

Rebekah Matrosova
Director of Outreach & Early Awareness

Rebekah Matrosova first served the Commission from 2007 to 2008 as the Outreach division K-12 Program Specialist. Ms. Matrosova returned to the agency in 2010 as Outreach Program Manager and was promoted to her Director position in June 2013. Ms. Matrosova's professional experience includes serving as International Exchange Programs Coordinator for the University of Alaska Anchorage's American Russian Center and as Team Lead of a technical writing team for a major financial software platform. Ms. Matrosova holds Bachelor of Arts degrees in journalism & public communications, as well as languages, and a Master of Public Administration in public management from the University of Alaska Anchorage.

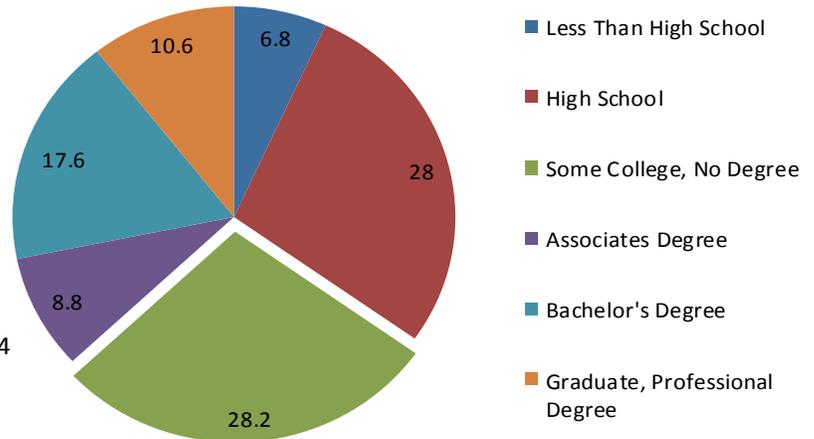
As Director of Outreach & Early Awareness, Ms. Matrosova oversees the agency's initiatives to promote successful career & education planning statewide, including: programs to establish early awareness of the individual and collective benefits associated with postsecondary attainment; career & education planning tools, resources, and direct services; and public messaging to promote awareness of resources including state financial aid programs. Ms. Matrosova directs the activities of the outreach team and coordinates development and delivery of agency and multi-partner collaborative initiatives aimed at developing Alaska's capacity to produce college and career-ready citizens.

CURRENT CRISIS: POSTSECONDARY ACCESS & COMPLETION RATES IN ALASKA ARE LAGGING!

38 States have Adopted Goals Regarding Increase in Either Education Attainment or Degree Production

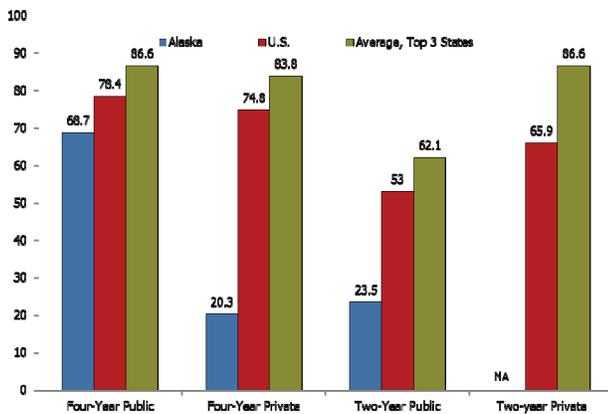
Alaska is **49th** in the Nation with **29.5** Undergraduate Credentials Awarded per 1,000 18-34 Year Olds with No College Degree

25-64 Year Old Alaskans



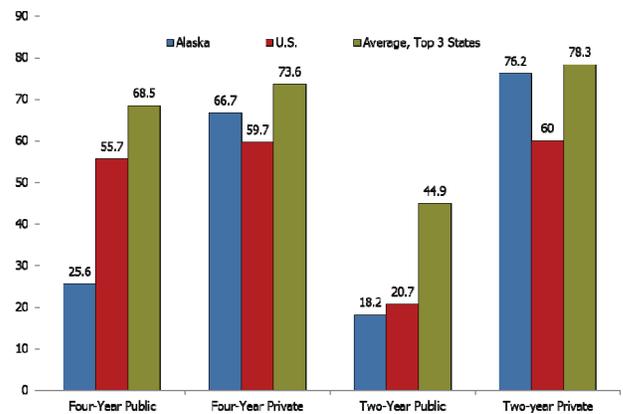
Retention Rates, 2010

Percent of Students Who Re-enroll from First to Second Year



Graduation Rates, 2011

within 3-years for Two Year schools, 6-years for Four Year schools



Alaska Jobs in 2018, by Education Level, Less Current Workers by Degree Level

	Alaska Jobs in 2018*	Current Workers**	Difference
High School Dropouts	25,000	13,708	11,292
High School Graduates	109,000	92,163	16,837
Some college, no degree	100,000	90,910	9,090
Associate's degree	30,000	24,976	5,024
Bachelor's degree	63,000	54,975	8,025
Graduate degree	32,000	36,966	-4,966

47.1% of 25-64 Year Old Alaskans have a Certificate and Higher

37% of 25-64 Year Old Alaskans with College Degrees (Associates & Higher)

12.7% of 25-64 Year Old Alaskans have Certificates

By 2020, 66% of Jobs in Alaska will Require Postsecondary Education

SOLUTION: ALASKA POSTSECONDARY ACCESS & COMPLETION NETWORK

Why a Network?

