

Pat Pitney  
UA President

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Dear UA Community,

Today, we commemorate and honor the rich histories and cultures of Alaska's Indigenous peoples. Their histories and stories continue to inspire us with their unwavering innovation, resilience, and perseverance. We also acknowledge that our universities, campuses, and research sites stand on the ancestral lands of the Alaska Native nations.

The University of Alaska System takes immense pride in our collaborative partnership with Alaska's Indigenous peoples. We celebrate the richness of their cultures, heritage, language, arts, and businesses, which all contribute to shaping the vibrant tapestry of our state. As president, I personally am very grateful for the partnerships and unique, individual relationships our universities have with Alaska Native people across the state. They allow us to truly empower success, and support opportunities for Indigenous people everywhere.

While Indigenous Peoples' Day is a special occasion on our calendar, our pledge is to strive for meaningful change every single day. As a System, we've been engaged in a continuous journey of transformation, marked by initiatives such as the expansion of opportunities for learning Alaska Native languages, the establishment of comprehensive land acknowledgments across our system, the redefinition of [Alaska Native success metrics](#), and the nurturing of a more welcoming and inclusive environment for Alaska Native students, faculty, Elders, staff, and community members. It is a journey that I hope will continue long into the future.

Even with all of the progress made by Alaska Native people over the years, it is crucial that we remember the significant hardships Indigenous people have endured throughout our history. Our collective challenge is to work tirelessly, building a future characterized by inclusivity and community.

Today, we stand in solidarity with Alaska's Native peoples, celebrating Indigenous Peoples' Day with a deep commitment to building a brighter future for all. I encourage you to take the opportunity to attend or participate in one of the Indigenous Peoples' Day activities on your campus or in your community.

Sincerely,

Pat Pitney  
President, University of Alaska

- [UAA Indigenous Peoples' Day Activity](#)
- [UAF Indigenous Peoples' Day Schedule of Events](#)
- [UAS Indigenous Peoples Day Activities](#)