

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

HONORING

RICK CAUFIELD

The Thirty-First Alaska Legislature thanks Rick Caulfield for more than 30 years of service to the University of Alaska and honors his tremendous contributions to our state as he retires as chancellor of the University of Alaska Southeast.

Rick's academic life began in earnest when he earned both a Bachelor of Arts degree with honors in political science and a Bachelor of Science degree in natural resources from the University of California, Berkeley. He met and married his wife Annie in Juneau in the late 1970s. After earning a master's in education from the University of Alaska Fairbanks School of Education in 1985, Rick became an associate professor and coordinator of UAF Bristol Bay campus' Rural Development Program in Dillingham, where he helped to implement blended online and in-person instruction.

Four years later, Rick departed for the University of East Anglia in the United Kingdom to complete a PhD in anthropology. His research on whaling in Greenland led to his two books, and fluency in both Danish and Kalaallisut. Rick returned to UAF in 1991 as a tenured professor and was selected to serve as academic program head for the Department of Alaska Native and Rural Development at the Fairbanks campus. During more than 10 years in that role, Rick innovated, developing the distance programs offered by UAF and working to create the master's degree in rural development. Rick went on to serve as associate dean of Academic Programs at UAF from 2002 to 2004, and then dean of UAF's Community and Technical College from 2004 to 2010. His dedication to full inclusion for Alaska Native ways of knowing in academia led to his receiving the Dennis Demmert Award for Excellence in serving Alaska Native Students in both 1996 and 2001.

In 2010, Rick moved back to Juneau to serve as provost at the University of Alaska Southeast, serving under Chancellor John Pugh. During Rick's tenure as UAS Provost, student retention increased 14%. When Chancellor Pugh retired in May 2015, University of Alaska President Pat Gamble selected Rick to succeed him at the helm of UAS.

During Rick's time as chancellor, the Alaska College of Education was created at UAS, consolidating leadership of education programs across the University system and ensuring UAS remains a leader in training the next generation of Alaska teachers. In 2019, UAS' accreditation was reaffirmed by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, which praised the University's inclusion of Alaska Native culture, commitment to student retention, and successful integration of three distinct campuses into one cohesive university. Along with these accomplishments at UAS, Rick brought his collaborative, productive approach to creating joint degree programs with UAF, improving vocational facilities at the Ketchikan campus, and serving on the Juneau Economic Development Council board of directors.

The Thirty-First Alaska Legislature commends Chancellor Rick Caulfield for his leadership at the University of Alaska Southeast and his distinguished career of service to the University of Alaska. We wish him well in his retirement.



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