

John Eichelberger's career spans a half-century in volcanology, geothermal energy, scientific drilling, natural hazards, and international Arctic education. Educated at MIT (BS and MS) and Stanford (PhD), he was on the research staff at Los Alamos and Sandia National Laboratories, New Mexico, from 1974 to 1979 and 1979 to 1991, respectively. At Sandia, he was a Distinguished Member of Scientific Staff and then Supervisor of the Geochemistry Division. In 1991 he became Professor of Volcanology at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (jointly: Geophysical Institute and Department of Geology and Geophysics), where he led extensive expansion of the Alaska Volcano Observatory, pioneered cooperative volcano monitoring, science, and education programs with Kamchatka, Russia and Hokkaido, Japan, and mentored many successful Masters and PhD students. He then served as Program Coordinator for Volcano Hazards at the U.S. Geological Survey's headquarters in Reston, VA, beginning in 2007, but returned to UAF in 2012 as Graduate School Dean at UAF and Vice President Academic of the University of the Arctic. He received the European Geosciences Union's Soloviev Medal in Natural Hazards in 2015 and the Geological Society of America designated him Distinguished Lecturer for Continental Scientific Drilling in 2020. John founded the Krafla Magma Testbed (KMT.is) in Iceland, the world's first international observatory for studying an active magma body and applying that knowledge to vastly increase geothermal energy production and the reliability of eruption forecasting. In 2025, he became Geothermal Program Manager in the Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys, Fairbanks, where his mission is to facilitate the development of Alaska's vast geothermal resources. Of special interest to him are the use of hot springs to power Alaska's many off-grid villages and the development of Aleutian Chain volcanoes as a potential source of geothermal energy, similar to Prudhoe Bay.