The University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) announces a search for a new chancellor. The chancellor serves as the university’s chief executive officer and is appointed by and reports to the University of Alaska (UA) system president. The incoming chancellor will be expected to assume office in July 2017 or as soon thereafter as feasible.

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

Established in 1917, the University of Alaska Fairbanks is the flagship of the statewide University of Alaska system. UAF’s range of people and programs is as diverse and dynamic as Alaska. UAF serves nearly 10,000 students offering everything from vocational programs to PhDs from its main campus in Fairbanks, community campuses in Fairbanks, Bethel, Dillingham, Kotzebue, and Nome, and learning centers across the state. UAF is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. Many of its programs are individually accredited through national accreditation organizations.

UAF is a Land, Sea and Space Grant institution recognized as a world leader in Arctic research and classified as one of the “RU/H: Research Universities (high research activity)” in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. UAF has five major research institutes, a research museum with extensive collections drawn primarily from the circumpolar north, and more than 20 research centers and off-campus research facilities.

UAF provides outreach programs across Alaska, including the Cooperative Extension Service and the Marine Advisory Program for Alaska, with agents or specialists located in communities across the state. UAF is also home to a public broadcasting station serving the greater Fairbanks area and, via translator stations, smaller communities throughout northern Alaska.

Academics

UAF has nine colleges and schools offering approximately 145 degrees and 30 certificates in 115 disciplines. Students choose from a breadth of academic programs offering hands-on learning and undergraduate and graduate research opportunities.

- College of Engineering and Mines offers degrees in civil, computer, electrical, environmental, geological, mechanical, mining, minerals preparation, and petroleum engineering as well as computer science and engineering management.
• College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences offers degrees in fisheries, marine biology, and oceanography.

• College of Liberal Arts is the academic home to UAF’s arts, humanities, social sciences, and languages.

• College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics offers degrees in atmospheric sciences, biology/wildlife, chemistry/biochemistry, geosciences, math/statistics, physics and veterinary medicine.

• College of Rural and Community Development serves UAF’s community college mission with a focus on workforce development, career and technical education, and academic preparation for college. CRCD offers certificate, associate, baccalaureate and master’s degree programs statewide and is also an integral part of the doctoral program in Indigenous Studies.

• School of Education prepares educators to work in urban and rural Alaska and to work with K-12 students from many backgrounds, with a particular focus on Alaska Native languages and cultures.

• School of Management offers Bachelor of Business Administration degrees with majors in accounting, business administration, economics and emergency management; graduate degrees in business administration, resource and applied economics, and security and disaster management; and a doctorate in natural resources and sustainability.

• School of Natural Resources and Extension provides programs in education, research and outreach that address the science and management of the natural resources and agriculture of Alaska and the circumpolar North.

Research

As Alaska’s research university and America’s Arctic university, UAF is a national and world leader in climate change and Arctic research. With partnerships and collaborations throughout Alaska and globally, world-renowned researchers help drive innovation and discovery. UAF’s research enterprise is an economic engine in Alaska, with research expenditures of $129 million in FY16.

Major research units include:

• Geophysical Institute focuses on geophysical processes from the center of the Earth to the surface of the sun and beyond. Specialized facilities address research, hazard monitoring, and the data needs of government agencies and research organizations. The institute is also home to the Alaska Satellite Facility, the Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration, and the Poker Flat Research Range, the only university-owned rocket range in the world.
• Institute of Arctic Biology is dedicated to advancing basic and applied knowledge of high-latitude biological systems through the integration of research, student education and service to Alaska and the nation. IAB’s Toolik Field Station is a world-renowned Arctic climate change research station in the northern foothills of the Brooks Range. Major research programs include the Center for Alaska Native Health Research, Center for Molecular and Genetic Studies of Hibernation and the Bonanza Creek Long-Term Ecological Research program. The Alaska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit is also administered by IAB.

• Institute of Marine Science is the home for research in oceanography and marine biology with special emphasis on arctic and Pacific subarctic waters. Research focuses on ecosystem structure and dynamics, the effects of climate change, oceanographic and ecosystem factors affecting Alaskan fisheries, and applied research problems facing the U.S. Arctic offshore oil and gas industry and the state and federal regulators who oversee these activities. UAF operates the R/V Sikuliaq, an ice-capable research vessel owned by the National Science Foundation. Commissioned in March 2015, the Sikuliaq is one of the newest members of the U.S. academic research fleet.

