alaska Southeast** - and their 11 associated community campuses, outreach centers, and research facilities across the state. This role is appointed by the UA Board of Regents and is responsible for leading and managing all aspects of the University's operations, academic programs, and strategic direction. The President acts as the official spokesperson for the UA System and is a key liaison with the state legislature, the governor's office, the Alaska congressional delegation, U.S. federal agencies, and other critical partners and stakeholders. The President is a strong advocate for the University, and each of the System's three university chancellors reports directly to the President. Eight System Office employees report directly to the President. In addition, the President oversees a total System Office staff of 271 with a budget of \$68.5 million for FY26.

The President serves as UA's chief philanthropic leader, working in close partnership with the [UA Foundation](#) Board and development leadership and growing donor relations across Alaska and nationally.

The President also provides oversight of Division I and II athletics at the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) and UAF, ensuring compliance, student-athlete success, and financial sustainability, and ensuring athletics' role in community engagement and statewide identity.

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The UA President is accountable for success in several critical areas:

Executive Leadership and Management: The President is the primary leader for the entire University System. This includes managing complex organizational structures, leading and developing the System's administration, and ensuring efficient and effective operations across all campuses. The President is also responsible for financial oversight, including budget development and resource allocation, especially in the context of Alaska's challenging fiscal environment.

Academic and Educational Oversight: The President is responsible for the overall academic mission of the University. This involves ensuring the quality of educational programs, supporting faculty and student success, and aligning academic offerings with the state's workforce and community needs.

External Relations and Advocacy: As the face of the university system, the President is responsible for building and maintaining strong relationships with various external stakeholders. This includes advocating for the University's interests with the state legislature, engaging with donors and the business community for fundraising, and working with community leaders to promote the University's role in Alaska.

Creating and Executing a Strategic Vision: The President provides the long-term strategic vision for the University's System. This involves developing and implementing strategic plans, setting institutional goals, and guiding the University in its mission to inspire learning, advance knowledge, and serve the public.

Opportunities and Expectations for Leadership

In November 2025, President Pat Pitney announced her intent to retire. Her long and successful tenure has laid the foundation for the next President's success: under her leadership, enrollment declines were reversed; the budget was stabilized; research substantially increased; and UA reminded Alaskans of the university's vital role in empowering the state's workforce, economy, and communities.

The University of Alaska has a bright future ahead of it. Enrollment is growing; programs are making a difference; and a quality education has never been more accessible. Continued investment in the UA system as a key state and economic powerhouse will be critical for the University's future success, and the new President will be instrumental in that effort. In particular, the President will be expected to:

Partner with the Board of Regents to advance the system's goals and aspirations.

The next President will work effectively with the UA Board of Regents to advance the [*Roadmap to Empower Alaska*](#), a strategic framework for the System's future. The President will also serve as a thought partner to the Board of Regents as they explore the emerging and evolving opportunities for academic excellence, such as the pursuit of R1 status for the University of Alaska Fairbanks and the enhancement of workforce pathways through career and technical education, particularly in healthcare, education, and Arctic studies. The President will partner with the Board of Regents to navigate the challenges facing higher education; engage in long-range financial planning; and shape relationships with federal, state, and industry leaders.

In order to achieve these aspirations, the President will also hire, develop, inspire, and hold accountable a seasoned and talented leadership team that works creatively and in collaboration to achieve the Board's objectives, strengthening inter-institutional collaboration while respecting distinct missions.

Drive sustained enrollment growth and improve retention and completion rates.

The new President will benefit from recent enrollment increases and remain laser-focused on continuing this trend to the benefit of the entire state. The President will establish targets for the three institutional chancellors, supporting their efforts to serve all Alaskans, including non-traditional students such as rural students, Alaska Native students, military-affiliated populations, and adult learners. While increasing enrollment continues to be important, the President will also emphasize the need for improved retention and completion in order to continue the expansion of workforce participation success and to contribute to the state's economic vitality.

Grow research funding and expand regional, national, and international partnerships.

The University of Alaska is uniquely positioned to meet the nation's and the region's economic and security needs due to its special geographic location and expanding research capabilities in critical minerals, defense, space, energy, Arctic systems, and climate resilience. Alaska's primacy in these fields will allow the University to drive workforce needs through discovery and innovation, also translating the outcomes of research into economic expansion through commercialization (start-ups, licensed technologies), and community benefits.

Serve as the System's lead advocate among critical stakeholders.

The President will cultivate and maintain strong relationships with state legislators, the governor, the congressional delegation, and other elected officials, advocating effectively for the UA System's interests and fostering collaborative partnerships to support its mission and strategic goals. Prioritizing relationships with K–12 schools, Indigenous and community leaders, and industry leaders will be equally important to generate increased support and investment. Effective advocacy will also require the President to work collaboratively with all campuses in pursuit of private philanthropic dollars, strategic partnerships, and alumni engagement. The

President will be a champion and effective storyteller who will carry this message across the state, nation, and world.