The Alaska Postsecondary Access & Completion Network will build and strengthen partnerships to act collectively to improve postsecondary outcomes for all Alaskans. The goal of the network is to increase the number of credentialed workers in Alaska. The network aims to reduce duplication of effort and create synergy among service providers, support professional development, strengthen public messaging, and conduct and disseminate relevant research.

Alaska Goal Statement

65% by 2025

Percentage of Working-Age Alaskans with a Postsecondary Credential

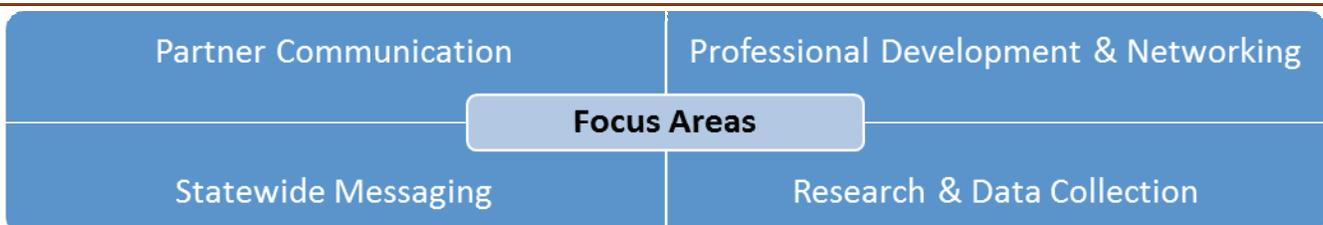
Network Mission Statement

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

Challenges to Postsecondary Access & Completion in Alaska

Expectations	Preparation	Affordability	Support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As demonstrated by: Focal points for students and staff need to extend beyond high school graduation to career pathway. Current strategies to motivate postsecondary credential attainment are not consistently effective across Alaska. Student transitions are often unplanned or poorly planned, without Personal Learning and Career Plans (PLCPs)*. Create a sense of urgency among individuals and organizations in Alaska. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As demonstrated by: Rigorous curriculum for academic preparation for postsecondary is not consistently available; and when available is not the default option. Secondary exit and postsecondary entrance expectations are misaligned. Fewer, better measures are needed to evaluate students' postsecondary education preparation. Support is needed for soft skills development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As demonstrated by: Postsecondary education sticker price shock presents a barrier to planning conversations. Students are often unaware of financial support available to them. Disparities exist among Alaska regions in student financial aid access and awareness. Strengthening industry participation & community partnerships is critical to success. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As demonstrated by: A statewide inventory of postsecondary access and completion programs and policies does not currently exist. Scaling programs and services up or down can be equally challenging in different regions of Alaska. Service providers need a central clearinghouse as a recognized authority on postsecondary access and completion to collect and disseminate information and best practices.

Focus Areas:



NEWS

FEATURES

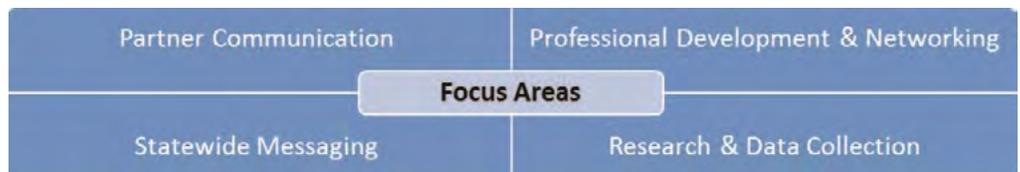
BRIEFS

PEOPLE

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THE NETWORK

INCREASING ALASKANS' POSTSECONDARY ACCESS AND COMPLETION



A diverse group of leaders from across Alaska are coming together and exploring ways to facilitate partnership, communication, and advocacy to positively influence the growth of a college-going culture in Alaska. The Alaska Postsecondary Access and Completion Network (The Network) is a concept proposed at the Alaska College Access and Success Summit in November 2013. The Network is being championed by summit attendees who are committed to common goals around student access and success and who are actively engaged in organizational design and implementation to move the initiative forward.

ACPE is the Network's incubation site and the effort is funded from Alaska's Federal College Access Challenge Grant, with consultative support from the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE).

Planning team participants agree that a well-designed statewide network will build and strengthen partnerships to act collectively to improve postsecondary outcomes for all Alaskans. The Network's mission is to increase the percentage of all Alaskans who complete postsecondary education, particularly in occupations relevant to building a robust state economy.

