

Dear Colleagues –

It is with a great deal of pleasure and pride that I share with you my decision to appoint Daniel M. White as the eighth chancellor of the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He succeeds UAF Interim Chancellor Dana Thomas and will assume his new position on July 1.

Dan has had a long and productive university career and comes to the position with a great deal of knowledge and love for the university that began in the classroom and developed through his many leadership assignments. I am confident Dan will be an asset to UAF faculty, staff, students, alumni and community partners.

This selection follows a national recruitment, and I want to personally thank the selection committee led by Geri Simon of Doyon Ltd. along with our HR team. Geri and the committee did an excellent job.

The search committee considered 24 candidates from inside the university and beyond. The team held interviews with the first round of ten finalists, and then organized and held public forums and meetings to introduce the final four candidates to the Fairbanks community, UAF staff, faculty and students. Dan quickly rose to the top in the search process and after the final interview with me, along with solid input from the search committee and the community, the choice was clear. Dan is the person best equipped to lead UAF forward in these challenging times. I appreciate his willingness to serve in this important role for our university.

Dan has been serving as vice president for academic affairs and research at Statewide for two years and I have come to know his talent and leadership qualities quite well. You can read about Dan's experience here. There will be future opportunities in the weeks ahead for the community, faculty and staff to get to know him better. I have enjoyed working closely with Dan and look forward to continuing that collaboration for many years to come.

And finally, I want to express my gratitude to Dana and Kay Thomas for their unwavering devotion to this university. Dana will leave his post as UAF's interim chancellor on June 30, but he will not go far from our campus or our hearts. Dana's leadership of UAF during the past year, his commitment to students, staff and faculty and his insight into the many issues facing the university has been outstanding. Thank you Dana for your service!

So congratulations to our newest chancellor, Dan White, and to his wife, Ann Marie and their two children. May your tenure be long and filled with much success.

Sincerely,
Jim Johnsen