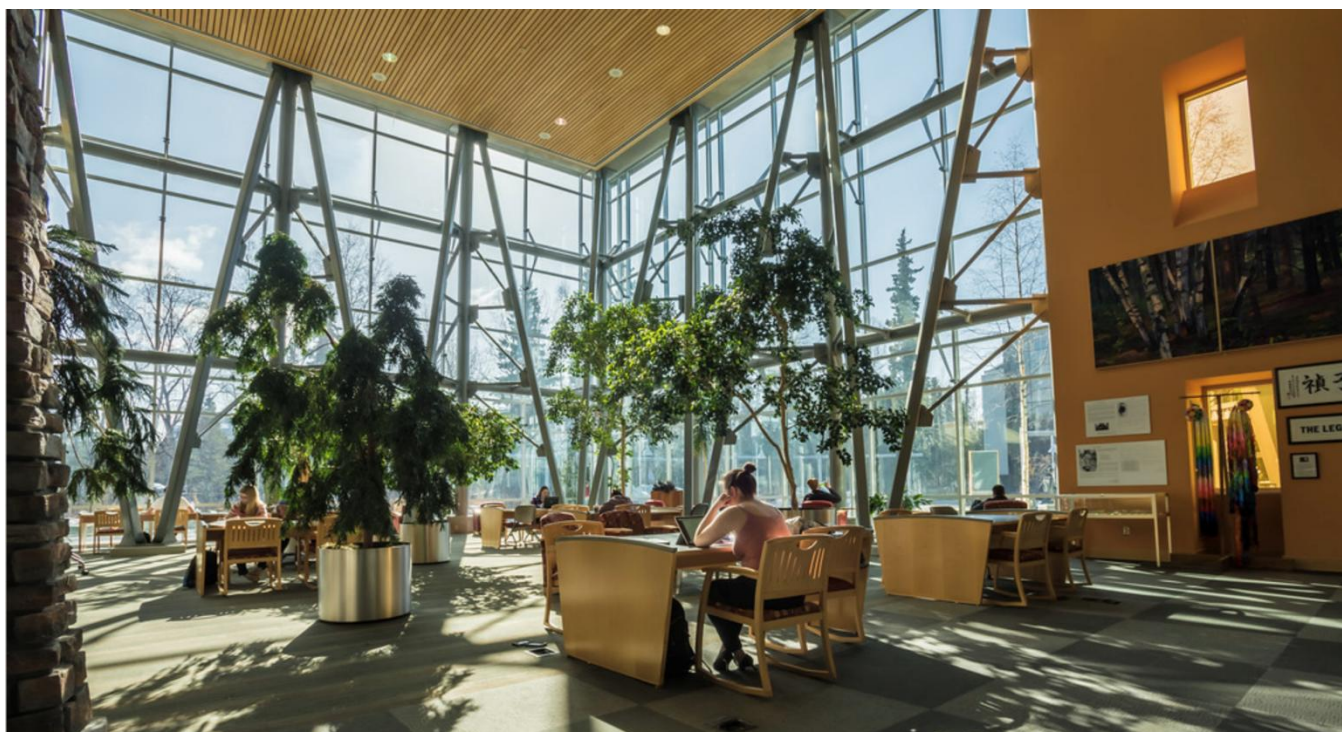
Ensure financial and operational stability.

The President will oversee the development and execution of plans to ensure the University of Alaska's long-term financial strength and resilience across a complex and distributed organization. Overseeing annual budgeting, enrollment, capital planning, new program development, and entrepreneurship, the President's influence and need for capable, strategic, and adept leadership of the UA System's financial well-being cannot be overstated. It will also be necessary for the President to ensure that systemwide operations are managed effectively, productively, and efficiently, and with a high degree of service excellence. The President will employ a creative, inclusive, collaborative, and transparent approach to ensure cost-saving measures are balanced with maintaining academic excellence, administrative quality, and student satisfaction. Additionally, the President will identify new sources of revenue to ensure UA's financial stability and enable continued investment in the UA system's people, facilities, and technology infrastructure.

Enhanced support for students, faculty, and staff.

The President will embody an ethos of authenticity, humility, and cultural understanding, and be committed to building trust among all stakeholders; listen thoughtfully and generously with a deep desire to understand various viewpoints; approach sensitive issues with openness, transparency, and mutual respect; communicate clearly and honestly; and be action-oriented, maintaining a strong sense of progress, optimism, and forward momentum. The President will be especially cognizant of the unique relationship with Alaska Native communities. The [Alaska Native Success Initiative](#), supported by the Board of Regents, demonstrates a commitment to improving the participation and success of Alaska Natives through educational achievement statewide. The President will be committed to advancing this agenda and cultivating a workforce and institutional culture that reflects Alaska's 20% Indigenous population.

