



# *I*Nstitution *I*Nsight

Spring, 2015  
Issue No. 2

## GREETINGS!

The days are getting longer! Although the "official" first day of spring has come and gone, Alaskans know our version of spring has yet to arrive - and it's just around the corner!



In this issue, we'll introduce ACPE's new Commissioners; shine our authorized institution spotlight on Hair Science; provide a summary of the changes to ACPE's loan programs; and more. As always, we invite you to send us your feedback or suggestions for future topics.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heike Joan".

## SPOTLIGHT ON... Hair Science

Did you know Alaska has a career/technical education school solely dedicated to barbering?

Hair Science, located in Anchorage, is owned and operated by Vershawn (Shawn) Idom, a graduate of Anchorage's A Head of Time Design Academy, and a licensed barber since 2006. In 2008, he opened Hair Science, and became a licensed instructor in 2010. Seeing a need for a barber-training facility, Shawn spent a number of years laying the groundwork to fulfill his goal of opening a barbering school in Anchorage.



Vershawn Idom, Owner and Instructor, Hair Science  
(Photo by: D. Idom)

Initially authorized by the Commission in April 2014, Hair Science has not only been offering instruction to students who are new to the barbering field, but has a goal of meeting the educational needs of industry professionals. For example, hairdressers wishing to become licensed barbers are required to complete a beard-shaving curriculum. In response to requests from industry professionals, Shawn has been providing the necessary instruction to several students, allowing them to meet the beard-shaving requirement. In addition, he began offering a part-time, evening barbering program for non-traditional students hoping to develop a vocational skill. The evening program provides an avenue for these students to achieve their goal, while working full time to support their families. An Air Force Veteran himself, Shawn has taken the necessary steps that allow other veterans to use their VA benefits for this barbering program.

At its April 3rd meeting, the Commission re-authorized Hair Science, through July 2017. **Congratulations!**

## THE RESULTS ARE IN!

Many thanks to the respondents to our recent Support and Service Survey. Your candid and informative responses told us:

- Nearly 100% of respondents said their interactions with ACPE's Institutional Authorization (IA) & Compliance staff resulted in a positive outcome - that is, you got the answers you needed and felt the service and support provided was either *Good* or *Very Good*.
- There are knowledge gaps relative to the statutory and regulatory requirements for authorized institutions. 55% - 65% of respondents said they or their staff were *Not At All Knowledgeable* or *Not Very Knowledgeable* about: general institutional authorization regulations; school record requirements; enrollment contract requirements; when an amendment to authorization is required and submission deadlines; and, the recertification of exemption from authorization or renewal of authorization processes.
- You'd like to see changes to the IA & Compliance pages of ACPE's website.

The survey answers let us know how we can better support Alaska schools, and your IA team intends to act on what you told us. In the coming months, we'll be offering training to address the knowledge gaps you identified. We'll also be embarking on a project to update the IA section of ACPE's website - and will be looking for your input during the process! Stay tuned!

## **ALASKA EDUCATION LOAN PROGRAM CHANGES**

**Effective July 1, 2015**

The passage of Senate Bill 195 (SB195) in the 2014 legislative session resulted in needed changes in the regulations governing Alaska's education loan programs. Alaska institutions had an opportunity to review and discuss draft regulations during the September 2014 "Regulations Implementing SB 195" presentation. Following the public comment period, the regulations became effective in January 2015. Since then, in preparation for the 2015-2016 academic year beginning July 1, ACPE staff have been making related updates to promissory notes, our loan management system, and the website.

The changes include:

1. New definitions for enrollment statuses (full-time, halftime and, for degree programs only, on-time);
2. An increase in the annual borrowing limits, including increased loan funds for "on-time" enrollment;
3. An increase in the aggregate (lifetime) borrowing limits;
4. A change to the cost-of-attendance definition for half-time students; and
5. A new requirement that all loans must be certified by loan program-participating institutions

In the coming weeks, ACPE staff will be reaching out to institutions that participate in the Alaska Education Loan Program to schedule training relative to these changes. For more information, please contact Joann (907.465.6678 or [joann.rieselbach@alaska.gov](mailto:joann.rieselbach@alaska.gov)).

