

# University of Alaska System Vice President/Chief Academic Officer 2024 Position Profile



UNIVERSITY *of* ALASKA  
ANCHORAGE



UNIVERSITY  
*of* ALASKA  
SOUTHEAST



UNIVERSITY  
*of* ALASKA  

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Many Traditions One Alaska



# The Opportunity

The Vice President/Chief Academic Officer (CAO) serves as a member of the University of Alaska system President's executive team. The VP/CAO provides academic leadership and strategic guidance to the President, Board of Regents and system office. This position works with the universities' academic, student services and research leadership to shape, promote and leverage capacity across the system. The CAO assists the President to ensure effective and efficient operation of the universities' educational programs. The CAO evaluates and reports on how each university is implementing Board policy.

## Key Responsibilities:

- Provides overarching academic leadership and planning for the University of Alaska System.
- Understands the academic mission with the ability to gather and disseminate concise information internally and externally.
- Provides proactive, data-informed strategic guidance to the President and Board of Regents on the wide range of academic issues including program offerings, student success, research, faculty, and accreditation.
- Develops and revises academic policies and regulations to address priorities of the Board of Regents and Academic and Student Affairs Committee.
- Leads creation and implementation of system-wide recruitment, retention, and graduation plan with mechanisms for accountability and tracking.
- Manages high priority projects and programs designed to support the Board's goals and strategic objectives.
- Monitors and articulates the strategic vision across multiple universities, campus and units; ensures that constituent representatives are kept appropriately informed of project activities.
- Resolves problems and conflicts within and across the universities and the system.
- Gathers information and completes analysis in order to propose potential solutions and specific recommendations for the President's and Board's consideration.
- Provides an independent perspective; this may include providing observations regarding key dynamics during meetings, challenging assumptions, or sharing relevant information of which the President may not be aware.



- Builds relationships across the University system and serves as a key information funnel, filter, and facilitator for the President – collecting new information and prioritizing and synthesizing it for the President and Board of Regents.
- Supervises system office staff in institutional research, workforce development, and governance.
- Represents the university’s mission and programs to external stakeholders and represent the system on academic and research related committees.
- Assures accountability systems for accreditation are developed, implemented and monitored.
- Serves as facilitator and liaison for system-wide shared governance.
- This position is based at the University of Alaska system office in Fairbanks.



## Experience & Qualifications

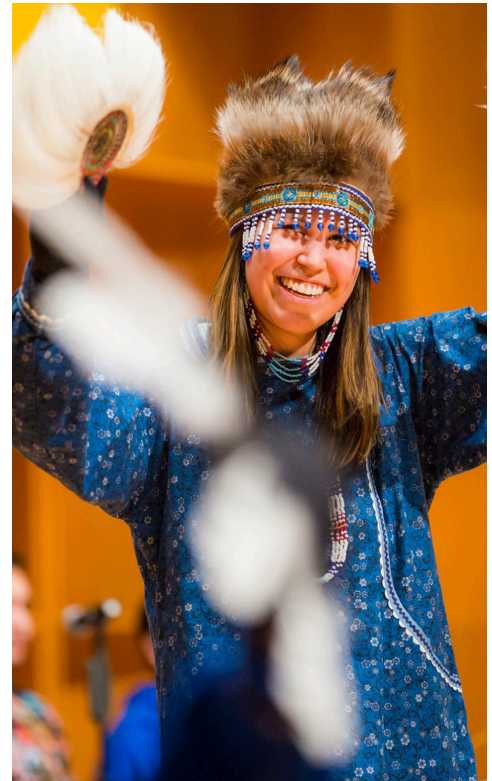
- 10 years higher education or related leadership with progressively responsible duties; experience as an academic dean or administrator preferred.
- Experience with higher education policy and accreditation.
- Experience working with faculty unions and shared governance preferred.
- Master's degree required; doctoral degree preferred.

## Personal attributes

- Demonstrated ability to develop high levels of trust, relationship building, and effective communication and engagement of multiple stakeholders.
- Collaborative problem-solver with experience working with diverse perspectives and interests to efficiently arrive at solutions.
- Relationship builder who listens, engages in dialog, and is transparent and accountable.
- Forward-focused mindset around the academic mission.
- Team builder and talent developer who respects and leverages the expertise of the team.
- Working leader who is willing to be hands-on as needed.
- Understanding of the Alaskan culture, dynamics, and physical logistics preferred.
- Desire to be an engaged and integral part of the University of Alaska community.

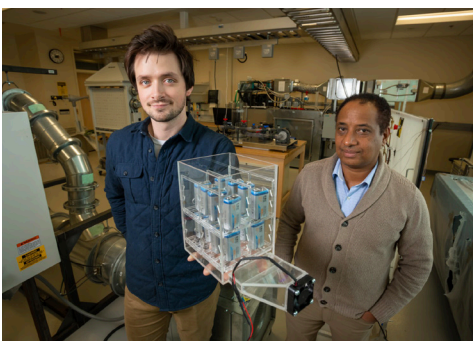
# About the University of Alaska System

The University of Alaska is the state's higher education system and is composed of three independently-accredited universities and their 13 associated community campuses. University of Alaska Fairbanks is the state's research university, University of Alaska Anchorage is the urban comprehensive university, and University of Alaska Southeast is the regional university. Each has different strengths, delivers extensive e-learning instruction and provides a unique student experience. More than 20,700 full- and part-time students are enrolled system-wide, studying 500 unique degree, certificate or endorsement programs. Study areas include short-course workforce training, associate degrees, bachelor's and master's degrees, as well as doctorates.



## University of Alaska Anchorage

The University of Alaska Anchorage is the largest university campus in the state. The University of Alaska Anchorage'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 percent of whom hail from Alaska.



The University of Alaska Anchorage 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, 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.



## University of Alaska Fairbanks

The University of Alaska Fairbanks is the nation's northernmost land, sea, and space grant university and international research center. The University of Alaska Fairbanks colleges and schools 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.



The University of Alaska Fairbanks 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.

## University of Alaska Southeast

Comprised of the School of Arts and Sciences, Alaska College of Education, School of Career Education, and the Maritime Training Center, the University of Alaska Southeast is the smallest of the three major University of Alaska campuses.

It is known for small class sizes, academic excellence, personalized attention, comprehensive student support, and a high level of student satisfaction.

The University of Alaska Southeast 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.



# 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. The value of scientific research includes direct investment in local economies and improvements in community life. University of Alaska's research engages undergraduate and graduate students to provide the skills and knowledge needed to become tomorrow's leaders. UA received \$235 million in research revenue last year as a system - an increase of more than \$60 million from 5 years ago.



## 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, we've awarded around 43,000 degrees and certificates - 70 percent 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.



# Applications and Nominations

This position is open until filled. For full consideration, please apply by August 5, 2024.

Applications must be submitted through the UA Careers site and must include:

1. Letter of interest that addresses how the candidate meets the Search Committee's qualifications as described in the position profile;
2. Resume or curriculum vitae;
4. Four professional references with email addresses and phone numbers provided (references will not be contacted without prior permission from the applicant).



Apply for the position through UA Careers

To nominate a colleague or for a confidential discussion about the position, please contact VP University Relations Michelle Rizk (search chair) at [marizk@alaska.edu](mailto:marizk@alaska.edu)

**[Learn more at alaska.edu/pres/vp-cao](https://alaska.edu/pres/vp-cao)**

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