



## About the Event:

Alaska College Access and Success Summit participants convened November 5, 2013, in Anchorage. The diverse group of leaders – representing school districts, the Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB), Alaska Business Education Compact (BEC), University of Alaska, and other postsecondary institutions across Alaska – met to explore ways to facilitate partnership, communication and advocacy to positively influence the growth of a college-going culture in Alaska.

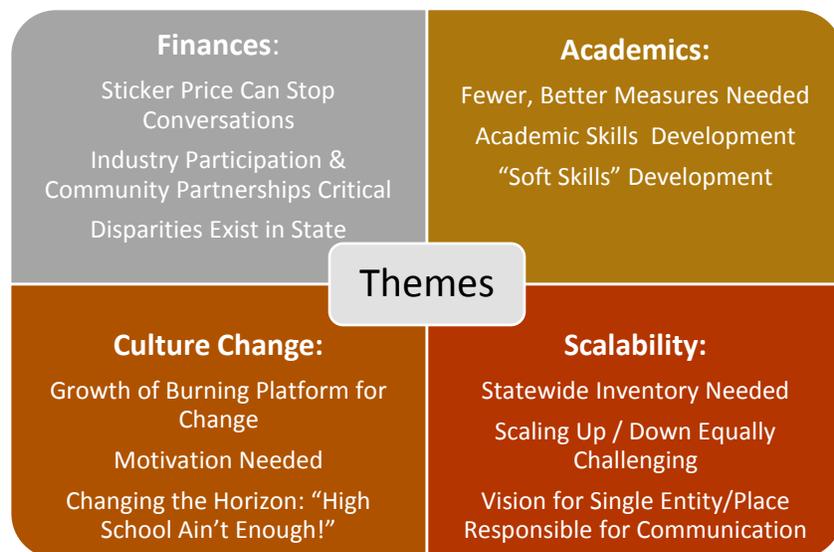
David Longanecker, President of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), welcomed participants to Alaska’s first summit on college access and success, which was hosted by the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE). He encouraged participants to actively engage in dialogue and work together to discuss these issues and their impact on Alaska’s population and economy.

## Alaska’s College Access and Success Initiatives: Group Activity

Carl Krueger, Project Coordinator for Policy Analysis and Research at WICHE, led an inventory activity addressing two questions:

1. What college access initiatives are you aware of in Alaska?
2. What else should Alaska do for college access and success?

Many programs were identified [See Appendix A] and four major themes emerged:



## SUMMIT PRESENTATIONS

### Building College Access Partnerships: State and Regional Networks

*Carrie Warrick, Director of Partnerships and Policy for the National College Access Network (NCAN)*

Numerous groups across the United States have successfully rallied around college access and success. Networks take different forms across the country and use a variety of strategies to benefit their states. Alaska could benefit from increased postsecondary attainment through collaborative efforts.

### College Access and Success in AK: Data Analysis

*Patrick Kelly, Director of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) Information Center for State Higher Education Policymaking and Analysis*

Data show Alaska has struggled consistently in both postsecondary participation and completion. Despite statewide efforts to improve college access, Alaska has seen minimal improvement over the past decade.

### From the Field: Bethel’s “Missing Piece”

*Janelle Vanasse, Principal, Bethel Regional High School (BRHS) Nathaniel Betz, ACAC Guide*

BRHS has transformed itself from dropout factory to nationally-recognized leader in college-readiness. Presenters discussed the multi-faceted “columns” of an approach used to change the expectations and culture of the school, and the final pieces which served as a catalyst for change.



## A College Access and Success Team for Alaska: Group Activity

Themes continued to inform dialogues in the afternoon session. Participants discussed: benefits to building Alaska’s collaborative community; models for an effective collaborative; ways to ensure added value from the collaborative; and the statewide definition of success to inform and measure the impacts of the work of a collaborative.

