

Pat Pitney, President

Butrovich Building, 2025 Yukon Drive, Suite 202
PO Box 755000, Fairbanks, AK 99775-5000
(907) 450-8009
ua.president@alaska.edu
www.alaska.edu



UNIVERSITY
of ALASKA
Many Traditions One Alaska

February 24, 2025

Dear UA Community,

I am writing to you in response to the Board of Regents' recent [motion](#) directing compliance with federal guidance and directives concerning diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). This decision has sparked a range of reactions and concerns within our university community. We recognize that these changes touch on deeply held values for students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the broader community.

The Board's motion reaffirms its dedication to being an inclusive, nondiscriminatory institution committed to offering equal opportunity and access for all individuals. It also reaffirms UA's commitment to maintaining a welcoming environment and honoring Alaska Native culture and heritage. The university remains committed to respecting and upholding our long-standing values of freedom of expression and academic freedom.

I ask every member of our UA community to stay dedicated to ensuring our universities' learning and work environments remain open and welcoming to all. In this time of political divisiveness, I ask that each of us take the time to presume positive intent, listen to understand, and embrace our commitment to help each student find their path to success.

A significant part of the University of Alaska's identity is our commitment to Alaska Native culture, language, art, heritage, business, and tribal management/governance. We are proud of and embrace our global leadership in Alaska Native and Indigenous studies. The variety of Alaska Native programs that position UA as a global leader have been, are, and will remain open and welcoming to all.

The Board's direction is driven by its responsibility to protect the university's long-term financial and operational stability. Federal funding accounts for a significant portion of our budget, and we must ensure that we remain eligible for critical grants, contracts, and financial aid opportunities that benefit our students and research initiatives. The Board's motion seeks to balance compliance with federal directives while maintaining our institutional values.

I acknowledge that this direction has sparked strong reactions across our community. Some support these changes, and others oppose them. We are committed to ensuring that all voices are heard and that discussions take place respectfully and constructively. Protection from harassment and discrimination remains a fundamental priority for all members of our community, regardless of where they stand on this issue.

Please work with your chancellors and system office leadership as we address compliance requirements. This will help us make these changes while sustaining our focus on the education and well-being of our students.

I want to thank you for your daily work on behalf of our students, our communities, and our great state. Collectively, we can accomplish this task and ensure our core values of care and compassion remain.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pat Pitney".

Pat Pitney, President