

Pat Pitney
UA President

Butrovich Bldg, Ste. 202, 2025 Yukon Drive
P.O. Box 755000, Fairbanks, AK 99775-5000
Phone: (907) 450-8000; Fax: (907) 450-8012
Email: ua.president@alaska.edu
www.alaska.edu



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UAA Chancellor Parnell to Retire at the End of Spring Semester

Wednesday, January 22, 2025

Dear UA Community,

As many of you saw earlier today, UAA Chancellor Sean Parnell announced that he'll be retiring at the end of this semester so he can spend more time with family and friends. Sean has been an incredible leader for UAA during the last 4 years. He joined our system during a challenging time, and has been a dedicated chancellor since day 1, revitalizing connections with the Anchorage and the UAA communities during his tenure. A few of his other notable achievements include:

Focus on affordable and accessible education, keeping UAA's tuition rates flat from Fall 2021 through this spring,

Enrollment growth and improved student retention, with student headcount up for seven straight semesters and retention at its highest mark in 9 years, reversing a decade of decline, and,

Receipt of the papers of Senator Ted Stevens and support of the Alaska Leaders Archive.

I'm grateful for Sean's service - the strides made over the last few years demonstrate the value of a UAA education. The increased community engagement and collaboration are a direct result of his efforts to create a culture of open communication and kind, compassionate leadership. He'll be very missed.

Sean has built a very strong leadership team that will continue to serve UAA well. As we navigate the leadership transition in the coming months, I'm committed to quality two-way communication with that team, UAA stakeholders, and the broader UAA community to determine the best path forward to fill the Chancellor role in a way that sets the UAA Leadership Team up for success, and maintains the stability that's been built during his tenure.

On behalf of the Board, the UA Leadership Team, and our wider UA Community, thank you, Chancellor Parnell, for your dedicated service to UAA, UA, and Alaska. As he concludes his time with us this semester, I look forward to engaging with UAA stakeholders and community members to ensure we continue the positive trajectory UAA is on.

Sincerely,

Pat Pitney
President, University of Alaska