Photo from UAA Library



Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities

The ideal candidate for the role of President is a principled, visionary leader who combines integrity, transparency, success as a change agent, and emotional intelligence with the ability to inspire and execute. They will bring a proven track record in a highly complex organization, and executive-level vision, proven experience in business, economics, and/or higher education, combined with a commitment to strengthening the organization, and Alaska, for the long term. They see the work of this role as a calling, not as the next step in their career.

Skilled at building trust across staff, students, community, and board, the ideal candidate listens deeply, empowers others, and hires strong teams that thrive together. Adaptable yet focused, the ideal candidate is innovative, manages competing priorities to create win-win solutions, and consistently builds buy-in internally and externally. Above all, the President will motivate, unite, and guide people toward shared goals with humility, clarity, and strategic foresight.

It is essential that the next President demonstrate significant experience at the senior level of an institution or organization of substantial complexity, along with proven leadership ability and managerial success. A terminal degree is preferred. In lieu of a terminal degree, candidates may have a demonstrated record of successful executive leadership, and comparable credentials and/or experience sufficient to warrant the respect and confidence of the academic community. The ideal candidate for President will possess many of the following qualities, experiences, and characteristics:

Visionary Leadership and Strategic Acumen: Proven ability to develop and implement a compelling vision for an institution, anticipate challenges in the higher education landscape, and lead through change with creativity, strategic focus, and resilience.

Executive Leadership Experience in a Complex Organization: A track record of successful leadership outcomes in an organization of commensurate size and complexity, with higher-ed experience preferred. Experience within a public university system is preferred.

Successful Change Agent: The ideal candidate will have demonstrated experience leading a complex organization through change, with specific experience deploying best practices to increase recruitment, retention, and completion rates.

Commitment to Career and Technical Education: Available at all university campuses, career and technical education is an integral part of the UA academic portfolio. It is expected that the next UA President will understand the vital role that it plays in creating economic opportunities for students, and in driving the Alaska economy.

Experience in and Respect for the Research Agenda: Exposure to high-level research that leads to workforce opportunities and aligns with the economy, geography, and resources of the state. The successful candidate will be able to articulate the value and critical importance of the state's essential research focal areas.

Demonstrated Success in Managing Large Budgets and Aligning Resources to Strategy: The President should have a record of increasingly sizable budget oversight responsibility, with experience in resource-constrained environments.

Resource Development: Demonstrated success in expanding resources through public investment, philanthropic giving, and creative alternative revenue streams.

Experience Working with a Governing Board: Experience in working with governing boards, with preferred experience in a public, unionized environment, is desired.

A Student-Centered Leader: The President will be a present, visible, and accessible leader who is willing to engage with students and expand opportunities for student success and career pathways.

Collaborative Team Building: A record of fostering consensus and enthusiasm around shared goals, and the talent for cultivating a strong leadership team. The ideal candidate empowers colleagues and builds trust through transparency, delegation, and inclusive decision-making.

External Relations and Advocacy: Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, with the charisma and credibility to serve as a compelling ambassador for UA on the local, regional, and national stage. The President should be adept at forming strategic alliances, and comfortable expanding the University's profile in the media, community, and beyond. The President should also demonstrate strong political acumen, with an ability to work across the ideological spectrum at both the state and federal levels.

Deep Alignment with Mission and Values: A profound commitment to the UA's mission as a public land-grant institution, serving the needs of the entire state. The President should be able to connect with diverse constituencies across the state and honor the rich traditions of the University while guiding it forward.

