

### Meeting Purpose

Alaska Postsecondary Access and Completion Network members agree that a well-designed statewide network will build and strengthen partnerships to act collectively to improve postsecondary outcomes for all Alaskans. Planning team members, again convening in Anchorage, reviewed and refined network strategies currently outlined in the [Goal and Mission Statement](#) document. As part of this process, the definition of Postsecondary Credential was also refined. Additionally, the planning team discussed the benefits of convening an even more inclusive network meeting to adopt and build on strategies and share best practices to coordinate advancing Alaska postsecondary access and completion efforts.

### Key Meeting Outcomes

#### Adopted Definition of Postsecondary Credential

- **Education that results in an official certificate, degree or endorsement, including but not limited to:**
  - Completion of an apprenticeship program;
  - Industry-Recognized Licensure, Workforce Credential, or Occupational Endorsement Certificate;
  - Career or Technical Education Certificate;
  - Associates, Bachelors, or Master’s Degree; or
  - Doctoral, Professional or Advanced Degree

#### Refinement of Strategies

- **Discussion focused on:**
  - Partner Communication
  - Professional Development & Networking
  - Statewide Messaging
  - Research & Data Collection
- **Strategies will be incorporated into a draft strategic planning document, and further developed via email & conference calls**

### Membership Review

Membership has significantly expanded and diversified with new non-profit, business, and Department of Labor representatives joining the planning team. Stakeholders’ engagement is strong. Further expansion will be targeted to fill specific gaps.

#### NEXT STEPS

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

### Postsecondary Access & Completion Programs & Policy Inventory Update

Rebekah Matrosova, Director of Outreach & Early Awareness for the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE), announced that McDowell Group has been contracted to conduct the program and policy inventory and to provide initial recommendations. Heather Haugland, Senior Project Manager, was introduced and advised members to expect contact for stakeholder interviews within the next few weeks. Interviews are the first step in the project, which is expected to be completed by early November 2014.

#### NEXT STEPS

ACPE will supervise progress and completion of the Programs & Policy Inventory by McDowell Group, LLC.

Planning team members will complete a stakeholder interview with McDowell Group to provide perspective on Alaskan postsecondary policy and success

Planning team members will make recommendations for additional stakeholders to include in the interviews

### Collaborative Assessment Update

Lacy Karpilo, Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs at UAA and lead for the Collaborative Assessment Subcommittee informed planning team members that the assessment has been converted to an online survey. It was distributed to all planning team members in July.

#### NEXT STEPS

Planning team members will receive an email invitation to complete the online assessment.

# ALASKA POSTSECONDARY ACCESS & COMPLETION NETWORK

MEETING – JULY 8, 2014

## Strategy Refinement:

The planning team convened to discuss the initial strategies outlined for the network. These discussions are informing revisions to the [Goal and Mission Statement](#) working document, and development of a more comprehensive draft strategic plan. Both documents will be further refined by planning team members through e-mail and/or other online discussion. While the team acknowledged that the current terms used to describe strategies and related components could be improved, consensus on new terminology was not reached and the team agreed to move forward with a focus on the content of the strategies, rather than the descriptors. The draft strategic plan that will be distributed to the planning team will propose clarified terminology for the team's consideration.

### NEXT STEPS

Strategy descriptions will be updated in the Goal and Mission Statement working document, and incorporated into a new iteration of the draft strategic plan which will be further developed by members via email.

The strategy refinement discussion built on outcomes of the [November 2013 Alaska College Access and Success Summit](#). Four key challenges to postsecondary access and completion in Alaska were identified: Culture Change, Academic Preparation, Financing, and Scalability. These challenges were explored in greater depth at this meeting.

Culture Change	Academic Preparation	Financing	Scalability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Indicators:</b></li><li>Horizon for students and staff needs to expand beyond high school graduation.</li><li>Absence of and/or disparities in factors motivating students to pursue postsecondary credentials.</li><li>Student transitions are often unplanned or poorly planned, without Personal Learning and Career Plans (PLCPs).</li><li>Need to grow a burning platform for change among individuals and organizations in Alaska.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Indicators:</b></li><li>Rigorous curriculum for academic preparation for postsecondary is not always available; and when available, is not the default option.</li><li>Secondary exit and postsecondary entrance expectations are misaligned.</li><li>Fewer, better measures are needed to evaluate students' preparation for postsecondary education.</li><li>Support is needed for soft skills development.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Indicators:</b></li><li>Postsecondary education sticker price shock presents a barrier to planning conversations.</li><li>Students are often unaware of financial support available to them.</li><li>Disparities exist among Alaska regions in student financial aid access and awareness.</li><li>Strengthening industry participation &amp; community partnerships is critical to success.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Indicators:</b></li><li>A statewide inventory of postsecondary access and completion programs and policies is needed.</li><li>Scaling programs and services up or down can be equally challenging in different regions of Alaska.</li><li>Service providers need a central clearinghouse as a recognized authority on postsecondary access and completion to collect and disseminate information and best practices.</li></ul>



Informed by the identification of the initial challenges, the summit also resulted in identification of three major focus areas for a statewide collective to address: Statewide Messaging, K-16 Communication, and Professional Development. During this meeting, planning team members added more detail to these strategy areas to better describe state needs, and added a fourth area focused on research & data collection. Planning team members broke into groups to discuss each strategy focus area. These discussions will also be reflected in the draft strategic plan under development.

## Reconvening of Broader Network

Members discussed hosting a new summit in Spring 2015 to reconvene a broader group of service providers. In preparation, planning team members will further refine strategies, and review the initial results of the Program & Policy inventory. Members also determined that the upcoming fall education conference schedule provides excellent opportunities to update practitioners in Alaska on the progress of the network, and offer initial smaller convenings to allow for best practices sharing. The team formed a subcommittee to develop a list of upcoming conferences to submit proposals for, and an appropriate postsecondary access and completion network conference sectional presentation & activity.

### NEXT STEPS

Conference Sectional Subcommittee will develop a list of upcoming conferences/statewide stakeholder meetings at which presentations may be made.

Conference Sectional Subcommittee will develop content for a standard APACN presentation.