



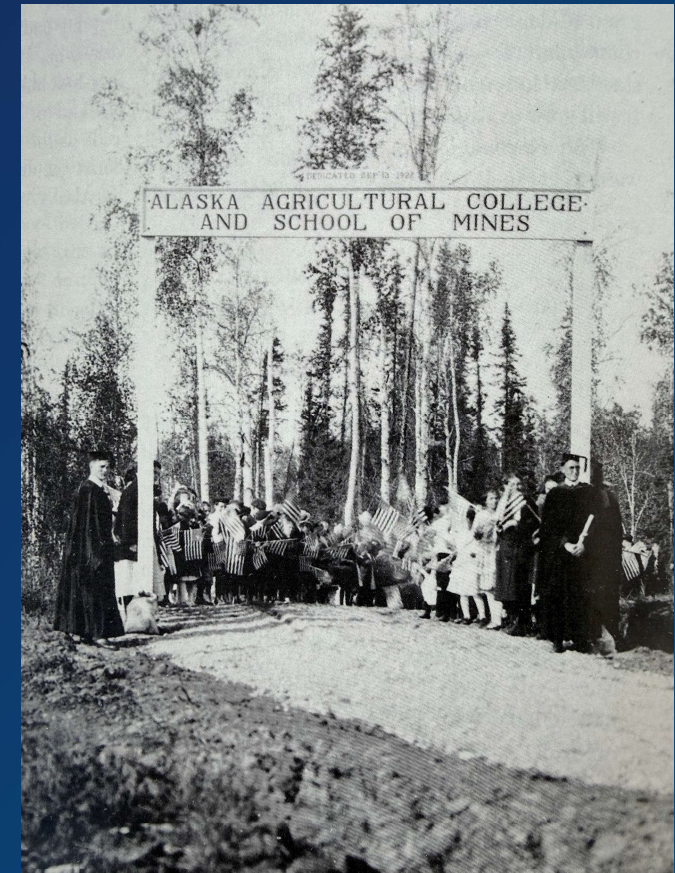
Chancellor Candidate Presentation

Russ Vander Lugt, PhD
May 7, 2026

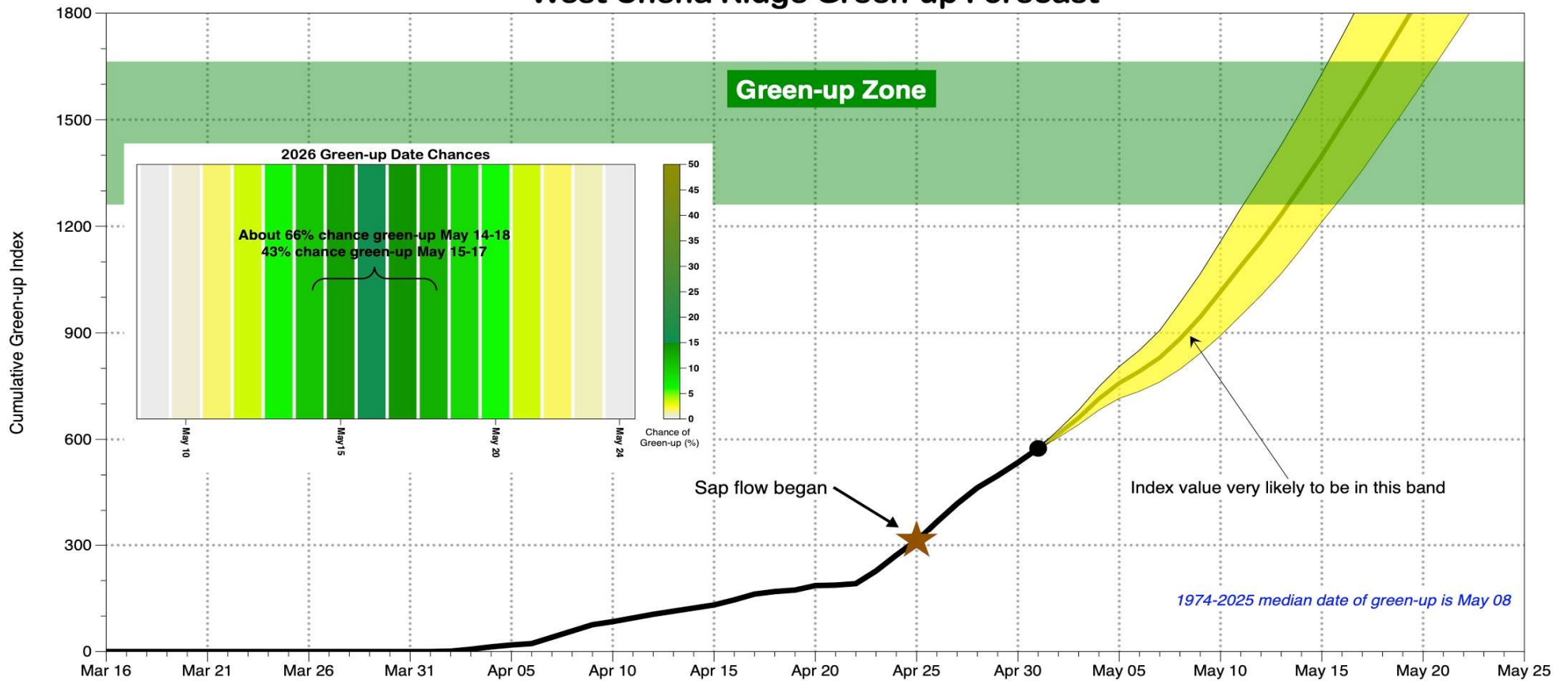
Leading the Future of the Arctic:

Vision for the University of Alaska Fairbanks

- UAF's Arctic Moment
- Strategic Priorities
- Partnerships that Power UAF
- The Future, UAF in 2035 and Beyond
- My Leadership Journey



2026 Fairbanks, Alaska West Chena Ridge Green-up Forecast



Understanding this chart: the solid black line shows the observed green-up index. The yellow band is the forecast spread of the index based on National Weather Service daily high temperature forecasts for the next 11 days and CPC outlook adjusted climatology thereafter. The actual index value will very likely be inside the yellow band and the gray line is the median forecast. Green-up is very likely to occur when the index is in the "green-up zone".