• Institute of Northern Engineering advances expertise in the high latitude and cold climate on energy production, modeling and testing of mechanical systems, environmental engineering and hydrology as well as infrastructure, mining, and petroleum development. Research centers include the Alaska Center for Energy and Power, Alaska University Transportation Center, Mineral Industry Research Lab, Petroleum Development Lab, and Water and Environmental Research Center.

• International Arctic Research Center assists northern nations and communities understand, prepare for and adapt to the pan-Arctic impacts of climate change. Researchers work across disciplines and borders toward an understanding of the Arctic as a whole. Research centers include the Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy, Alaska Fire Science Consortium, and Scenarios Network for Alaska and Arctic Planning.

Campus Life

Of the 6,500 students attending the 2,250-acre main campus in Fairbanks, approximately 20 percent live on campus. Single, undergraduate students choose from traditional dorm rooms, suites and apartment-style living. UAF also has apartments and small houses available for married couples and families. UAF’s MacLean house serves Alaska Native students from rural Alaska, giving these students the opportunity to live in a small community with a cultural focus to ease the transition to campus life.
Recreational opportunities for students range from casual pick-up basketball games at the Student Recreation Center to on-campus ice-climbing, backpacking expeditions in the Brooks Range, and sea kayaking alongside glaciers. On the intercollegiate level, UAF has 10 teams competing in six sports in NCAA’s Division II (basketball, volleyball, cross country running and skiing, rifle, and women’s swimming). Men’s hockey competes at the Division I level, with home games drawing a dedicated crowd of Fairbanks-area families. Approximately 1,100 acres of largely forested land on campus provide recreation opportunities with miles of trails for cross-country skiing, running, walking, and wildlife viewing.

The theater and music departments regularly offer some of the best shows in Fairbanks, with guest performers supplementing student performers and the symphony. The Wood Center, expanded in 2014 through a private-public partnership, serves as a hub for student activities with the main dining facility, meeting space for student organizations, a bowling alley, a ballroom, conference rooms, multi-purpose lounge areas, and the UAF Pub.

ABOUT LIFE IN FAIRBANKS

Fairbanks is Alaska’s second-largest population center, with almost 100,000 residents in the Fairbanks North Star Borough. While the borough is slightly smaller than the state of New Jersey, most of the population is concentrated in the cities of Fairbanks and nearby communities of North Pole, Fort Wainwright and Eielson Air Force Base. Fairbanks also serves as a regional hub for many Alaska Native communities in Interior Alaska.

Fairbanks’ climate is semi-arid, with just 11 inches of annual precipitation, most of that coming as snow. Temperatures can range from -40 degrees F in winter to 90 degrees F in summer, with low temperatures in January averaging 2 degrees F and highs in June averaging 70 degrees F. With low humidity and very little wind, the winter weather typically feels more moderate than the thermometer would suggest.

Fairbanksans are year-round outdoors enthusiasts. Cross-country skiing, snowboarding, ski-joring, dog mushing, and snowmachining (or snowmobiling as they call it in the Lower 48) are popular winter activities. Fairbanks is located at the perfect latitude for watching the northern lights as long as it’s dark enough out to see them (generally, late August through mid-April). In summer and fall, you’ll find Fairbanksans boating, biking, hiking, gardening, fishing, hunting, and berry-picking. Fairbanks is just a two-hour drive from Denali National Park, one of the crown jewels of the national park system, and also provides easy access to public lands in the Alaska Range, White Mountains and the Brooks Range.
The arts thrive in Fairbanks. Most weekends offer multiple concerts, cultural presentations, dance performances, book readings, exhibits or theatrical productions. Fairbanks’ galleries feature the full spectrum of locally made arts and crafts, including works by local artists whose work has been featured in major galleries and museums outside Alaska.

On the practical side, Fairbanks has both an excellent public schools system and a state-of-the-art hospital. Non-stop flights to Seattle year-round and seasonal non-stop service to Minneapolis and Portland make Fairbanks easily accessible to the Lower 48 and connecting flights to international destinations.

LEADERSHIP PRIORITIES FOR THE CHANCELLOR

The chancellor will be a visionary and collaborative leader of high moral character, fostering partnerships within UAF, across the UA system, and with the communities that UAF serves in Alaska, as well as nationally and internationally. The chancellor is delegated broad authority by the president over UAF’s administration. The chancellor will engage in the following activities to capitalize on creative, insightful, and decisive leadership:

**Exercising Broad Authority.** The chancellor is responsible for all aspects of the administration and strategic direction of UAF, as delegated by the president of UA and the regents. He or she will advance the mission and vision of the university and, in consultation with university governance groups, set strategic priorities and reallocate financial and human resources as necessary to advance that mission. The chancellor will lead the university’s administration of quality instruction, research, outreach, finance and operations, safety, philanthropy and university advancement, and student service and life programs. In addition, he or she will work closely in consultation with the UAF board of advisors.