### Essential Components Moving Forward:

1. **Leadership & staff to develop clear membership structure and benefits**
2. **Clear, shared goals to communicate with legislature and administration**
3. **Specific, shared metrics grounded in Alaska’s workforce needs**
4. **Common vision and language with flexibility for individual adaptation and application**
5. **Simple and feasible funding structure**
6. **Passion of purpose driven by members, organizations (including industry), and community will**
7. **Growth of knowledge base about existing initiatives**

### Needs for a Statewide Collective to Address:

Statewide Messaging	K-16 Communication	Professional Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workforce Needs &amp; Postsecondary Attainment Gap Awareness</li> <li>• Public awareness of postsecondary options and secondary preparation requirements</li> <li>• Call to Action</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dialogue between secondary and postsecondary partners on assessments, entrance and placement exams</li> <li>• Communication about student financial resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resources and training for counseling professionals across Alaska</li> <li>• Sharing of best practices and resources</li> </ul>

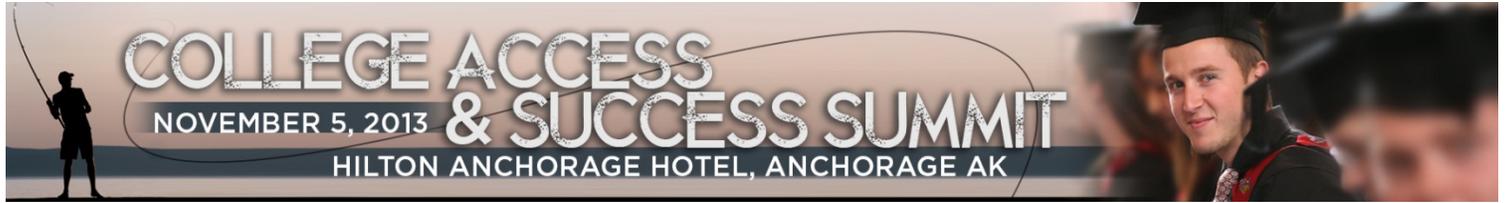
Alaska’s postsecondary enrollment and completion rates call for a common sense of urgency around improvement that does not currently exist. The primary risk of failing to move forward in collaboration is continued stagnation in Alaska’s extremely poor postsecondary attainment rates.

Summit participants expressed interest in ACPE staffing and leading the initiative. Through the post-event survey, many participants committed to future collaborative efforts and to serving in shared leadership moving forward.

### Next Steps:

After reviewing the discussions and input from participants, ACPE will initiate next steps to move forward with the development of a College Access and Success Team for Alaska:

1. Create a web page containing CAS Summit outcomes, presentations, and relevant information for interested parties.
2. Develop an agenda and invite interested members for an in-person follow-up meeting to begin planning and design of an Alaska initiative guided by the identified essential components.
3. Collect data on Alaska workforce needs and postsecondary attainment that will inform clear and specific statewide goals for the team to promote.



## Appendix A: Inventory of College Access & Success Programs/Initiatives

### Awareness Programs

1. I Know I Can – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade
2. I'm Going to College – Now Kids2College – 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade
3. Alaska Career Information System (AKCIS)
4. Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSO)

### Dual Enrollment Programs

5. Individual Dual Enrollment Through School Districts
6. Alaska Middle College School
7. Tech Prep Consortium – Now Career Pathways (UAA)
8. Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs
9. Career Academies

### Transitions & Bridge Programs

10. Alaska College and Career Advising Corps (ACAC)
11. College Goal Alaska – FAFSA Completion Focus
12. Rural Alaska Honors Institute (RAHI)
13. Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program (ANSEP)
14. University of Alaska MAU Campus Support Programs
15. Ilisagvik College – Summer Camps and 1<sup>st</sup> Year Seminar/Orientation

### Financial Aid Programs/Resources

16. UA Scholars Program – Top 10% of High School Graduating Classes
17. Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS)
18. AlaskAdvantage Education Grant
19. Village / Native Corporation Funding
20. Preparing Indigenous Teachers for Alaska Schools (PITAAS)
21. Federal Financial Aid Programs

### Resources for Leadership

22. ANSWERS - State of Alaska's P-20W Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS)
23. National Student Clearinghouse Data
24. National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) – Professional Development