Network activities will be aligned to four areas identified as major challenges: 1) the absence of strong academic expectations in which students aspire to, and plan, for education beyond high school; 2) preparation for postsecondary and career success; 3) postsecondary education financing; and, 4) scaling services to meet Alaskans' needs.

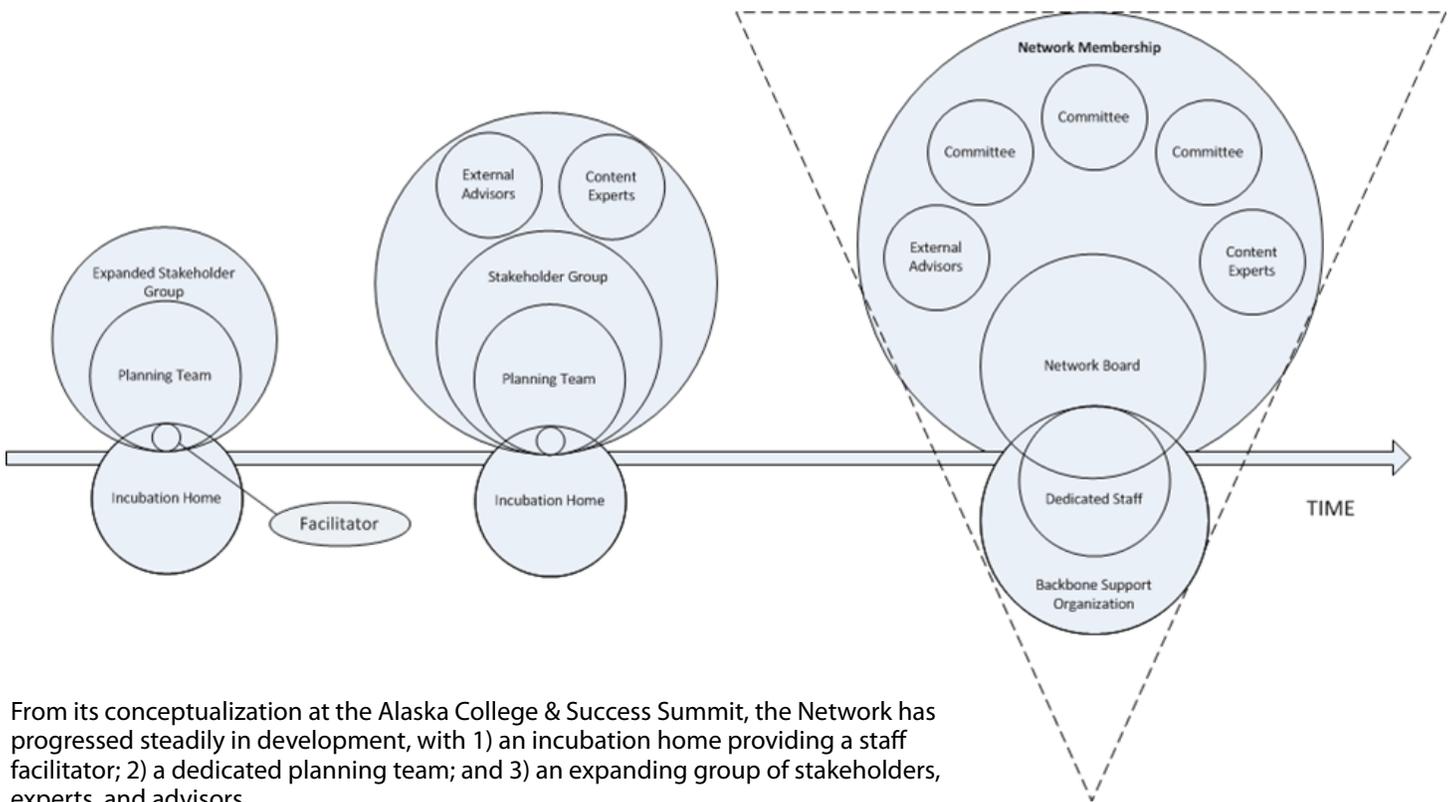
The Network's overarching goal is to foster a statewide environment that results in increasing the percent of Alaskans with credentials and degrees, from 47% to 65% by 2025. The Network plans to reach this goal by reducing duplication of effort, and creating synergy among service providers, by supporting professional development for higher education mentors and providers, strengthening public messaging, and conducting and/or disseminating relevant information and research.

Through planning team meetings the Network is identifying next steps. The group will continue to work towards raising the education and training bar for all Alaskan students, while setting realistic and relevant goals and outlining strategies to accomplish those goals. ●



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STRUCTURE: AN EXPANDING CIRCLE OF STAKEHOLDERS



From its conceptualization at the Alaska College & Success Summit, the Network has progressed steadily in development, with 1) an incubation home providing a staff facilitator; 2) a dedicated planning team; and 3) an expanding group of stakeholders, experts, and advisors.

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*Information on
 The Network's development
 can be found at
acpe.alaska.gov/Access*