Dr. Hans Nielsen has served the University of Alaska Fairbanks with distinction in teaching, research and public service from 1967 to 2010.

He has influenced three generations of atmospheric scientists by mentoring master's and doctoral degree students; and has spent thousands of hours in and out of the classroom enlightening proto-physicists of all ages and learning levels; and demonstrated a strong passion for teaching by helping reinvigorate the University’s undergraduate astronomy program.

He has significantly advanced human understanding about the workings of the aurora borealis; and revolutionized the technology used to study atmospheric phenomena; and has designed instrumentation used in several space probes; and has since 1971 published on average four articles per year about his revolutionary atmospheric studies.

He has contributed to the University through faculty positions and roles in governance; and has also contributed to the Fairbanks community as a whole by readily communicating with media and taking part in many middle and secondary school science fairs; and has made further contributions to the scientific community by reviewing journal publications and evaluating the internal operations of national research programs.

The University of Alaska Fairbanks expresses its deep appreciation to Dr. Hans Nielsen for his contributions to the State of Alaska and the University.