

Alaska Student  
Loan Corporation



Alaska  
Commission on  
Postsecondary  
Education

Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education 2014

# ANNUAL REPORT



Financial Aid

**2,348**

students used  
**APS**

**2,543**

students received  
**AEG**

**664**

loans  
originated

Community Outreach

**72**

participating  
**communities**

**369**

events  
across the state

**15,508**

individuals  
reached

## Fellow Alaskans...

In Fiscal Year 2013-14 we were extremely proud of the forward-looking endeavors and accomplishments to which agency resources have been devoted. These include:

- Successful advocacy for Senate Bill 195, which increased Alaska Education Grant and Alaska Education Loan annual and aggregate award maximums and modified program terms creating incentives to improve Alaskans' on-time graduation rates.
- Rallying education advocates from across Alaska to lead in the development of the Alaska Postsecondary Access Completion Network (Network) to explore and promote, through sustained collaboration, strategies to grow a college-going culture in Alaska.
- ANSWERS, Alaska's P-20W SLDS, now under development, has engendering interest and enthusiasm within the education community where there is considerable appetite for the information and reports that will be possible once the ANSWERS project is complete. To increase awareness of the Alaska resource, project personnel launched its "What is ANSWERS?" video. The short video provides a high-level, plain-language overview of how the system will assist Alaskan practitioners and policy makers with identifying and analyzing education and workforce outcomes—enabling them to use that knowledge to guide state investment and policy.
- Ensuring Alaskans' broad access to online education options through Alaska's participation in the national institutional State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA). SARA participation not only benefits Alaskans seeking education and training but also provides a streamlined method for Alaska-based education providers to broaden the market for their online programs to students in other participating states (currently 17 states).

We are confident that this work, in addition to delivery of our outreach and financial aid services, directly supports and enhances the Commission's capacity to meet its mission. We remain committed to providing Alaskans with the information and assistance necessary for them to become productive and thriving citizens through higher education and training.

Respectfully,



Jim Johnsen  
ACPE Chair



Randy Weaver  
ASLC Chair



Diane Barrans  
ACPE Executive Director  
ASLC Executive Officer

To track our progress, please visit us online at

[ACPE.ALASKA.GOV](http://ACPE.ALASKA.GOV)

# WHO WE ARE

## OUR MISSION

*The Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE), funded by the Alaska Student Loan Corporation (ASLC), promotes access to and success in education and career training beyond high school.*



## OUR VALUES

**SERVICE • QUALITY • INNOVATION • EMPOWERMENT • ACCOUNTABILITY**

The Legislature created ACPE in 1974 to centralize planning for higher education and administer financial aid programs. Guided by the 14-member Commission, the Executive Director and staff develop and implement programs to increase Alaskans' access to the benefits of higher education. ASLC, a public corporation and enterprise instrumentality of the State of Alaska, was created by the Legislature in 1987 to fund the Commission's operation and loan programs through tax-exempt bond sales. It has a legal existence independent of the State and is governed by a Board of Directors. The Board's primary responsibilities are to authorize and set investment policies, loan terms, and borrower benefits. The Commission staff serve as staff to the Corporation. They carry out ASLC activities through the delegated authority of the ASLC Executive Officer, who is also ACPE's Executive Director.

## OUR CORE SERVICES

- Programs promoting early preparation for postsecondary success
- Education planning tools and resources
- Advocacy and support for postsecondary participation in Alaska
- Financial aid for college and career training
- Education consumer protection through institutional authorization and complaint investigation
- Information management and analysis to evaluate return on investment in higher education

## WHY THIS WORK MATTERS

A better-educated workforce – including technical and collegiate education – will support and grow a strong state economy that benefits all Alaskans. The Commission's programs are a suite of financial aid and outreach services designed to promote and facilitate the education access and attainment Alaskans need to maximize their opportunities for success.

## ANNUAL GRANT AND LOAN MAXIMUMS INCREASED, FOCUS SHARPENS ON GRADUATION

Senate Bill 195, sponsored by Senator Anna MacKinnon (Fairclough), and unanimously passed by both the House and the Senate during the 28th legislative session, contained components which substantially expanded the Commission's tools to better serve and motivate Alaskans engaging in education and training beyond high school. Specifically, the bill increased annual and aggregate award caps on the Alaska Education Grant and Alaska's state education loans. It also introduced into the state aid programs the concept of an "on-time" enrollment status for students taking 30 credits each year – an enrollment level documented to greatly increase the odds the students will complete their programs with a credential. The highest award amounts will be available exclusively to otherwise eligible "on-time" students.

