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December 4, 2025

Dear UA Community,

I'm writing to share an update on the search for UA's next permanent president.

### **Reminder: Listening Sessions with Search Firm Next Week**

A reminder that multiple listening sessions with WittKieffer, the firm assisting the Board of Regents with the presidential search, have been scheduled for next week. You can find the complete schedule of listening sessions and register for yours [here](#). If you're not able to attend the session scheduled for you at your University, you are welcome to attend the community listening session for your University, or one for your interest group at one of the other universities.

We have also created an anonymous feedback survey for those unable to attend in person or via Zoom, which is available [here](#). The form will stop accepting submissions at 2:00pm AKST on Monday, December 15.

All of the feedback from the survey and listening sessions will help the Board and WittKieffer finalize the president position profile and description so applications can be accepted beginning in early January, so your comments and opinions are needed and appreciated.

### **Presidential Search Committee Members**

I'm pleased to share that the Board has selected 13 people to serve on the Presidential Search Committee. The Presidential Search Committee will be chaired by **UA Board of Regents Chair Jepsen**, and represents a broad spectrum of university partners and stakeholders around Alaska. The other members are:

- **Regent Joey Crum**
- **Regent Karen Perdue**
- **Bonnie Brennan** - UAF Student and incoming Chair of UA Coalition of Student Leaders (student governance)
- **Austin Cranford** - UAS Staff and Chair of UA Staff Alliance (staff governance)
- **Dr. Jackie Cason** - UAA Faculty and Chair of UA Faculty Alliance (faculty governance)
- **Dr. Charlene Stern** - UAF Interim Provost
- **Russell Dick** - President & Chief Executive Officer of Huna Totem Corporation
- **Erec Isaacson** - President, ConocoPhillips Alaska

- **Dave Karp** - Senior Vice President and Managing Director of Saltchuk
- **Katie Koester** - City Manager for the City and Borough of Juneau
- **Meg Nordale** - President of GHEMM Company and UA Foundation Board Chair
- **Joe Usibelli, Jr.** - President, Usibelli Coal Mine
- **Conrad Woodhead** - CTE & Residential Director of the Kusilvak Career Academy for the Lower Yukon School District

Please join me in thanking each of them for their service.

### Anticipated Search Timeline

The Board, in consultation with WittKieffer, anticipates the search to follow the schedule below:

- **Week of December 8** - Listening Sessions with WittKieffer at UAA, UAF, UAS, and System Office
- **Early January 2026** - Recruitment opens
- **March 2026** - WittKieffer conducts due diligence; search committee reviews applications, conducts interviews
- **April 2026** - Finalists announced, finalist on-site visits
- **April - May 2026** - President hired
- **Summer 2026** - New president arrives

All of these details, including the schedule of listening sessions for students, staff, faculty, and the general public, are available online at [alaska.edu/pres/pres-search](http://alaska.edu/pres/pres-search).

Should you have any candidate nominations or other thoughts to share, please email the WittKieffer team at: [UAlaskaPresident@wittkieffer.com](mailto:UAlaskaPresident@wittkieffer.com).

Thank you again for your engagement and participation in this important search!

Sincerely,



Nickole Conley  
Interim CHRO  
University of Alaska