My Story

Executive Leadership

Academic Experience

Alaskan / Family

Why UAF?
Why now?



A Big Vision for Alaska & the Arctic

The Arctic is a distinctly cohesive global region possessing a unique and emergent identity

- Geographic area inhabited by people who share fundamental continuities across high latitudes
- Viewing the Arctic as a cohesive circumpolar region acknowledges social, economic, and political dynamics impacting both security and science

UAF is central to anticipating Arctic futures



Definition of the Arctic adopted by Arctic Monitoring & Assessment Programme (AMAP), a Working Group of the Arctic Council

Vision (Draft)



“Transforming the Arctic, in the Arctic!”

We will transform and empower

the next generation of Arctic scholar-practitioners

through teaching, research, and service

in the harshest environment on the planet

to be global leaders in the Arctic

for our Communities, our State, our Nation, and our World.



Mission



The University of Alaska Fairbanks is a Land, Sea, and Space Grant university and an international center for research, education, and the arts, emphasizing the circumpolar North and its diverse peoples. UAF integrates teaching, research, and public service as it educates students for active citizenship and prepares them for lifelong learning and careers.
-BOR Policy 01.01.030

The University of Alaska inspires learning, and advances and disseminates knowledge through teaching, research, and public service, emphasizing the North and its diverse peoples.
-BOR Policy 01.01.010

Ad Summum!

Motto: Ad Summum!



To the Highest Summit!



Our Vision is to see the Arctic transformed through education, research, and public service. We do this through our Mission, by educating students for active citizenship and preparing them for lifelong learning and careers.

Ad Summum!

UAF's Arctic Moment: Strategic Assessment



Alaska Native & Arctic Leadership



Environmental Pressure



Shipping Access



Geopolitical Stakes



Global Relevance



Resource Frontier

UAF is uniquely positioned to lead global research, education, and innovation in the Arctic Century.

Ad Summum!

Strategic Priorities



01

Student Experience & Success

02

Elite Research Trajectory

03

Alaska Native & Indigenous Leadership

04

Workforce & Economic Impact

The Arctic will be the focal point of global attention. UAF will become the world's leading Arctic university.

Ad Summum!

Partnerships Power UAF

In addition to our Nanook Alumni & Philanthropic Supporters...



Alaska Native Organizations



- Alaska Native Regional Corporations
- Tribal Governments
- Alaska Native Communities

Gov't Agencies & Departments



- Federal Departments & Agencies; Labs, Foundations
 - UARC, IGSA, CRADA, DIU
- The Uniformed Services
- State and Local Government

Industry & Arctic Institutions



- Industry and Technology Partners (local / national / global)
- International Arctic Institutions
- Arctic Policy and Research Centers

UAF's influence will depend on a diverse partnership architecture that connects local support, state trust, circumpolar scale, and global reach.

Ad Summum!

UAF's Future @ 2035 & Beyond

Transforming the Arctic, in the Arctic!"

By 2035, UAF will be unmistakably recognized for Arctic research leadership, Indigenous excellence, workforce impact, and community trust.

01 World's Premier Arctic
Research University

02 National Leader in Arctic
Indigenous Education

03 Alaska's Economic and
Workforce Engine

04 Student-Centered, Residential
Community in the Arctic

Ad Summum!

My Journey & Enduring Leadership Philosophy

As UAF Leaders & Community Members, we:

- 1) Know each other and our stories
- 2) Provide purpose & sense of belonging
- 3) Provide a pathway to success

Leaders build **COHESIVE & TRUST-based Teams**



Our Goal

Transformation of Alaska
& the Arctic through
Teaching, Research, Service
Achieved through each member's
commitment & vital role on our team

Empowering UAF to...

Transform the Arctic



How I lead: Looking out for each other

- Engaged leaders live the **Golden Rule** and treat others with **dignity and respect**
- Three guiding principles ("3 T's"):
 - **Transparency**
 - **Trust**
 - **Teamwork**
- Teamwork is the foundation of organizational cohesion, the act or state of sticking together tightly
- Academic and community standards, rigor, engagement, and discipline facilitate the "3 T's"

*"The University of Alaska is hereby established as the state university and constituted a body corporate."
- Constitution of the State of Alaska, § 7.2, 1956*

Transparency

Trust

Teamwork



What to Expect from me

- Leading with Vision & Purpose
- Perspective, context, and our collective “why”
- Empowerment, trust, respect: always setting conditions for leader, faculty, staff, & student success
- Engagement & presence – how I mitigate/manage risk
- 360-degree feedback loop; responsiveness
- Transparent, adaptive, resilient
- Communication! One voice with our team
- Servant leadership & character
- Setting a healthy organizational climate/culture, cohesive team
- Strategic planning – anticipating the future
- Mission focused – supporting the success of UAF, UA System, Alaska, and our Nation



Closing Statement: UAF's Strategic Imperative

Why UAF Must Lead the Arctic Century

- Geographic Advantage
- Research Leadership
- Strategic National & Global Significance
- Indigenous Knowledge Leadership
- Workforce Development / Arctic Leaders



By 2035, UAF is widely recognized as the world's leading university for Arctic research, education, and policy development, while continuing to serve Alaska



Chancellor Candidate Questions & Discussion

Russ Vander Lugt