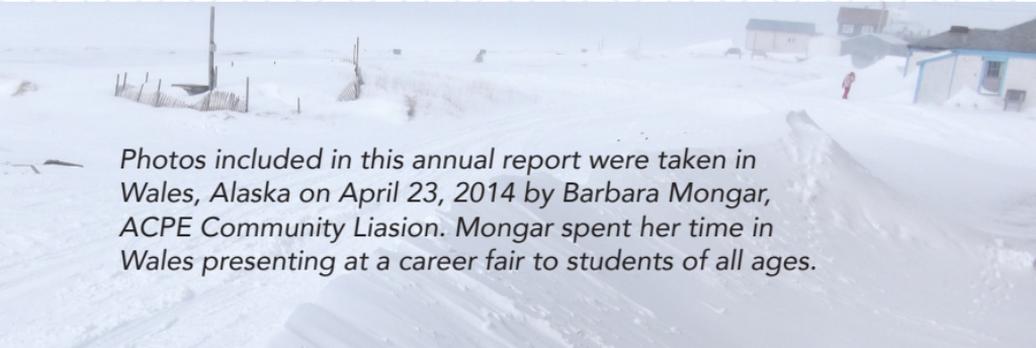
### LOOKING AHEAD

In the 2015-16 academic year, Alaska Education Grant (AEG) changes will be implemented. In addition to the potential for higher award amounts, AEG terms are being modified to better incent students to become and remain highly engaged in their pursuit of their postsecondary credential. That will mean attending full-time and maintaining that enrollment level from year to year -- actions that substantially increase the likelihood of degree completion.

Under the new awarding protocols the focus will be students who:

- have substantial financial need;
- are grant recipients who continue to enroll from one year to the next;
- attend at least full-time; and,
- apply early each year by completing the FAFSA.

In addition to managing the new grant process, the new Alaska Student Aid Portal (ASAP) is being developed to improve the school enrollment certification process for both the AEG and the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS), and to provide students with continued secure and easy access to their eligibility and funding status, as well as a means to update their information online and in real time.



*Photos included in this annual report were taken in Wales, Alaska on April 23, 2014 by Barbara Mongar, ACPE Community Liaison. Mongar spent her time in Wales presenting at a career fair to students of all ages.*

## THE NETWORK—ALASKANS COLLABORATE TO INCREASE ACCESS & COMPLETION

Late in 2013, participants in the Alaska College Access and Success Summit committed themselves to exploring and designing an Alaska Postsecondary Access and Completion Network (The Network). These participants were formed from a cross-section of leaders who have since served as the initiative's planning team. The overarching Network goal is fostering an Alaska-wide environment that results in marked increases in the percent of state residents, with credentials and degrees (particularly in fields which are central to our state economy), from 47% to 65% by 2025.

During this first year's activities, ACPE has served as the Network's incubation site. The effort is funded through ACPE's federal College Access Challenge Grant, with consultative support from the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE). To date, the Network has produced a draft strategic plan and formed an Executive Committee leadership structure.

### LOOKING AHEAD

After extensive discussions the Network planning team determined sustained efforts should align with four identified major challenges:

- 1) fostering strong academic expectations in which students aspire to and plan for education beyond high school graduation;
- 2) preparation for postsecondary and career success;
- 3) postsecondary education financing; and,
- 4) scaling services to meet Alaskans' unique needs.

Information on The Network's development can be found at <http://acpe.alaska.gov/Access>.

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## ANSWERS—IT'S ABOUT ALASKA'S OUTCOMES

ANSWERS, soon-to-be Alaska's P-20W SLDS (early learning through workforce Statewide Longitudinal Data System), is on track for timely implementation mid-2015. ANSWERS creates a secure longitudinal data system that links existing information from K-12, college and career training, and workforce/industry together to better understand the education-to-workforce continuum in Alaska.

In June 2014, Alaska's project team received a positive review during an oversight visit from staff of the grant's administrative organization, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). During their visit to ascertain progress on the \$4M SLDS project, team members noted the soundness of Alaska's project approach and progress, specifically in terms of stakeholder engagement, governance and the strong relationship among the partner organizations.

### LOOKING AHEAD

Following implementation, ANSWERS will produce outcomes information through report creation, data visualization in the form of dashboards, and other information products designed to provide the right information to the right people, in the right formats to better inform decision and policy-making.

Visit [www.acpe.alaska.gov/ANSWERS](http://www.acpe.alaska.gov/ANSWERS) for more information.

## Summary of FY 2014 Low-Cost Education Loan Volume (ASEL, FEL, and TEL Programs \*) as of 6/30/2014

Student Level	In-State		Out-of-State		Total	
	Loans	Dollars	Loans	Dollars	Loans	Dollars
Vocational	72	\$444,983	2	\$13,000	74	\$457,983
Undergraduate	227	\$1,596,788	333	\$2,554,127	560	\$4,150,915
Graduate	11	\$77,928	19	\$147,889	30	\$225,817
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>\$2,119,699</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>\$2,715,016</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>\$4,834,715</b>

\*Alaska Supplemental Education Loan, Family Education Loan, and Teacher Education Loan

## Alaska Education Grant and Alaska Performance Scholarship Disbursements FY2014 Participation by Institution of Attendance as of 6/30/2014

