

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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President Obama appoints Fran Ulmer Chair of the US Arctic Research Commission

Arlington, VA, March 10—President Barack Obama has appointed Fran Ulmer, Chancellor of the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA), to a 4-year term as the Chair of the US Arctic Research Commission (USARC).

The USARC is an independent federal agency, established by the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984, to develop a national policy on integrated Arctic research and a program to implement the policy. As the Chair of USARC, Chancellor Ulmer will advance federal arctic research in coordination with the State of Alaska and international partners.

Prior to her academic appointments, including Director of the Institute of Social and Economic Research at UAA, Ms. Ulmer was in public service as the Mayor of Juneau (1983-85), a state representative (1987-1994), and the Lieutenant Governor of Alaska (1994-2002).

In June 2010, President Obama appointed her to the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling. That Commission was charged with investigating the cause of the explosion and spill, and with recommending measures to prevent future disasters. Their final report is [here](#).

“I am honored to serve as the Chair of the USARC, particularly during this time of increased attention on the Arctic and the rapid changes being observed in the region,” said Ulmer. I look forward to working with the other commissioners and staff, and the many people in the public and private sectors who are keenly interested in the Arctic.”

The Arctic Research Commission’s current goals for the annual US Arctic Research Program, which totals approximately \$400 million, include expanding a federal emphasis on Arctic Ocean and climate research; improved efforts to prevent, and respond to oil spills in ice-covered waters; and strengthening research in Arctic human health and indigenous languages and cultures.

Ms. Ulmer was the first chair of the Alaska Coastal Policy Council; and served for ten years as a member of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission. She chaired many state boards, commissions and legislative committees, including the Alaska Science and Technology Foundation, the State Telecommunications Council, and the Denali Commission.

At the federal level, she has served on state advisory committees of the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal Elections Commission, and was co-chair of the Committee of the National Academies of Science on State Voter Registration Databases. She earned her law degree cum laude from the University of Wisconsin Law School, and has been a Fellow at the Institute of Politics at the Kennedy School of Government.

Click [here](#) to download a press photo of Chancellor Ulmer.

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Media Contact: Kathy Farrow, 703-525-0112, kfarrow@arctic.gov