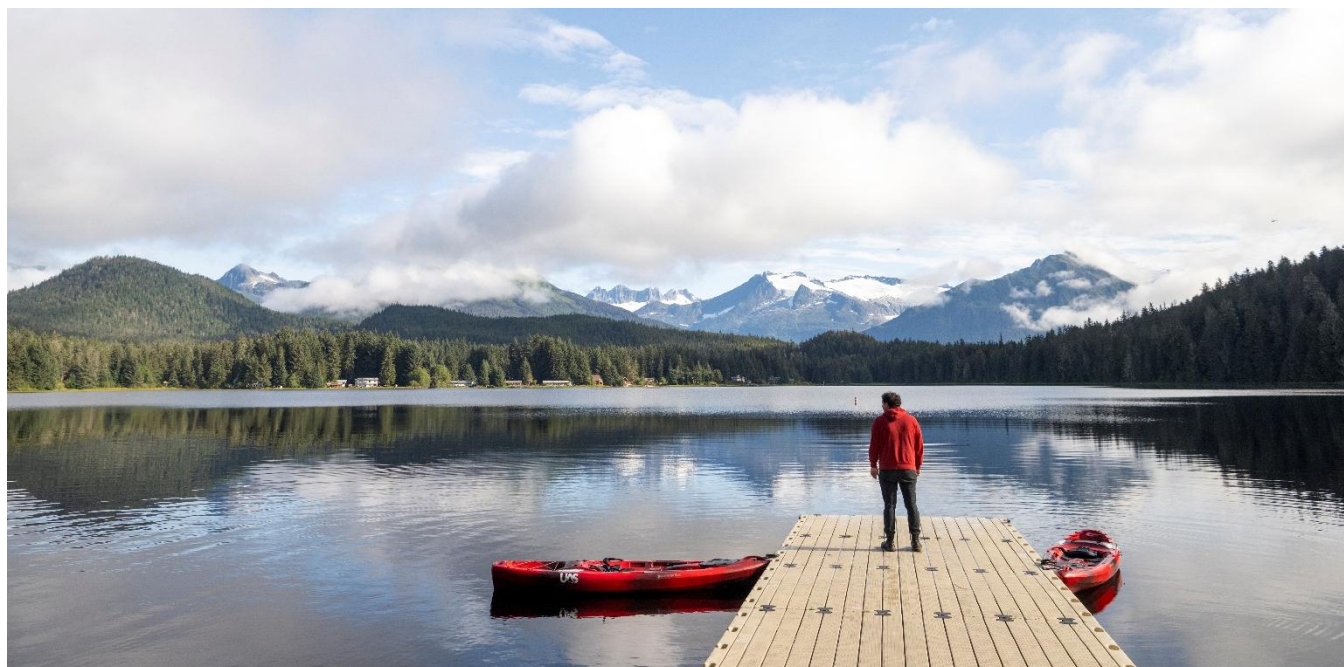
Financial and Operational Expertise: Strong financial acumen, with experience overseeing budgets, aligning expenditures with strategic priorities, and ensuring institutional sustainability. Able to make data-informed decisions, drive operational efficiencies, and balance innovation with prudent management of resources.

Commitment to Academic Excellence: An understanding of and appreciation for academic values, culture, and emerging issues in higher education. The next President should also demonstrate support for research, scholarship, and teaching.

Shared Governance: The President should have a track record of transparent decision-making and two-way communication practices that inspire trust and reflects on-the-ground experience across the system.

Commitment to Alaska: An authentic appreciation for the state of Alaska and UA's unique role within the state. Genuine and active interest in becoming an engaged member of the UA community.

Photo from UAS Auke Bay



About University of Alaska System

Overview

The University of Alaska is America's Arctic University and is the state's higher education system composed of three separately accredited universities - the **University of Alaska Anchorage**, the **University of Alaska Fairbanks**, and the **University of Alaska Southeast** - and their 11 associated community campuses. Each has different strengths, delivers extensive e-learning instruction, and provides a unique student experience. Roughly 20,000 full- and part-time students are enrolled system-wide, studying 500 unique degree, certificate, or endorsement programs. Study areas include short-course workforce training (CTE, certificates and endorsements), dual credit in partnership with area high schools, associate degrees, bachelor's and master's degrees, and doctorates.

The University of Alaska [Board of Regents](#) is an 11-member volunteer board, appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Alaska Legislature. Members serve an eight-year term, with the exception of the student regent who is nominated from his/her campus and serves a two-year term. The Board was established in the Alaska Constitution and is responsible for University of Alaska policy and management through the university president.

The UA system provides the vast majority - roughly 90% - of Alaska's post-secondary education. Each university offers a valuable yet distinct student experience, and every campus is critical to its home community, supporting the local economy and workforce needs.

The comprehensive scope and depth of UA's programs and research — from short-term workforce development programs to globally recognized Ph.D. programs — are imperative to meeting Alaska's long-term economic needs and the overall vitality of the state.

The 2025 report [UA's Impact on Alaska's Workforce: An In-Depth Analysis of 11 Key Industries](#) highlights the critical role the University of Alaska plays in developing the skilled workforce that powers Alaska's economy, particularly in high-demand industries, including oil and gas, fisheries, construction, computer science, and health care. Ninety percent of UA graduates are working in Alaska within a year of graduation, and 75% remain and work in the state long-term.

The President serves as the chief executive officer for the University of Alaska and reports to the Board of Regents. In addition to the three major university campuses, 11 community campuses are divided among the three universities based on geography. Community campus directors report to the President through the three universities.

The University of Alaska system and UAA, UAF, and UAS organization charts can be found [here](#).

Mission Statement

The University of Alaska inspires learning, and advances and disseminates knowledge through teaching, research, and public service, emphasizing the North and its peoples.

Roadmap to Empower Alaska

The UA Board of Regents adopted the "Roadmap to Empower Alaska," establishing a robust plan for the University of Alaska System to advance Alaska's economy through education, workforce development, research, and strong partnerships across the state.

The Roadmap's three pillars represent the Board of Regents' long-term vision for the University of Alaska. They are framed by guiding principles and achieved through the implementation of priority strategies to meet Board-established system goals and through well-defined university/system office missions, roles, and goals.

