

ANNUAL
REPORT | 2015



**Alaska
Commission on
Postsecondary
Education**

Alaska Student
Loan Corporation

Fellow Alaskans,

It is with an abundance of respect and appreciation that I reflect on the good work and commitment of my colleagues and the many Alaskans who have supported and contributed to advancing ACPE's mission since before I first joined Commission staff in 1981. To have been engaged in this effort for 34 years has been both challenging and rewarding— motivated by the goal of ensuring every Alaskan had the opportunity to garner lifelong personal and professional benefits through postsecondary education and training.



While the means by which we conduct business with and serve our fellow Alaskans has transformed over these decades, one core value is unchanged— and again, in fiscal year 2014-15, we remained committed to efficiently and effectively deploying public resources for the benefit of Alaska.

Now on the eve of retirement, I have every confidence these vital programs and services are left in the extremely capable hands of engaged, talented managers and staff who are guided and supported by Commission/Corporation leaders and members who selflessly invest their own time and expertise toward the end of the betterment of all Alaskans through higher education.

Respectfully,

Diane Barrans
ACPE Executive Director
ASLC Executive Officer

To track our progress,
please visit us
online at
acpe.alaska.gov.

2015 Annual Report Summary

- To inform and improve the Alaska Performance Scholarship's (APS) administration, ACPE surveyed the affected population to:
 - 1) determine APS' impact on student behaviors and outcomes;
 - 2) find ways to tune and refine program delivery.
- In response to customer feedback and program changes, ACPE retooled the internet-based Alaska Student Aid Portal (ASAP) to better enable students to manage their own state scholarship and grant accounts and streamline institutional processes.
- Partnering with interested organizations from across the state to identify and address Alaska's growing workforce readiness crisis, ACPE was a principal actor in convening more than 160 stakeholders for the 1st Postsecondary Access & Completion Network Conference to focus specifically on the goal of increasing Alaska's postsecondary education attainment rate to 65% by the year 2025.
- For the sixth year, funded through a federal grant, the Alaska College & Career Advising Corps continued to positively impact students' college participation rates from participating schools. Based on evidence of success, work on a sustainable, cost-efficient program model continued apace in light of the eventual end of federal financial support.

FY15 (2014-2015) Annual Report Totals
Fiscal Year End 6/30/2015

Summary of FY 2014 Low-Cost Education Loan Volume
 (ASEL, FEL, and TEL Programs *) as of 6/30/2015

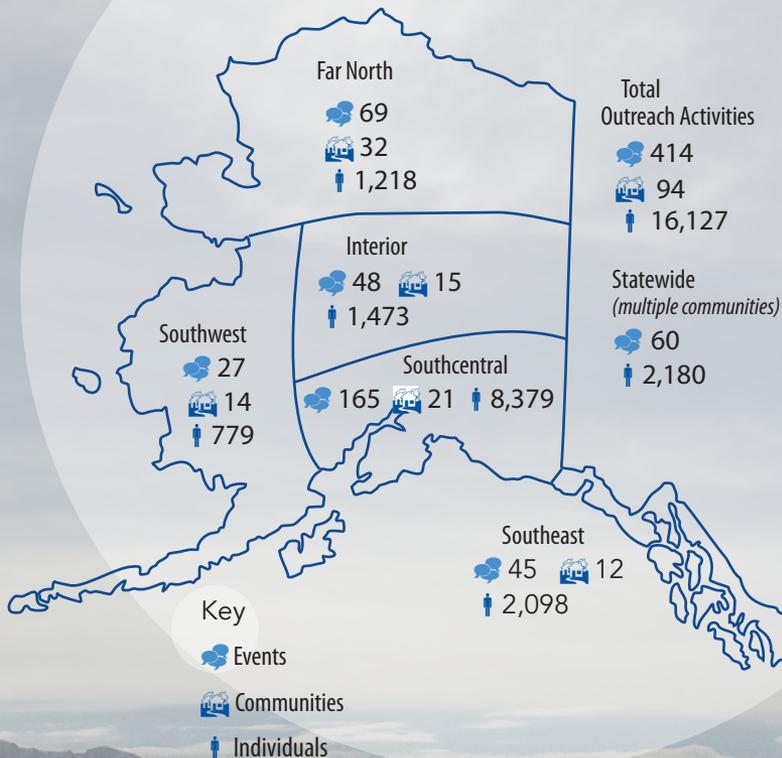
Student Level	In-State		Out-of-State		Total	
	Loans	Dollars	Loans	Dollars	Loans	Dollars
Vocational	66	\$425,716	6	\$35,750	74	\$457,983
Undergraduate	180	\$1,256,610	243	\$1,842,153	423	\$3,098,763
Graduate	4	\$19,749	21	\$163,107	25	\$182,856
Totals:	250	\$1,702,075	270	\$2,041,010	520	\$3,743,085

