

Alaska Commission on
Postsecondary Education

Winter Quarterly Meeting
January 12, 2022

ALASKA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

[Zoom link](#)

Meeting #: 854 3830 6097

Password: ACPE

Teleconference: (888) 788-0099; Code: 854 3830 6097#

AGENDA**Wednesday, January 12, 2022**

1. 10:00 a.m. Convene/Roll Call
- 2.* Adoption of Agenda
 - *Suggested motion: move to adopt the agenda of the January 12, 2022, Commission meeting.*
3. Ethics Disclosure Relative to Adopted Agenda
- 4.* Resolution of Appreciation
 - *Suggested motion: move the Commission adopt the Resolution of Appreciation as written for Dr. Pearl Brower.*
- 5.* Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 20, 2021
 - *Suggested motion: move approval of the meeting minutes from the October 20, 2021, Commission meeting.*
- 6.* Determine January 2023 Meeting Date
 - Wednesday, January 11, 2023
 - Thursday, January 12, 2023
 - Wednesday, January 18, 2023
 - Thursday, January 19, 2023
 - *Suggested motion: move the Commission hold its winter 2023 quarterly meeting on January (dd), 2023.*
7. 10:15 a.m. Public Testimony: Individuals 3-minute limit
Group Representative 5-minute limit
- 8.* 10:20 a.m. Approval of Professional Student Exchange Loan Program Fields of Study– Kerry Thomas, Director of Operations
 - *Suggested motion: move to approve the Professional Exchange Loan Program Fields of Study as recommended by staff.*
9. 10:30 a.m. University of Alaska Update – Pat Pitney, Interim President, and Paul Layer, Vice President of Academics, Students & Research
10. 10:45 a.m. Compliance Activities Report – Tyler Eggen, Institutional Authorization Program Coordinator

***Action Required – motion, second, and roll call vote**

- 10a.* Institutional Standards and Evaluation Recommendations – Tyler Eggen,
Institutional Authorization Program Coordinator
11. 12:00 p.m. Break – Lunch
12. 1:00 p.m. Outreach Initiatives Presentation – Kate Hillenbrand, Director of
Communication and Outreach
13. 1:30 p.m. Executive Director Report – Sana Efird, Executive Director
14. 1:45 p.m. Management Team Reports:
a. Finance – Julie Pierce
b. Program Operations – Kerry Thomas
c. Communications and Outreach – Kate Hillenbrand
d. Information Support Services – Jamie Oliphant
e. Human Resources – Written Report
15. 2:15 p.m. Commissioner and Department Reports:
a. Alaska Student Loan Corporation – Barbara Adams & Donn Liston
b. Board of Education and Early Development – Keith Hamilton
c. Board of Regents – Dale Anderson & Lisa Parker
d. Student Representative – Rodolfo Garcia
e. Alaska Workforce Investment Board – Cheryl Edenshaw
f. Alaska Access and Completion Network – Written Report
16. 2:30 p.m. Commissioner Closing Comments
17. Miscellaneous:
a. Administrative Action Log
b. Commission Members’ Affiliations
c. Commission Acronyms
d. Future Scheduled Meeting Dates
- April 6, 2022
- July 21, 2022
- October 27, 2022
- 18.* 3:00 p.m. Adjournment
• *Suggested Motion: move the Commission adjourn the January 12,
2022 meeting.*

***Action Required – motion, second, and roll call vote**

State of Alaska

Commission on Postsecondary Education

Resolution of Appreciation 2022.01

WHEREAS, Commissioner Pearl Brower, as the representative of Alaska’s Community Colleges, faithfully served on the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education from March 30, 2017 through November 10, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Brower demonstrated strong commitment to consumer protection for Alaskans through engaged oversight of institutional authorization and development as a member of the Commission, serving multiple terms on both the Institutional Standards & Evaluation and Executive Committees; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Brower generously volunteered her valuable and extensive education experience and knowledge to the Commission, providing invaluable perspective and insight into the needs and challenges facing Alaska Natives seeking postsecondary education and training; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Brower, in her nearly five years of service, has been a dedicated member of the Commission and actively supported the Commission’s mission, offering unwavering commitment and significant contributions to providing financial aid opportunities and higher education planning resources to Alaska’s students and their families; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Brower demonstrated her keen abilities and passion for strategic planning and identifying the need for increased stakeholder feedback across a variety of platforms to better engage and collaborate to build meaningful change to the Commission.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education and its staff officially recognize Commissioner Brower’s service as a member on the Commission and extend their statement of appreciation for her support and contributions to the Commission’s efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that their Resolution be appropriately engrossed and conveyed to Commissioner Brower with a copy to be incorporated in the official minutes of the July 22, 2021, meeting of the Commission.

