Biography

Vera Alexander

Dr. Vera Alexander is dean and professor emerita at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She is a distinguished expert in the field of biological oceanography, and has been recognized nationally and internationally for her service in the field of marine science.

She currently serves as the president of the board of directors for the Arctic Research Consortium of the U.S. She has been on the Marine Mammal Commission for 15 years.

In 1965, Dr. Alexander became the first woman to receive a doctorate at the University of Alaska. After receiving her Ph.D. in marine science, Dr. Alexander became an associate professor at the fledgling Institute of Marine Science on the Fairbanks campus. In 1980, she became the director of IMS. When the UAF School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences was formed in 1987, Alexander became its first dean and served for nearly twenty years, until 2004.

Dr. Alexander has been involved with the planning for the Sikuliaq since the late 1970s. She chaired the design team for the Sikuliaq until she retired in 2004.