

Pat Pitney
UA President

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Monday, October 20, 2025

Dear UAA Community,

Thank you to all who participated in the Chancellor Search Process. Your engagement and thoughtful feedback were invaluable throughout this important effort.

After thoughtful consideration and a thorough review of the input received, I have decided to conclude the search and extend Interim Chancellor Cheryl Siemer's appointment through the summer. While all finalists were qualified and received positive feedback from the university community, there was no unified consensus behind any one candidate. Cheryl has already provided steady leadership, fostered collaboration and continues to generate significant momentum across the university, and this decision ensures continuity and sustained progress as UAA continues to build on its strengths and pursue its strategic goals.

Cheryl is uniquely positioned to continue advancing UAA's priorities without pause, and I am pleased to share that she has agreed to extend her appointment. This direction reflects alignment with where UAA stands today, positioned to maintain momentum and continue the important work we've begun together with minimal disruption. I intend to evaluate the longer-term next steps on the UAA Chancellor role after this academic year.

I appreciate the hard work of all 4 finalist candidates to engage with and get to know our university community. I'm also incredibly grateful to everyone who participated in the search process and shared their perspectives. Your engagement is vital to the health and success of our university. We remain committed to transparency and collaboration as we move ahead.

Thank you again for your continued dedication to UAA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pat Pitney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "P".

Pat Pitney
President, University of Alaska