- Financial Responsibility & Future-Focused
- State & Arctic Leadership
- Quality Reputation

System Goals

The goals adopted by the Board of Regents were developed in consultation with students, staff, faculty, and other university stakeholders, and represent specific aspirations for the University System as a whole.

- Deliver academic excellence and success at all levels
- Modernize the student experience
- Contribute to Alaska's skilled workforce and engaged citizenship
- Operate efficiently, effectively, and responsibly
- Grow our world-class research
- Provide an open and welcoming university with equal opportunity and access for all students, faculty, and staff

Guiding Principles

- Student-centric
- Consistent with and/or employs best practices
- Innovative and transformative
- Leverages current assets and resources
- Rewards collaboration across universities
- Data-informed and data-driven

System Office

The University of Alaska System Office is located in Fairbanks, as is the President's designated residence at the Grace Schaible House. The System Office plays important internal coordinating and external roles. Its primary ongoing responsibilities include:

- Maintaining the accounting and management systems
- Overseeing legal, financial, human resources, and information technology employees and systems,
- Developing annual operating and capital budgets
- Providing leadership, coordination, and policy for UA fundraising initiatives
- Conducting public and governmental advocacy for the University of Alaska, and
- Coordinating academic offerings.

Alaska Native Success Initiative (ANSI)

The University of Alaska System, guided by the Board of Regents, is committed to improving the participation and success of Alaska Natives through educational achievement statewide. The [Alaska Native Success Initiative](#) places people at the center of every action. Informed by priorities set at the System Office and shaped by university-specific action teams, ANSI is unifying the voice of Alaska Native communities across the state.

Systemwide Attainment Framework

The [Statewide Attainment Framework](#) is aligning work across every UA campus to recruit, retain, and graduate more Alaskans for jobs in Alaska. It is one of the primary areas of focus across the University System, and the three universities are in the early stages of implementation

UA Arctic Leadership Initiative

This program will build upon programs across the UA System to give students and early-career professionals the foundation they need to address the changing Arctic landscape.

Budget and Finance

UA's authorized FY26 budget is approximately \$1.1 billion. Roughly \$331 million of that (30%) budget is Unrestricted General Funds (UGF); that is, direct state funding for general purposes.

University of Alaska Foundation

The [University of Alaska Foundation](#) is a private nonprofit corporation that operates as a public foundation. The mission of the UA Foundation is to seek, secure, and steward philanthropic support in partnership with the University of Alaska System to help shape Alaska's future. It was established in 1974 to solicit, manage, and invest donations for the University of Alaska's exclusive benefit.

The UA Foundation is distinct from the University of Alaska System and is governed by a board that comprises the President of the University of Alaska System, chancellors from each university (UAA/UAF/UAS), two members of UA Board of Regents, and community volunteers. As of June 30, 2025, total assets amounted to \$604.4 million.

UA Land Management

The [UA Land Management](#) office is responsible for UA's property and land assets and works to generate revenue through responsible development of the university's real property. This includes everything from commercial leasing and resource development to residential land sales and more. Revenues are invested in an endowment fund that supports the UA Scholars Program scholarships and other educational and research programs.

Research Enterprise and Economic Impact

UA is a globally recognized research system with strengths in Arctic, climate science, engineering, Indigenous studies, fisheries, atmospheric research through its [Poker Flat](#) rocket launch facility, unmanned aircraft systems, and more, and plays a vital role in federal partnerships and national security research. The research agenda serves as both an economic multiplier and innovation driver for the entire state. UA is the only university that owns its own rocket launch facility (Poker Flat). UA also owns and operates the [High-frequency Active Auroral Research Program](#), or HAARP, which is the world's most capable high-power, high-frequency transmitter for study of the ionosphere. In addition UA operates the Arctic Research vessel, the [R/V Sikuliaq](#).

University of Alaska's research engages undergraduate and graduate students to provide the skills and knowledge needed to become tomorrow's leaders. UA spent roughly \$274 million on research in FY25 - an increase of more than \$60 million from five years ago. Attaining R1 status is a key goal for the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Students, Faculty, Staff, and Shared Governance

UA is focused on the student experience, mental health, basic needs, housing, and campus life, and values the importance of strong partnership with faculty, staff, and unions. The System maintains a commitment to shared governance with students, faculty senates, and staff councils, and a culture of belonging, safety, and respect across the system.

Campuses

The UA System's three universities are separately accredited institutions with 11 community campuses divided geographically between the three universities, reflecting its statewide mission.

University of Alaska Anchorage

The University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) is our urban comprehensive university and the largest provider of workforce education in Alaska, especially in healthcare. UAA has a unique dual mission of vocational-technical education through quality baccalaureate programs in business, accounting, nursing, engineering, and more.

