

Pat Pitney

Interim President

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Dear UA Community,

On Monday we remember the invaluable contributions to our country made by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dr. King's work in advancing civil rights represents a dedication to freedom that remains critical to our society, and his messages of respect and civility are as important today as they were six decades ago. Our shared values and fundamental support for free speech, the exploration of differing ideas, and adherence to civility and respect must guide us in all that we do.

This past year, we have redoubled efforts to ensure the university system better reflects Alaska's diverse population, and to encourage all to feel that they belong on our campuses, from Ketchikan to Kotzebue. We recognize that we must do more to address racial justice, inclusivity and diversity, and we are working to improve recruitment, retention and success throughout the UA system for all people of color. The work resulting from this effort will accelerate the progress of equity, diversity and inclusion in our processes, policies, programs and operations. You can learn about these efforts on the [Race, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Success](#) website.

I encourage all of you to reflect on the tireless efforts of Dr. King and so many others who have fought for civil rights, including our own Alaska Native leaders, as we continue to work towards an environment of equity, inclusion and respect for all.

Sincerely,

Pat Pitney, Interim President
University of Alaska