

Terry Nelson, Ph.D., Interim Dean, College of Business and Public Policy

Terry A. Nelson, Ph.D., is UAA interim dean for the College of Business and Public Policy (CBPP), having served in the role since July 2024. As dean, Nelson leads the college's faculty and staff, overseeing strategic planning and direction. She collaborates with faculty, staff, and the provost to ensure the delivery of high-quality education that drives enrollment growth and meets the workforce needs of the community.

Before her current appointment, Nelson served as associate dean of CBPP from 2020 to 2024. In this capacity, she assisted the dean with academic and operational tasks, including overseeing enrollment reports and the assessment of regional and specialized business accreditations. She has also held leadership roles such as director of graduate programs and interim director of graduate programs and continuing education.

As a professor, Nelson contributed to numerous committees, including the Graduate Council, the UAA Strategic Planning Steering Committee for UAA 2025, and the Graduate Academic Board. She has received several prestigious awards for her teaching and service, including the 2023 TRIO Champion Award (a group of federal, grant-funded higher education opportunity programs), the 2023 Chancellor Award for Achievement and Innovation, and the 2023 YWCA Alaska Women of Achievement Award.

Nelson holds a Ph.D. in management from the University of Memphis and a Master of Business Administration and Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Her academic credentials are complemented by over 17 years of leadership experience at two Fortune 500 companies—Kroger and Coca-Cola Enterprises—and at First Tennessee Bank, where she served as a senior vice president.