Joshua Biccharella, Chair

Sana Efir, Executive Director

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE
ALASKA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
October 20, 2021**

A meeting of the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE), conducted via distance delivery, originated from the office of the Commission at 3030 Vintage Blvd. Juneau, Alaska on Wednesday, October 20, 2021. Chair Joshua Bicchinella called the meeting to order at approximately 10:05 a.m.

ATTENDEES

Commission members present for all or portions of the meeting: Chair Bicchinella, Vice Chair Lisa Parker, Dale Anderson, Pearl Brower, John Brown, Rodolfo Garcia, Donald Handeland, Donn Liston, and Representative Andi Story.

Commission members absent: Senator Mia Costello, Dr. Barbara Adams, Dr. Keith Hamilton, and Cheryl Edenshaw.

Commission staff present for all or portions of the meeting: Sana Efird, Executive Director; Julie Pierce, CPA, Chief Finance Officer; Kerry Thomas, Director of Program Operations; Kate Hillenbrand, Director of Communications and Outreach; Jamie Oliphant, Director of Information Support Services; Tyler Eggen, Institutional Authorization Program Coordinator; Susan Sonneborn, Assistant Attorney General; and Kordel Thompson, Executive Secretary.

Presenters in attendance: University of Alaska Interim President Pat Pitney, Northwest Commission on College and Universities (NWCCU) President Sonny Ramaswamy, and NWCCU Vice President Selena Grace.

Institutional representatives in attendance: Chris and Misty Lisenby, owners and operators of Alaska Driving Academy – Truck Driving Division; Vershawn Idom, owner and operator of Hair Science; Rosalyn Wyche, owner and operator of A Head of Time Design Academy; and Dr. Eric Ash, Chief Administrator of Wayland Baptist University.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Commissioner Brown moved to adopt the agenda of the October 20, 2021, Commission meeting. Vice Chair Parker seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all members present voted aye. The motion carried.

ETHICS DISCLOSURE

No ethics conflicts were disclosed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chair Parker moved to approve the minutes from the July 22, 2021 commission meeting as written. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all members present voted aye. The motion carried.

MEETING DATE

Commissioner Story moved to schedule the Fall 2022 commission meeting on October 20, 2022. Commissioner Liston seconded the motion. During discussion, Commissioner Brower moved to amend the motion on the table to change the Fall 2022 meeting date to October 27, 2022 so it would not conflict with the annual AFN conference. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion to amend. By roll call vote, all members present voted aye. The motion to amend the Fall 2022 meeting date carried. The members were then called to vote to approve the amended motion. By roll call vote, all members present voted aye. The amended motion to set the Fall 2022 commission meeting date carried.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Chair Bicchinella opened the public testimony period. Malan Paquette provided public testimony. There being no other testifiers, Chair Bicchinella closed the public testimony period.

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA UPDATE

University of Alaska (UA) Interim President Pat Pitney focused on UA's concerns and stance regarding the issue of the Higher Education Investment Fund (HEIF). She emphasized the importance of ensuring programs funded through the HEIF, such as the APS, AEG, and WWAMI, remain available for continuing and future students. UA is concerned that without the Legislature reversing the sweep or finding additional and/or new funding sources, the HEIF is effectively left without funding. She also touched upon a number of UA's current priorities and areas of focus, including:

- Enrollment/re-enrollment of new and continuing students.
- Focusing on and improving certain programs that are in high demand and/or showing potential for success.
- Continuing the "Did You Know?" presentations, which highlight and bring UA programs to light in meaningful ways.
- Emphasizing the benefits of 2-year, 4-year, and certificate programs to potential students and the general public.

President Pitney concluded her presentation by reaffirming the University's intention to work with ACPE, the Legislature, and the Governor's Office to protect and fund the HEIF going forward.

Discussion: Commissioner Story mentioned that HEIF funds have not been swept yet, as the Dept. of Revenue is holding off since once the funds are swept they are effectively gone. If swept the Legislature and/or Administration would need to find an additional \$20 million to fund the HEIF each year going forward. She indicated allowing the HEIF to be swept was a policy call, and that it is the opinion of the Legal Department that the Governor can determine the HEIF