School Name	AEG		APS	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
AK Bible College	0	\$0	5	\$11,761
AK Christian College	10	\$13,000	1	\$3,566
APU	29	\$28,500	10	\$36,263
AVTEC	19	\$31,000	16	\$47,705
Alaska Career College	108	\$200,000	4	\$7,728
Charter College	139	\$92,348	2	\$2,774
Ilisagvik College	5	\$7,500	0	\$0
Northern Industrial Training	0	\$0	1	\$2,378
TrendSetters	0	\$0	1	\$4,756
UAA	1,647	\$2,282,000	1,355	\$4,365,372
UAF	381	\$991,500	834	\$2,964,205
UAS	183	\$221,986	119	\$377,549
Wayland Baptist	22	\$22,338	0	\$0
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>2,543</b>	<b>\$3,890,170</b>	<b>2,348</b>	<b>\$7,824,057</b>

Schools that participate in APS only with no FY2014 awards:

A Head of Time Design, AK Technical Center, Amundsen Educational Center, Galena City School District, Metroasis Advanced Training Center

### FY2014 WICHE Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)

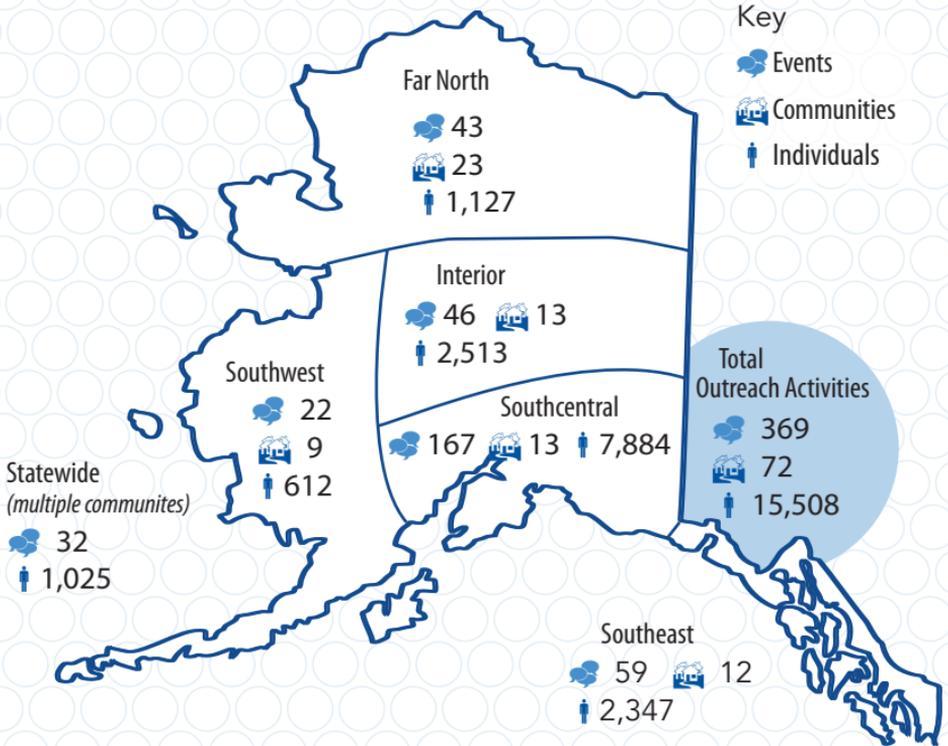
**Alaska Participants**

1,355

**Total Participants' Tuition Savings**

\$11,001,038

## 2014 Outreach Activities



"I grew up in a small community and I am the first person in my family to go to college. As excited as I was to go to college, I was uncertain about how I could possibly afford to pay for it. I was so happy to receive the Alaska Education Grant and am grateful to have this financial assistance as I pursue my bachelor's degree from UAA."

– *Christian Tofson*

*Seward High School Graduate 2014*

*College: University of Alaska Anchorage*

*Major: Journalism & Communications*

*Photo provided by Christian Tofson*

## Management Team

Diane Barrans  
Executive Director/Executive Officer

Worth Barthel  
Human Resource Officer

Stephanie Butler  
Director of Program Operations

Kenneth Dodson  
Director of Information Support Services

Rebekah Matrosova  
Director of Outreach & Early Awareness

Charlene Morrison, CPA  
Chief Finance Officer

Kerry Thomas  
Internal Auditor

Rochelle Rogers  
Commission/Corporation Secretary

## ASLC Board

Randy Weaver, Chair  
ACPE Member

Jim Johnsen, Vice Chair  
ACPE Member

Sheldon Fisher  
Commissioner of Administration

Fred Parady  
(Designee: Cathy Jeans)  
Acting Commissioner of Commerce,  
Community & Economic Development

Randall Hoffbeck  
(Designee: Jerry Burnett)  
Commissioner of Revenue

## Commissioners

Jim Johnsen, Chair  
General Public

Patricia Jacobson  
University of Alaska Board of Regents

Jerry Covey  
General Public

Sue Linford  
Private Higher Education

Joey Crum  
Proprietary Education

Jim Merriner  
State Board of Education & Early Development

Ray DePriest  
Community Colleges

Randy Weaver, Vice Chair  
General Public

Senator Mike Dunleavy  
State Senate

Representative Tammie Wilson  
House of Representatives

Jo Heckman  
University of Alaska Board of Regents

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Alaska Workforce Investment Board

Rebecca Huggins  
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Vacant  
Student



Governor  
Bill Walker



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