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

Summary of FY2015 WICHE Exchange Program Savings for Alaska Students

Alaska Participants	Total Participants' Tuition Savings
1,237	\$10,186,866

2015 Outreach Activities



Alaska Performance Scholarship and Alaska Education Grant Disbursements

FY2015 Participation by Institution of Attendance as of 6/30/2015

School Name	AEG		APS	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
AK Bible College	3	\$4,000	6	\$21,297
AK Christian College	29	\$44,000	0	\$0
APU	34	\$48,500	15	\$58,851
AVTEC	31	\$62,250	18	\$53,553
Alaska Career College	162	\$311,750	5	\$11,889
Charter College	173	\$110,316	3	\$3,964
Ilisagvik College	11	\$17,750	0	\$0
Trend Setters*	0	\$0	4	\$14,264
UAA	2,358	\$3,232,827	1,712	\$5,463,160
UAF	806	\$1,227,500	1,104	\$3,990,954
UAS	259	\$380,000	139	\$459,021
Wayland Baptist	35	\$41,002	0	\$0
Totals:	3,901	\$5,479,895	2,348	\$10,076,953

Schools that participate
in APS only with no
FY2015 awards:

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

* Participation
in the APS program only.

APS Impacts

Understanding APS Impacts— And the Survey Says...

Now in its 5th year, the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) is proving to influence Alaska students' choices around if and where to pursue their postsecondary education or training.

Responses to a recent McDowell Group-conducted survey show the APS has an influence on students' decisions. It starts in high school: students report the availability of the APS increased their likelihood to take a placement exam, and incited them to work to achieve better grades.

One-third of respondents said the APS was a major factor in their decision to continue their studies after high school, and over three-quarters of APS recipients said that APS influenced their decision to attend an in-state school. APS also impacted other behaviors positively associated with successful degree completion: these factors include respondents' enrolling full-time versus part-time and, for 54% of respondents, their ability to minimize how many hours they needed to work while in school.

The survey results show that the Alaska Performance Scholarship is having many of the desired effects for which it was designed.

<http://acpe.alaska.gov/REPORTS/reports/>

Up Next

ACPE will continue its work with the University of Alaska as well as the Departments of Education and Early Development and Labor and Workforce Development to ensure broad-based awareness and understanding of the APS program.

ASAP 2.0

This year's Alaska Student Aid Portal (ASAP) enhancements are designed to improve user interaction and navigation for Alaskans eligible for state need-based grant assistance or merit-based scholarships on ACPE's state financial aid management website. ASAP provides users with secure 24/7 online access to monitor APS and Alaska Education Grant (AEG) eligibility information and usage.

ASAP system security and privacy remain a critical priority. Information is protected through integrated physical, electronic, and procedural safeguards in compliance with all applicable laws. All data is maintained in the state's secure data center.

By interfacing with their own online ASAP accounts students can now:

- Accept the AEG online
- Update contact information, enrollment level, and school of attendance
- Track their own grant and scholarship history
- Request help directly through ASAP
- Receive email notifications of status changes and view related account history

Email notifications resulted in tens of thousands of dollars of savings and higher student response rates.

Up Next

To inform state financial aid policy ACPE will annually assess high school student eligibility and financial aid recipients' outcomes to assess what impacts the financial aid may have on high school students' decisions and actions as they relate to higher education access and success.

The Network

The Network—Increasing Alaskans' Postsecondary Access and Completion

For two days in March 2015 the Alaska Postsecondary Access & Completion Network (the Network) convened in Anchorage as a diverse cross-sector group with a shared interest and focus on the Network's postsecondary attainment goal of "65 by 2025".

The Network, which formed to address Alaska's postsecondary education crisis, is a collaborative effort to raise the percentage of working-age adults that hold a high-value certificate, college degree or other industry-recognized credential to 65% by 2025.

More than 160 individuals – professionals in education, business, and public service from all regions of Alaska – registered for the conference, exceeding the forecast for this inaugural event. Forty-eight presenters and co-presenters shared their knowledge in breakout sessions, selected from among the many valuable proposals submitted. Breakout sessions highlighted best practices and focused on five key themes: Expectations, Preparation, Affordability, Support Services, and Data.

Information on the Network's development can be found at <http://65by2025.org>.

Up Next

ACPE continues to serve as the Network incubation home, with a late 2016 target for establishment of an independent entity.

Network activity in the upcoming year will focus on public messaging to promote postsecondary attainment, and professional development for counselors and others working with students along their postsecondary path.

