

Pat Pitney
President

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After a robust and thorough search, I'm very pleased to announce that I've selected **Dr. Aparna Palmer** to serve as the next Chancellor of UAS. She was the unanimous first choice of the search committee, and I have no doubt that her thorough background and student-centered approach will make her an excellent fit.

Dr. Palmer serves as a Vice President at Front Range Community College (FRCC), part of the Colorado Community College System (CCCS). She brings 25 years of experience in higher education. CCCS is Colorado's largest higher education system, with more than 138,000 students across 13 colleges. FRCC is the largest college in the system, with 28,000 students.

Before joining FRCC, Dr. Palmer was the Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs at Colorado Mesa University (CMU). CMU has a dual role and mission to serve both as a regional university with bachelor's and graduate degrees and as a community college with associate's degrees and technical certificates (Western Colorado Community College, WCCC). During her 22 years at CMU as a Professor of Biology, Dr. Palmer served as Director of the Academic Honors Program, Faculty Senate President, and Faculty Trustee on the CMU/WCCC Board. She holds a Ph.D. in Zoology from Washington State University, and a B.S. in Biological Sciences and B.A. in English from Colorado State University.

Dr. Palmer's first day as Chancellor will be July 1, 2023. In the coming weeks and months, she is looking forward to getting to know our Southeast communities, and working with all of you. **Please join me in welcoming Dr. Aparna Palmer as the new UAS Chancellor.**

In closing, I'd like to sincerely thank Chancellor Carey for her dedication and service to UAS, the UA System, and the people of Alaska. Since joining UAS in 2016 as Provost, Chancellor Carey has been a fixture of Southeast, and a tireless advocate for the University. We'll dearly miss her, but wish her all the best as she enters this next chapter of her life.

Thanks,
Pat