UAA is the largest university campus in the state. UAA's main campus is located in Anchorage, with four community campuses and extension sites throughout Southcentral Alaska. It is an open-access university that serves almost 18,000 students each year, 91% of whom hail from Alaska.

UAA offers more than 100 degree and certificate programs through a full complement of programs and courses, including in high-demand fields such as engineering, healthcare, business, and education, as well as the liberal arts and sciences. The University's career and technical education programs are closely aligned with Alaska's core industries, such as aviation and oil and gas. Many courses are designed with flexibility to accommodate students who work or have a family, and the campus houses a range of student success and support centers.

Photo from UAS



UAA Community & Technical College (Anchorage)

Reporting to the UAA provost, the UAA Community & Technical College builds Alaska's workforce and fosters student success through quality education and technical training. It offers programs that provide pathways and certifications in a number of high-demand industries, and most have transferable skills that cross disciplines. These areas include Welding, Construction Management, Aviation, and Automotive and Diesel Technology. Programs include non-credit options for continuing education, quicker certificate programs, all the way up to two- and four-year degrees. CTC also houses a number of support and foundational instruction that will help students progress toward their goals. CTC is home to the general education courses for Quantitative Studies (math), Writing, and Communication. Additionally, it is also home to both Army and Air Force ROTC, whose programs prepare leaders for both the military and eventually the community.

Kenai Peninsula College (Soldotna, Homer, and Seward)

Kenai Peninsula College (KPC) delivers Associate of Arts and Associate of Applied Science degrees, as well as courses leading to vocational certificates. Some courses leading to baccalaureate degrees can be obtained entirely at KPC. A number of four-year degree programs are available at KPC via distance delivery through other UAA campuses. KPC has a robust e-learning program reaching students across Alaska. More than 4,500 students find their place at KPC each year. They have a choice to study at one of KPC's three locations: Soldotna, Homer, and Seward, as well as take courses through KPC's expanding virtual college.

Kodiak College (Kodiak Island)

Kodiak College, located 250 miles south of Anchorage on Kodiak Island. Kodiak College serves the city of Kodiak, seven rural communities, and the nation's largest U.S. Coast Guard base. Kodiak College provides in-person and distance education courses leading to occupational endorsement and undergraduate certificates, associate and baccalaureate degrees. Kodiak College also provides adult basic education, GED preparation, and developmental education courses. The college supports community-based instruction providing services such as tutoring, testing, dual enrollment high school/college-level courses, continuing professional education, vocational training, and workforce development. The campus provides a support network for students taking e-learning courses from other college campuses.

Matanuska-Susitna College (Palmer)

Located off Trunk Road on College Drive, 40 miles north of Anchorage and about halfway between Wasilla and Palmer, the Mat-Su campus serves nearly 2,000 students per semester and continues to experience strong growth rates. The Mat-Su Borough is the fastest-growing area of the state. To meet the academic, career, and technical needs of this expanding population, Mat-Su College delivers occupational endorsement certificates, undergraduate certificates, associate degrees, and several levels of cooperative degrees with other University of Alaska campuses. Mat-Su College graduates leave prepared to enter the Alaska workforce or pursue further academic studies.

Prince William Sound College (Valdez, Copper Basin, Cordova)

Prince William Sound College (PWSC) serves the vast Valdez, Copper Basin, and Cordova regions. The College offers the Associate of Arts (general transfer) degree, A.A.S. degrees in Industrial Technology and Outdoor Leadership, a variety of professional development and workforce training courses and certifications, adult basic education, and GED preparation. PWSC plays a unique role in protecting the Prince William Sound ecosystem through its extensive offerings of Fishing Vessel Training and related safety and preparedness training opportunities. In partnership with the BLM, Alyeska Pipeline Services, Providence Valdez Medical Center, and numerous other local employers, PWSC provides internship and career pathway options.

University of Alaska Fairbanks

The University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) is Alaska's flagship research university and a global authority on Arctic research. UAF's high academic standards and its highly sought-after programs in engineering, science, business, Arctic, and Indigenous studies help attract and retain students and researchers from across the globe.

UAF is the nation's northernmost land, sea, and space grant university and international research center, with colleges and schools that offer instruction in more than 100 disciplines, including vocational and technical programs, on seven campuses across the State. Graduate degrees are available in a wide range of academic fields. UAF serves approximately 7,500 students each year from 52 states and territories and 51 countries.

UAF is the principal research center for the statewide university system and is internationally known for its research in the Pacific Rim and the circumpolar North. The University is consistently among the top 100 universities in the nation for funding from the National Science Foundation.