fund is not sweep-able. Commissioner Brown commented that the uncertainty surrounding the funding of the APS is having a negative effect on prospective students. These students spend four years working towards qualifying for the APS, depending on that funding when planning their postsecondary education goals, only to graduate and discover that funding is not guaranteed. He stated that the long-term impacts and consequences of this is resulting in a cultural crisis among young people in Alaska that ACPE needs to address. Chair Bicchinella stated that 81% of the APS eligible high school graduates of 2019 indicated they were more likely to pursue higher education due to the APS, and 92% stated they would recommend the APS to other students. President Pitney discussed how UA is a key contributor to economic stability and prosperity in Alaska. How from certificate programs to PhDs, UA has a program to meet the needs of students wherever they are on their postsecondary journey. She stated that the problem is not that students are going out of state, but that they are not going to school at all. She then went on to praise Commissioner Brower's work to change UA's culture to be more welcoming, nurturing, and inclusive. Commissioner Story suggested that students should be introduced to the APS early on in their education, to get them started on working towards their goals. She later stated the APS is a very positive thing for students, and that recipients of the APS are more apt to complete their education. Commissioner Garcia relayed some of the things students are wanting to see included: more financial aid being made available to returning students who are seeking a 2nd degree; and more support to facilitate students from outlying areas of the state being able to attend postsecondary institutions in person. Commissioner Story voiced her concerns about the HEIF being swept, and stated it was going to be addressed in the upcoming special legislative session. She indicated she wanted to facilitate a discussion about how involved ACPE wants to be in advocating for the Governor to reverse direction on his policy regarding the HEIF being sweep-able. Vice Chair Parker voiced her concern about the direction students loans are going. She hopes to see trends flip like oil prices, to where we would see loan numbers go up, costs go down, and ACPE staffing increase again. Commissioner Liston discussed that we are facing a different time due to COVID-19, and that overreacting to the current situation/market may push us in a worst position than we are. He suggested it might be better to proceed with an expectation that enrollment and financial aid needs will return to normal. ACPE has an obligation to the people of Alaska to continue providing its services.

INSTITUTIONAL STANDARDS AND EVALUATION

Institutional Authorization Program Coordinator Tyler Eggen referenced his written report on recent compliance activities starting on page 19 of the meeting packet. Information in the report included:

- A status update on institutional monitoring.
 - No formal complaints were submitted for the quarter.
- A report on the Professional Truck Driving Institute's (PTDI) decision to cease and revoke their certification in response to the new Entry-Level Driver Training (ELDT) mandate set by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA).
 - Alaska DMV regulation requires that a nationally recognized professional truck driving training program certify Alaska driving schools.
 - PTDI was providing the majority of those certifications.

- ACPE has been communicating with both the DMV and our authorized truck driving institutions that were certified by PTDI regarding what they will need to do to remain in compliance going forward.
- Project update on the \$15,000 SHEEO Learning Community Grant.
 - The project resulted in a number of proposed regulations changes.
 - The adoption of these regulations changes was set as a later agenda item for this meeting.

Renewal of Authorization:

- Alaska Truck Driving Academy (Soldotna)

Commissioner Brower moved to approve renewal of authorization for three years, through October 31, 2024. Vice Chair Parker seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all members present voted aye. The motion carried.

- Hair Science (Anchorage)

Commissioner Anderson moved to approve renewal of authorization for one year, through October 31, 2022. Commissioner Story seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all members present voted aye. The motion carried.

- A Head of Time Design Academy (Anchorage)

Commissioner Story moved to approve renewal of authorization for three years, through October 31, 2024. Vice Chair Parker seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all members present voted aye. The motion carried.

- Wayland Baptist University (Anchorage, Wasilla and Fairbanks)

Commissioner Anderson moved to approve renewal of authorization for five years, through October 31, 2026. Commissioner Liston seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all members present voted aye. The motion carried.

PROPOSED REGULATION CHANGES FOR INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORIZATION

Institutional Authorization Program Coordinator Tyler Eggen provided a presentation on the proposed changes to Alaska Administrative Code (AAC) involving the Commission's institutional authorization processes and related fees. The presentation acted as a follow-up to his previous presentation during the Summer Quarter meeting on July 22, 2021, wherein the Commission opened a public comment period for the proposed changes. The public comment that ACPE received was discussed, with written copies included in the meeting packet. If approved, the proposed changes would streamline the authorization processes, align fees with services, and establish annual financial and student outcomes data reporting requirements. The biggest change from the version of the proposed changes that were discussed at the July 22,

2021, meeting was that the fee structure was added back into the regulations after a legal review determined it was necessary. Chair Bicchinella then opened the floor up to motions on adopting the proposed changes, to be followed by discussion and a roll-call vote.

Vice Chair Parker moved to approve the proposed regulation changes. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. By roll call vote, nine (9) of the members present voted aye, while one (1) member voted nay. The motion carried.

