

# ALASKA POSTSECONDARY ACCESS & COMPLETION NETWORK

MEETING – MARCH 20, 2014

## Meeting Purpose

The Alaska Postsecondary Access & Completion Network convened again in Anchorage to progress towards development of an organization structured to: create synergy, reduce duplication of effort, disseminate best practices, and develop common public messaging themes for Alaska programs, agencies and organizations to encourage and support attainment.

### Meeting Objectives:

- Refine & adopt a name, mission statement and statewide goal for the network
- Outline high-level strategies for addressing statewide postsecondary access needs
- Identify essential components of network structure and strategies for expanding planning team membership
- Determine if a vendor contract to expand and refine the statewide program inventory is worth pursuing

## Key Meeting Outcomes

### Adopted a Formal Network Name & Goal

- **Alaska Postsecondary Access and Completion Network**
- **Goal: 65 by 2025**

### Network Statewide Goal

- 65% by 2025 (all postsecondary)
- Breakdown for Internal Strategy Development:
  - 35/15/15 by 2025
  - Bachelors+/Associates/Certificates
  - Current: 28.2/8.8/12.7

### Revised Network Mission Statement

- Essential Properties:
  - Simplicity
  - Workforce Connection
  - Inspirational and Future-Oriented
- Definitions for terminology used will be added

### Agreed to Move Forward with Inventory

- RFP to be issued by ACPE
- Funding provided through Alaska's College Access Challenge Grant
- Will include:
  - Alaska Environmental Review
  - Postsecondary Policy Audit
  - Postsecondary Program Inventory

## Goal Statement – 65 by 2025

After discussion of the draft goal developed in January, members unanimously accepted the goal statement “65 by 2025” – meaning 65% of Alaska’s working-age residents will hold a postsecondary credential by the year 2025.

### The team determined:

- A simple, clear goal statement – aspirational and inspirational - is essential for network communication with the general public and new stakeholders. A more specific internal breakdown reflecting credential type will be used to develop strategies and monitor progress.
- This broad statewide goal excludes some relevant topics that may be of interest for more specific initiatives; for example, resident migration or how many Alaskan students remain in-state to complete their postsecondary education, or return to Alaska after a temporary absence.

### NEXT STEPS

Network staff will obtain the numbers which relate to goal targets from the Alaska Department of Labor

## Mission Statement

**Mission Statement:** Increase the percentage of all Alaskans who complete postsecondary education, particularly credentials relevant to a robust Alaskan economy.

### The team determined that the mission statement should:

- Be short, simple and easy to communicate externally
- Include a connection to Alaska workforce needs
- Consider alignment with national models, while prioritizing state goals
- Include terminology that resonates with Alaskans across sectors (business, education, community)
- Reflect inclusion of all Alaskans, to guide development of future strategies that will target increased credential attainment among underrepresented populations

Participants discussed the draft mission developed in January, reviewed mission statements by other college access networks, and actively engaged each other about a mission statement that would resonate equally with, and deliver the appropriate message to, all applicable stakeholders. The group adopted (11:4) the modified mission statement, but was encouraged to send additional feedback to staff.

In the course of the mission statement discussion the team identified several possible strategies for later incorporation in the network's strategic plan, including: identifying and eliminating barriers, improving preparation, and empowering Alaskans.

## Network Structure

Network activity is currently funded through Alaska's College Access Challenge Grant (CACG), which is expected to sustain initial activity through spring of 2016. ACPE, the CACG manager, is serving as the incubation home for the network, but long-term plans for network structure and post-grant sustainability need to be addressed. A subcommittee was formed to research: potential structures, funding options, and the pros and cons associated with each option.

## Membership Review

Diverse stakeholder membership continues to expand with additional non-profit, secondary, and CTE representatives joining the planning team. Additional invitations are still pending response. Current needs include policy-level leaders who can provide rural, Alaska Native, business, and community organization, and increased secondary education representation. Personal invitations through a direct connection with an existing network member are most successful.

## Postsecondary Access/Success Programs Inventory

Carl Krueger, Project Coordinator for Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), reviewed with participants the process and purpose for conducting a policy and/or programs inventory. Examples were provided from Washington, Colorado, Arizona, and Texas. Members elected to move forward with requesting proposals.

### NEXT STEPS

Cathy LeCompte & Eric Gebhart will attend a National College Access Network Training & report back on strategies for coalition building

The Network Structure Subcommittee will report findings & recommendations to the group at the next meeting

### NEXT STEPS

Members will continue to refer policymakers and leaders who bring needed perspectives

All Alaska superintendents will receive a new invitation and update on progress to date

### NEXT STEPS

ACPE will develop an RFP for a postsecondary access/success programs inventory based on examples from other states.