

Pat Pitney
UA President

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Announcing my May 2026 Retirement

[\[Watch video message\]](#)

Dear UA Community -

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as University of Alaska president for the past five years. When the Board hired me in 2020, I wasn't seeking either the interim or permanent president position, but I felt my skill set would be an asset to UA and our mission. I committed initially to two years of service, and more than five years later, I'm proud of how far we've come and excited about the opportunities ahead. There's much to celebrate, but it is time for me and the UA system to be looking toward the next chapter.

Several months ago, I informed the Board of Regents that I plan to retire after their May 2026 board meeting. I'm confident that the University of Alaska will continue to thrive long after I step away. As an alum, and the parent of alums from each of our three universities, it's been one of the greatest honors of my life to serve all of you and the people of Alaska.

Since 2020, we've made some incredible progress.

- We've reversed enrollment declines and grown student headcount for three straight years.
- We've stabilized our budget after a period of uncertainty compounded by a once-in-a-century pandemic.
- We've substantially increased our competitive research position.
- And we've reminded Alaskans of UA's vital role in empowering our workforce, economy, and communities.

There's still work to do, but the future is strong. The Board's recent focus on student recruitment, retention, and graduation, along with expanded scholarships and financial aid, is already paying off and positioning UA for success.

Retirement will be bittersweet. I'm looking forward to spending more time with my kids, my grandkids, and my mom, and exploring the state I love so deeply. But until May, I'll remain full-speed ahead: advocating for our budget priorities in Juneau, and working closely with the Board to ensure a seamless leadership transition in my role and at the Universities.

In the weeks ahead, the Board will share more about the presidential search and how you can take part in shaping UA's next chapter. I hope you'll stay engaged in that process.

For over three decades, I've seen how the University of Alaska empowers this state. Our education, research, and partnerships make a difference in every community. Serving as your president has been the honor of my career. I look forward to finishing this chapter strong and cheering you on as you continue UA's work to empower Alaska.

Thanks for all you do for our students and our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pat Pitney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Pat" and last name "Pitney" clearly distinguishable.

Pat Pitney
President, University of Alaska