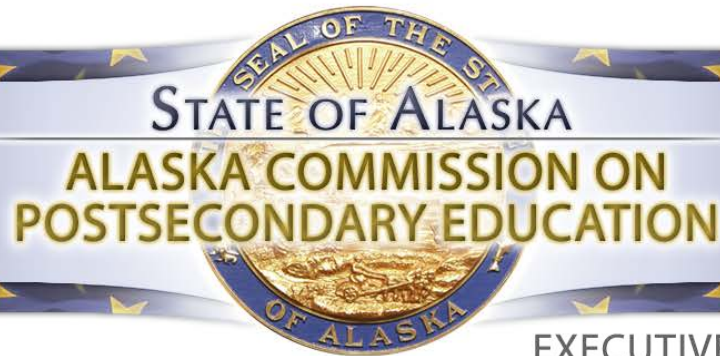


Stephanie Butler
Executive Director
P.O. Box 110505
Juneau, AK 99811-0505



907-465-6740
ACPE.Alaska.gov

Press Release

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 1, 2017

Commission Adopts Resolution to Support the Transfer of Credits Among Alaskan Institutions

Juneau – At its January 12, 2017 meeting, the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education voted to approve a resolution that supports the development of credit transfer pathways between the University of Alaska system and the other accredited institutions in the state.

As part of its mission to promote student access to and success in education beyond high school, the Commission is concerned that Alaska has one of the lowest rates of college completion in the United States. Alaska also experiences high rates of student transfers, and credit transfer pathways may expand a student's ability to graduate on time and to reduce or eliminate barriers to student success. In discussion of the resolution, the Commission noted their appreciation of the significant work already done within the University system to streamline the transfer credit policies. The Commission is poised to support continuation of that work and encourages the development of articulation agreements between the University of Alaska and other accredited institutions within the state.

"Helping students stay on track to graduation benefits the students in keeping their costs as low as possible and increasing their readiness for expanded employment opportunities, and the state also benefits when we maximize the options for our Alaska students to earn career and college credentials," said Commission Chair Becky Huggins.

The resolution is available on the Commission's Website at acpe.alaska.gov, at the "News" link under the "About Us" tab.

About the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE): The Commission is a 14-member body, the majority of whom are appointed by the governor, with representation from various Alaska higher education constituency groups. Established in 1974, ACPE promotes, supports, and provides access to and success in postsecondary education for Alaskans and in Alaska, through outreach and early awareness, student financial aid, program integrity, and consumer protection programs and services.

About the Alaska Student Loan Corporation (ASLC): ASLC is a public corporation and instrumentality of the State of Alaska, which funds the state education loan programs and administration of Commission functions with tax-exempt bond proceeds and corporation receipts. The Corporation is governed by a five-member board of directors appointed by the governor.

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Resolution of Support for the Transfer of Credits between Accredited Institutions

WHEREAS, only six percent of Alaska's top jobs are available to workers without postsecondary education or training; and

WHEREAS, degree and certificate completion is a significant time commitment and financial challenge for Alaska's students, with only eight percent of Alaska's ninth graders going on to complete a degree within four years of college enrollment, one of the lowest rates of college completion in the United States; and

WHEREAS, a significant number of Alaska's students attend more than one institution over the course of their postsecondary careers; and

WHEREAS, Alaska is home to a variety of institutions accredited by bodies approved by the United States Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, the University of Alaska is working to establish pathways to expand a student's ability to graduate on time and reduce or eliminate barriers to student success; and

WHEREAS, the development of transfer credit pathways among Alaska's accredited institutions would further reduce barriers for Alaska's students and facilitate their progress to degree or certificate, especially as related to general education courses.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the ALASKA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, applauds the University of Alaska and its Board of Regents on their work to streamline transfer credit policies. In the coming year, the Commission encourages and stands ready to support the development of additional credit pathways, to include the transfer of credits between nationally and regionally accredited institutions, and articulation agreements between the University of Alaska and accredited institutions in Alaska for students transferring from other Alaska institutions who desire to complete their studies at the University of Alaska.

ADOPTED January 12, 2017