The Counselor College & Career Training Initiative will provide development – at no cost – to an estimated 16 counselors by 2017. In addition, based on positive attendee feedback, a second Network conference will be held in March of 2016.

ACAC Legacy

In the spring of 2009 the first Alaska College & Career Advising Corps (ACAC) College & Career Guide was embedded at Robert Service High School in Anchorage, piloting a program to strengthen awareness of, aspirations toward, and access to postsecondary education and training for Alaskans.

With startup funding from the federal College Access Challenge Grant, today thirteen ACAC Guides serves more than fifty schools across Alaska. These recent college graduates work alongside counselors, focusing on increasing the number of Alaskans who enter college or career training directly after high school.

Variations of the pilot model now meet the diverse needs of Alaskans. Guides are embedded in urban and “hub” high schools, or may operate in a blended delivery model providing distance-based services, augmented by in-person visits. Data shows that the program is working. On average, schools with a Guide see their graduates with 6% higher postsecondary education enrollment rates.

Community leaders and school administrators attest to the transformation they see in schools with the presence of a Guide. As the federal funding comes to an end, these partnerships serve as the foundation for continued impact.

Up Next

ACPE has become a partner in two small federal grants that are creating four College & Career Guide positions. Additionally, a national non-profit funding partnership, supplemented by local partner funding, supports a Nome-based Guide. Existing sites and new sites will host the post-grant College & Career Guide placement model. AY17 will kick off with a streamlined program of 8+ Guides, supported through a robust and diverse set of non-state funding streams.

Information on ACAC progress and actions can be found at <http://acpe.alaska.gov/acac>



the future belongs
to those who believe
in the beauty of
their dreams

—eleanor roosevelt



Origins and Roles

Created by Alaska's Legislature in 1974 to centralize planning for higher education and administer financial aid programs, ACPE is guided by its fourteen members. 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, was created by the Legislature in 1987 to fund the Commission's programs through tax-exempt bond sales. Governed by a Board of Directors, ASLC has a legal existence independent of the State. The Board's primary responsibilities are to authorize the financing of loans and set investment policies, loan fees, and borrower benefits. The Commission staff serve the Corporation and carry out ASLC activities through the delegated authority of the ASLC Executive Officer, who is also ACPE's Executive Director.

Our Values

- Service
- Quality
- Innovation
- Empowerment
- Accountability

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.

Core Services

- Promoting early awareness and preparation for success in higher education
- Providing education/career planning tools and resources
- Advocating for and supporting postsecondary participation in Alaska
- Providing college and career training financial aid
- Protecting education consumers by regulating institutions and investigating complaints

Why We Are Needed

A highly-educated and skilled workforce – the product of technical and collegiate education – is critical to growing and strengthening a state economy that benefits all Alaskans. ACPE programs are a suite of financial aid and outreach services designed to provide the educational access necessary for Alaskans to maximize their opportunities to achieve personal success and to contribute to the Alaska workforce and statewide economy.

“A parent told me I changed his son’s life – they would not have been able to afford to send him to college. After they found out about the FAFSA and need-based aid, they are paying only 20% of tuition and all other costs are covered.”

- an ACAC College & Career Guide

Commissioners

Jim Johnsen,
Chair
General Public

Randy Weaver,
Vice Chair
General Public

Dale Anderson
*University of Alaska
Board of Regents*

Representative Lynn Gattis
House of Representatives

Jerry Covey
General Public

Keith Hamilton
State Board of Education & Early Development

Joey Crum
Proprietary Education

Rebecca Huggins,
General Public

Ray DePriest
Community Colleges

Kurt Kuhne
Alaska Workforce Investment Board

Kenneth Fisher
*University of Alaska
Board of Regents*

Sue Linford
Private Higher Education

Colby Freel
Student Representative

Senator Gary Stevens
State Senate

ASLC Board

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ACPE Member

Jim Johnsen, *Vice Chair*
ACPE Member

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*Commissioner of Commerce,
Community & Economic Development*
Jim Anderson, Designee

Randall Hoffbeck
Commissioner of Revenue
Jerry Burnett, Designee

Sheldon Fisher
Commissioner of Administration
John Boucher, Designee

Management Team

Diane Barrans
Executive Director/
Executive Officer

Rebekah Matrosova
*Director of Outreach &
Early Awareness*

Stephanie Butler
Director of Program Operations

Charlene Morrison, CPA
Chief Finance Officer

Kenneth Dodson
*Director of Information
Support Services*

Kerry Thomas
Internal Auditor

Aaron Gelston
Human Resource Officer

Rochelle Rogers
Commission/Corporation Secretary

ACPE provides its programs and services to all persons without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, political affiliation, or disability. Auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Jim Johnsen
ACPE Chair



Randy Weaver
ASLC Chair



Governor Bill Walker

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