## **Meet ACPE's Newest Commissioners!**

At its April 3, 2015 meeting, the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education welcomed five new Commissioners. The composition of the Commission, representing a cross-sector of public and private

education stakeholders, is set out in Alaska statute. Members are appointed by the Governor, chairs of state boards, or legislative leadership. Join us in welcoming:

- **Dale Anderson** - Appointed to the Commission by the chair of the University of Alaska Board of Regents, Mr. Anderson occupies one of the two positions designated for a Board of Regents representative.
- **Kenneth Fisher** - Appointed to the Commission by the chair of the University of Alaska Board of Regents, Mr. Fisher is the other Board of Regents representative.
- **Representative Lynn Gattis** - Representative Gattis is one of the two legislative members of the Commission, appointed to her position by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- **Keith Hamilton** - A representative of the State of Alaska Board of Education and Early Development, Mr. Hamilton was appointed to his position by the Chair of the State Board.
- **Senator Gary Stevens** - Senator Stevens is one of the two legislative members of the Commission, appointed to his position by the President of the Senate.

To read more about the Commissioners, including brief biographies, visit the ACPE's About Us page at: [https://acpe.alaska.gov/ABOUT\\_US/About ACPE ASLC/Leadership](https://acpe.alaska.gov/ABOUT_US/About_ACPE_AS LC/Leadership).

## FOCUS ON REGULATIONS

### Changes to 20 AAC 17.015. Exemptions.

At its October 2014 meeting, the Commission approved proposed changes to 20 AAC 17.015(a)(4), increasing the number of hours (program length) a program may be and be eligible institutional authorization exemption as a short course of study. To be eligible for the short course exemption, a program cannot exceed 120 hours or 15 days in duration, including all required class, laboratory, externship, and independent study hours. This is an increase from the previous 80 hours/10 days maximums.

The new regulations became effective February 22, 2015. ACPE encourages authorized and exempt postsecondary schools and training providers to review their current programs to assess if they may be eligible for exemption under the new requirements. ACPE staff is happy to answer any questions regarding this change, or provide clarification.

## Recent Commission Actions

### April 3, 2015 Meeting

#### Renewal of Authorization

- Alaska Bible College (Palmer)
- Center for Employment Education (Fairbanks & Anchorage)
- Hair Science (Anchorage)
- Vocational Training & Resource Center (Juneau)

#### New Programs

- Alaska Pacific University - B.A. in Creative & Professional Writing; B.A. in Alaska Native Governance
- Northern Industrial Training - Certificate in Advanced Welding; Certificate in Fabrication Welding

## Upcoming Events

### May 7, 2015

- Alaska Student Loan Corporation Meeting

### July 1, 2015

- Start of 2015 - 2016 Academic Year

### July 23, 2015

- Quarterly Commission meeting (in Anchorage)

### **IMPORTANT DATE: July 15, 2015**

- **Deadline for receipt of materials for items to be presented at the October 23, 2015 Commission meeting**

## Alaska Performance Scholarship - 2015 Outcomes Report

The 2015 APS Outcomes Report analyzes the characteristics of high school graduates, those who were eligible to receive the scholarship, and those who went on to make use of it during the four years of the scholarship's existence. The analysis - which includes geographic, gender, ethnic and socioeconomic characteristics - provides a more in-depth examination of graduates from the class of AY11, the first class eligible to receive the award, as they progress through their second, third, and fourth years of postsecondary studies.

The infographic "[2015 APS Outcomes Report Quick Stats](#)," summarizes the positive impacts the APS has had since inception.

*For more information, including the link to download the entire report, visit the [APS Outcomes Report page](#) of our website.*

### Q: What is a "status change," and what do I need to report to ACPE?

**A:** It may be confusing to know which situations require an authorized institution or training provider to notify ACPE. However, there's a regulation that describes just that! [20 AAC 17.040](#) states that institutions making changes to: senior management, mission, educational program, or program delivery methods, or intending to relocate or open a new site, must provide written notification to ACPE at least one calendar quarter *before* the effective date of the change, or as soon as plans for change are known. Although some types of changes can be approved by staff, departures from information provided in the school's most recent authorization must be approved by the Commission before being implemented. Providing the written notification at least 90 days prior to the change is important as it will ensure the appropriate forms and supporting documents are received and evaluated in time for the next quarterly Commission meeting.

### Q & A

*If you have questions, need an Amendment to Authorization form (the form associated with status changes), or want more information, give Kierke a call!*



Kierke

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## Tell Us How We're Doing!

[ACPE.alaska.gov](http://ACPE.alaska.gov)

STAY CONNECTED



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