John Wiencek joined the University of Idaho as provost and executive vice president on June 1, 2015. He serves as the university’s chief academic officer, directly responsible for the general direction of all academic programs, endeavors and instructional services on the Moscow campus as well as the university’s statewide academic, outreach and research initiatives. He leads the university’s strategic planning and accreditation development and implementation, and coordinates the activities of the vice presidents and other members of the executive administration to support UI’s mission.

Dr. Wiencek came to the University of Idaho from Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), where he served as interim provost and vice president of academic affairs, and senior vice provost and professor in the chemical and life science engineering department. Starting his academic career in 1989 as an assistant professor at Rutgers University, Dr. Wiencek went on to chair the chemical and biochemical engineering department at the University of Iowa, receiving significant awards for excellence in teaching, service and research. Wiencek served as dean of engineering for six years at the University of South Florida, substantially increasing research, enrollment and faculty numbers, before joining VCU.

Dr. Wiencek earned a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering at the University of Cincinnati. He earned a master’s degree in chemical engineering from Case Western Reserve University before completing a chemical engineering doctoral degree from that same institution. As a researcher, he focused on protein biophysics with applications to drug formulations, among other research pursuits.

Dr. Wiencek enjoys spending time with his family and is a dedicated marathon runner, committed to completing at least one marathon per year.