UAF Community & Technical College (Fairbanks)

The UAF Community and Technical College (CTC) offers more than 50 one-year certificate programs, two-year associate degree programs, and occupational endorsements in high-demand career fields. Its purpose is to prepare workforce-ready graduates and community-driven education. Classes are primarily offered at various locations throughout the Fairbanks area and on the main UAF campus. CTC serves communities and villages across Interior Alaska—an area roughly the size of France. CTC offers flexible course options, including online and audio conference delivery, on-site instruction by local or visiting faculty, and intensive sessions in Fairbanks and Anchorage.

Bristol Bay Campus (Dillingham)

The Bristol Bay Campus serves southwest Alaska: Bristol Bay, the Aleutians, and the Pribilof Islands. There are 32 rural communities in the Bristol Bay region within a 55,000-square-mile area. There are 12 coastal communities served between the Aleutian archipelago, the lower Alaska Peninsula, the Shumagin Islands, and the Pribilof Islands. The campus offers in-person classes in the service area and connects students to virtual/online educational opportunities housed within the College of Indigenous Studies as well as UAF, UAA, and UAS. Headcount at the Bristol Bay Campus is around 350 students a semester. Another program based out of Dillingham is the Alaska Adult Education Program, which provides Bristol Bay adult learners the skills needed to prepare them for employment, vocational training, or postsecondary education. In addition, the Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program agent does outreach and provides technical assistance programs to help Alaskans wisely use, conserve, and enjoy Alaska's marine and coastal resources.

Chukchi Campus (Kotzebue)

The Chukchi Campus is located 26 miles north of the Arctic Circle on the shores of the Chukchi Sea. The campus serves Kotzebue and 10 villages in a region of more than 36,000 square miles. Chukchi offers Associate of Arts as well as Associate of Applied Science degrees, and courses leading to baccalaureate degrees in education, rural development, and social work. Courses are offered by local instructors and through the College of Indigenous Studies audio-conferencing and live Internet instructional systems.

Kuskokwim Campus (Bethel)

The Kuskokwim Campus (KuC) is located in Bethel and serves approximately 25,000 people in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, which includes 47 remote Alaska Native Yup'ik and Cup'ik Eskimo and Athabaskan villages with 56 tribes in a 57,000-square-mile-area the size of Illinois. Bethel is a community of about 6,000 people 80 miles inland on the Kuskokwim River. KuC also operates one remote learning center based in Hooper Bay, a

Yup'ik Eskimo community of 1,000 on the Bering Sea coast. KuC offers academic, vocational and community interest courses, as well as courses leading to associate, baccalaureate and master's degrees, including a Bachelor of Arts degree in Yup'ik language and culture, the home language of many families in the region. The Emerging Scholars Program assists all full-time freshmen in the transition to college, both academically and socially, and in the completion of certificates and degrees. Students may attend classes on campus and through distance delivery. Housing on campus is available in Sackett Hall, which provides suites with space for four students in each.

Northwest Campus (Nome)

Northwest Campus is located in Nome, a community of 3,500 that is the service hub for the 15 villages of the Bering Strait region. This 44,000-square-mile region extends from Shishmaref on the northern edge of the Seward Peninsula to Stebbins on the southern rim of Norton Sound. It includes communities on St. Lawrence and Little Diomed islands. The area contains 570 miles of coastline, which includes all of Norton Sound and portions of the Bering and Chukchi seas. The Northwest Campus serves a total population of nearly 10,000. Certificates and associate's, bachelor's and master's degrees are offered to the region's residents, with courses taught both traditionally and by distance delivery. The campus responds to vocational, business development, cultural preservation, and academic needs of the Bering Strait region. Many courses, programs, and degrees are offered in cooperation with regional health and tribal organizations, school districts, and corporations. Northwest Campus offers the high latitude range management certificate program supporting reindeer herding and husbandry.

Photo from UAA



University of Alaska Southeast

The University of Alaska Southeast (UAS), recognized as the most picturesque campus in the nation, has a growing emphasis on undergraduate ocean science, mariculture, and maritime workforce development. It is an integral part of our System and helps fuel economic growth and opportunities throughout Southeast Alaska.

Comprised of the School of Arts and Sciences, Alaska College of Education, School of Career Education, and the Maritime Training Center, UAS is the smallest of UA's three universities, serving approximately 2,000 students each year. It is known for small class sizes, academic excellence, personalized attention, comprehensive student support, and a high level of student satisfaction.

UAS offers both online and on-campus programs in the sciences, including marine biology, English, social science, liberal arts, business, education, construction, power technology, fisheries, maritime training, health sciences, and more, and takes advantage of its location in Southeast Alaska's Tongass National Forest for study and research.

Ketchikan Campus (Ketchikan)

The Ketchikan campus was originally established as Ketchikan Community College in 1954. In cooperation with the larger University of Alaska system through distance education, students can graduate locally with bachelor's and master's degrees. Business and industry programs are delivered, as well as a core of technical, maritime studies, and other vocational courses. Ketchikan serves approximately 1,250 students.

