

To: Students, faculty and staff

From: Office of Strategic Communication

Re: Mnookin to assume presidency at Columbia University

Date: Jan. 25, 2026

At the end of the academic year, Chancellor Jennifer L. Mnookin will depart the University of Wisconsin–Madison to [serve as president of Columbia University](#) in New York City.

Mnookin, a nationally noted evidence scholar, has served as chancellor of UW–Madison since Aug. 4, 2022. Before coming to Madison, she was dean of the University of California, Los Angeles Law School.

During her leadership tenure, the university has risen in important national rankings, improved student outcomes, achieved record fundraising success and helped make a UW–Madison education affordable and accessible for more Wisconsin students.

“During her tenure, Chancellor Jennifer Mnookin brought unbounded energy, resilience and deeply thoughtful leadership to this great university. As she now takes on a new opportunity at another prestigious institution, we extend our substantial gratitude for her service and wish her continued success in the years ahead,” says Jay Rothman, president of the Universities of Wisconsin.

Rothman says he will name an interim leader for UW–Madison soon and that a search for a permanent replacement will begin later this year.

“It has been a true honor to be a part of the Wisconsin family. I am proud of what we have accomplished together, even in a challenging period for higher education, and I know great possibilities lie ahead for the UW–Madison campus community,” says Mnookin.

“My time at UW–Madison has been life-changing and so much of that is attributable to the talented and deeply committed faculty, students and staff who call our institution home, and who strive to bring the Wisconsin Idea to life. I will continue to work hard each and every day prior to my departure and I look forward to partnering with President Rothman, the Board of Regents and others to ensure a smooth transition.”

Expressing appreciation for Mnookin and her accomplishments on behalf of the Universities of Wisconsin Board of Regents, Regents President Amy B. Bogost says: “We express our deepest gratitude for Chancellor Mnookin’s tireless work and the transformative legacy she leaves at the University of Wisconsin. She is an incredible leader whose unique strength and ability to accomplish so much, even in the most difficult times,

truly set her apart. Her deep commitment to the Wisconsin Idea inspires us all to work harder and do better, and we remain secure in the knowledge that her extraordinary contributions have prepared us for an even stronger future.”

Read the full version: <https://news.wisc.edu/mnookin-to-assume-presidency-at-columbia-university/>