

April 12, 2017

Dear Friends and Colleagues –

It is with a great deal of sadness that I announce today that University of Alaska Anchorage Chancellor Tom Case plans to retire at the end of June. I have long admired Tom's commitment to UAA and am amazed by his many accomplishments not only during his six years as chancellor but during his time as dean of the College of Business and Public Policy.

During his 12 years at UAA, he has led the university with great distinction, creating the first Doctor of Nursing program, joint Pharmacology Doctorate program with Idaho State University, and while dean of the College of Business and Public Policy, he appointed its first Rasmuson Chair in Experimental Economics, Nobel Prize winner Vernon Smith. He also has been the driving force behind the completion of the Engineering & Industry Building, the Alaska Airlines Center and completing and dedicating the bridge across Providence Drive, the Parrish Bridge (named for Al and Ann Parrish).

In addition to the work done to expand programs and enhance UAA facilities, Tom also oversaw the growth of the Seawolf Debate Team, the Alaska Native Science and Engineering (ANSEP) program and tirelessly cheered on the national success of UAA's intercollegiate athletics teams. Tom was recently elected to a three-year term as a commissioner for the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) and he serves on the NWCCU executive committee.

Tom has served the university with integrity, good humor and dedication. But in addition to all of his military and university accomplishments, I am most grateful for his friendship and tireless counsel. I am tremendously humbled by the work he has accomplished, and heartened by the joy he will have in retirement as well as by the excellent leadership team he has developed. While the goodbye parties are being planned and the search for a replacement commences, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Sam Gingerich will serve as interim chancellor. Thank you, Sam!

And thank you, Tom, for all that you've done for UAA and for the entire university. I believe your legacy will be long celebrated. We will miss you, we will honor you always and we wish you and Susan much joy and happiness in the months and years ahead.

Sincerely,

Jim Johnsen

UAA announcement: <http://greenandgold.uaa.alaska.edu/email/case-retirement-message.html>  
Press release: <http://www.alaska.edu/opa/enews/2017/412/>