Sitka Campus (Sitka)

UAS Sitka specializes in distance-learning opportunities for students throughout Alaska and beyond. It aims to provide a place where everyone can enrich their lives and build a path to their future. It educates approximately 750 students through eight occupational endorsement programs, six certificate programs, and five associate degree programs.

Areas of Excellence

Arctic Research

The environment, economy, and demographics of the circumpolar North are changing in complex but predictable ways. The rapid changes present an urgency to understand and adapt to these dynamic times. University of Alaska is building a powerful network of Arctic leaders and scholars who can make a global-scale impact in the Arctic, support Indigenous communities, address climate change, and responsibly pursue economic opportunities.

Alaska Native Success Initiative

The UA Board of Regents prioritized improving the engagement and success of Alaska Native students, faculty, and staff. The initiative involves action teams and a steering committee of leaders representing the Board of Regents, chancellors, Alaska Native corporations, tribal entities, and organizations to help guide the process. Our goal is to represent the Alaska population, for all to feel they belong, and for the change to be visible and recognized.

Workforce Development

The University of Alaska is the number one provider of workforce development programs in the state. Training a skilled workforce is a critical part of its mission. Across the System, UA's universities and community campuses provide: 90% of Community College and VocTech education in Alaska, 95% of undergraduate education, such as accounting, finance, biology, engineering, and fisheries, 98% of graduate education, and 99% of academic R&D

in the state. Over the last 10 years, UA awarded around 43,000 degrees and certificates – 70% of which qualify grads for Alaska's highest-demand employment fields. Broad program offerings and degree pathways give students robust opportunities for success in college and in Alaska's workforce.

Photo from UAA



Fairbanks, Alaska

The University of Alaska System Office is located in Fairbanks, Alaska's third-largest community, which sits on the banks of the Chena River in the heart of Alaska, and serves as the regional, economic, and health care center for the Interior and Northern Alaska.

Home to about 95,000 people, the city is steeped in a history of riverboat captains and gold seekers. Its character has been shaped by a large military presence, construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline and the continuing oil economy, and a thriving university. Alaska Native languages and culture are a vibrant and rich part of Fairbanks. It is a city where old quietly blends with new. Striking modern buildings sit side-by-side with log cabins built in the early part of the last century.

There are many different paths to Fairbanks — air, via the [Fairbanks International Airport](#), by rail, or by simply driving the Parks Highway. The 362 miles from Fairbanks to Anchorage is on the Parks Highway, which also provides direct access to [Denali National Park](#). Denali, at elev. 20,310 feet, is visible from the President's office on the UAF campus (weather permitting).

Known as the "Golden Heart City," Fairbanks boasts diverse culture, rich history, a thriving population and economy, and plenty to explore. In the summer, Fairbanks bathes in nearly round-the-clock sun for gardening, hiking, hunting and fishing, outdoor festivals, baseball games, berry-picking, and floating through town on the Chena River. In the winter, see the aurora dancing overhead and walk or ski on local trails. (University of Alaska Fairbanks alone has more than 25 miles of trails on campus.)

More about living in Fairbanks can be found by visiting [the Explore Fairbanks website](#).

Photo from UAF



About Alaska: Living and Leading in the State

Alaska is unlike any other place in the world. Its scale, people, and economic future all shape the environment the University of Alaska serves. The state spans one-fifth the size of the continental United States, with more than 200 communities connected by air, water, or hundreds of miles of road. UA's reach into those communities gives the president a direct role in advancing opportunity across the state.

Alaska's population is defined by deep cultural roots, including the languages, traditions, and leadership of Alaska Native peoples who have lived here since time immemorial. Strong relationships with Tribal and Alaska Native organizations, rural communities, and local leadership are central to the university's fulfillment of its public mission.

The state's economy blends well-established industries like oil and gas, mining, fisheries, and construction with emerging sectors such as critical minerals, mariculture, renewable energy, military operations, and Arctic policy. The University is a key partner in each of these areas and is often the primary source of the skilled workforce and research capacity needed to move the state forward.

Living in Alaska offers a distinct quality of life: access to world-class outdoor recreation, tight-knit communities, and a strong sense of shared purpose. Leadership here is visible, impactful, and personal. The next President will have the opportunity to engage directly with people across the state and play a central role in empowering Alaska's future. This is a position for someone who wants their work to matter - and who is energized by the chance to lead in a place where the university makes a profound difference.

Photo from UAA



Procedure for Candidacy

All applications, nominations, and inquiries are invited. Applications should include, as separate documents, a CV or resume and a letter of interest addressing the themes in this profile.

WittKieffer is assisting the University of Alaska in this search. For fullest consideration, candidate materials should be received by March 5, 2026.

Nominations and inquiries can be directed to: UAlaskaPresident@wittkieffer.com

Melody Rose, Ph.D., Shelley Arakawa, J.D., and Maya Holt-Brockenbrough, Ph.D.

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