**Building and Maintaining Relationships.** It is imperative that the new chancellor builds and maintains external relationships that are critical to the success of UAF. These relationships include, but are not limited to: community and corporate partners; local, state and national policy makers; private donors; and other national and international university leaders. The chancellor will represent the university as appropriate in Alaska, nationally, and internationally.

**Managing the University.** The chancellor supervises a chief academic officer, a chief financial officer, and, as needed, other senior administrators. He or she will advance the recruitment and retention of quality faculty and staff, make decisions on faculty promotion and tenure, and appoint professors emeritus and emerita. The chancellor is also responsible for advancing the recruitment and retention of
qualified students as well as establishing committees for the nomination of honorary degree and meritorious service award recipients.

**Serving the Larger University of Alaska Goals.** The chancellor will serve on the UA president’s cabinet and leadership team, collaborating with the UA system, University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA), and the University of Alaska Southeast (UAS). He or she will build on existing synergies to advance the entire system while serving as an advocate for UAF within the system. The chancellor will advance items for the UA board of regents’ meeting agendas and actively participate in board of regents meetings.

**Maintaining Fiscal Responsibility.** The chancellor will oversee the development of a fiscally sound UAF budget while working with the vice chancellors to allocate funding to fulfill UAF’s mission and achieve its strategic goals without sacrificing program quality. In the face of declining state budgets, he or she must ensure that deficit spending does not occur and will have ultimate authority for establishing course, use, service and administrative fees and developing additional sources of revenue. The chancellor will develop, update and present to the regents campus master plans as well as prepare annual capital plans.

**DESIRED ATTRIBUTES FOR THE CHANCELLOR**

The successful chancellor should be:

- A transparent and courageous decision-maker who builds consensus, has the fortitude to make difficult choices when necessary, and communicates decisions with clarity and care;
- A person of proven leadership with Alaska experience who will inspire trust and instill confidence within the university and with UAF’s many external constituencies;
- A stalwart and unflagging advocate for the University of Alaska Fairbanks;
- An inspiring person who can provide visionary strategic thinking and planning skills;
- A person of financial acumen who will aid the university in matching aspirations with finite resources while creatively developing alternative revenue streams;
- A person who values technology and understands the importance of leveraging technology in the service of the academy;
• A person who has an enthusiastic campus presence, actively engaged in a learning community of faculty, students, staff, alumni, and the broader communities that UAF serves;

• A person with a strong commitment to all UAF’s extended sites, including the Community & Technical College, remote campuses, learning centers and research facilities;

• An advocate for research excellence, committed to advancing UAF’s national and international leadership roles and to serving the State of Alaska;

• An innovative leader in economic development and diversification who will advance commercialization of intellectual property and build partnerships with industry;

• A champion of workforce development through strategic partnering with the business and military communities to meet Alaska’s technical and educational needs;

• A person with a demonstrated commitment to shared governance and collegial decision making;

• A person with experience in enriching the student learning environment both inside and outside the classroom;

• Someone who can cultivate connections with diverse external communities and constituencies;

• A strong manager who promotes collaboration and will seek the best from his/her leadership team;

• A person of global perspective who is committed to fostering diversity in its many forms;

• Someone with demonstrated abilities to work with indigenous peoples or in multicultural settings, especially with experiences relevant to Alaska and Alaska Native cultures and interests;

• A student of higher education, knowledgeable about key issues affecting universities nationally;

• A superb listener and communicator, with excellent inter-personal skills and at ease in a multitude of settings with multiple constituencies; and

• A strong leader, committed to maintaining UAF, including our remote sites, as safe, secure places to work, learn and live.
QUALIFICATIONS

In addition to the aforementioned desired attributes, the successful candidate will possess an advanced degree and significant and progressive professional leadership and management experience. It is preferred that he or she hold a terminal degree and have academic administrative leadership experience.

NOMINATION AND APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications, nominations, and expressions of interest can be submitted in confidence to uaf-chancellor-applications@alaska.edu. For best consideration, applications should be received by March 1, 2017. Application materials should consist of a curriculum vitae, a substantive cover letter addressing required and preferred qualifications, and a list of five references with full contact information; references will not be contacted without the explicit permission of the candidate.

For a confidential discussion, please contact Keli Hite-McGee, University of Alaska Chief Human Resources Officer, at khmcgee@alaska.edu or at 907-450-8215.

The University of Alaska Fairbanks is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and educational institution and is a part of the University of Alaska system.