Discussion: Commissioner Story stated that it was her understanding the fees had not been updated in a long time and that part of the purpose for changing the Regulations was to better meet ACPE's fiscal needs while keeping the fees reasonable. Yet she pointed out that the fee changes still appeared to be quite modest and, in some cases, the fees appeared to have been decreased instead of increased. Tyler responded by saying that the changes all represented either increases to the fees or modifications designed to make them more financially feasible by spreading the cost out over a longer period, but did not constitute an actual decrease in the overall cost. Commissioner Story followed up by saying that \$200 still seemed like a modest fee for certain actions considering the staff time and resources required to review it. Tyler indicated these numbers were based upon estimates from years prior and may not truly cover 100% of the current cost of staff time, and that further analysis may be needed in subsequent reviews following adoption. However, he pointed out the intent of the current changes is only to start to make progress towards closing the cost gap, as bridging the gap entirely in one fell swoop would burden our institutions too much and too abruptly. Commissioner Brown thanked Tyler and the ACPE for their hard work on the proposed changes. He then wanted to confirm that only two pages worth of comments were received during the open public comment period; Tyler confirmed they were the only comments received during not only the 30 day public notice period, but also at the Institutional Standards and Evaluations Committee (ISEC) meeting that was held on August 26, 2021. Commissioner Anderson wanted to know what was prohibiting the fees from being removed from regulation and who determined the Commission cannot set the fees annually. Assistant Attorney General Susan Sonneborn answered that the Attorney General's office reviewed it with the Legislation and Regulation section of the Dept. of Law, and it was determined that the fee information needed to be in the regulations themselves so that the public had adequate access and opportunity to comment on any proposed fee changes. Commissioner Anderson inquired if staff had been able to look at and review other states' processes and what they are charging for comparable services. Tyler advised there was a table on pages 72 & 73 of the meeting packet with what information he was readily able to find on other state's fees. Commissioner Story asked staff whether they are comfortable with and feel like the changes are on the right track. Tyler answered that yes, even without being able to set the fees each year there are a number of necessary and useful changes, especially in increasing the rates for exempt institutions. He went on to state he believes we are moving fees in the right direction, and will advocate for reviewing the fees as the opportunity comes up on any future regulations projects.

PRESENTATION – INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION

Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) President Sonny Ramaswamy presented on the process of institutional accreditation, what it is and why it matters. The presentation provided information to commission members on the role accreditation organizations play in institutional oversight, what they look for, what their focuses are, how they review institutions for quality and compliance, and how they go about working and engaging with institutions when improvements are needed. A large focus of the presentation was on the purpose and goals of accreditation, as well as on their agency's focus on student success and equity, diversity and inclusion.

Discussion: Vice Chair Parker commented that she appreciated President Ramaswamy's comments regarding how many institutions think once they receive accreditation they're done, when in fact the hard work is just beginning because you need to maintain that accreditation, as she indicated UA and the Board of Regents has learned in working with NWCCU the past few years. She followed up by asking what NWCCU can say about what they are seeing as far as enrollment declines in other Northwestern states. President Ramaswamy responded that they are seeing significant declines in the Pacific Northwest, particularly in Community Colleges. He mentioned that while the pandemic exacerbated the issue, they were still seeing declines even before, and that it is the case all across the U.S. He indicated the institutions that are doing well are those focused on student success and closing equity gaps, while the ones that are struggling need to get back to the fundamentals of their reason for being, i.e. education and students. Commissioner Story inquired about those universities that they mentioned have been doing well, how have they been embracing/using technology and promoting student access to it, with her interest stemming as an equity issue in light of Alaska's broadband issues. President Ramaswamy answered that she is spot on, stating that he views technology as the great equalizer, and that it has collectively democratized education. As a counterpoint, though, an overreliance on technology can be detrimental. He decried the idea that computers and learning programs could supplant teachers and instructors; he cited the low graduation rates of for-profit online only institutions like University of Phoenix. He noted however, the accomplishments of bringing the online classroom to places like the outback, and that striving to overcome the broadband issues in Alaska will go a long ways towards increasing equity and removing the disparities between the haves and the have nots. Vice President Grace chimed in remarking on the innovations they have seen come out of tribal colleges during the pandemic, such as utilizing email and Wi-Fi hotspots that students could access from their cars. Commissioner Story followed up by asking if they encourage such adaptations to ensure institutions have equity measures in place. President Ramaswamy answered yes, and that furthermore, they have the same standards and criteria in place for both on-campus and remote learning institutions alike. VP Grace followed by verifying they support innovation and different approaches for how institutions are serving students. Commissioner Story inquired as to what they have seen other institutions do with a mind towards equity regarding enrollment initiatives and/or working with K-12 institutions and encouraging FAFSA submission in order to get increased diversity for non-traditional students and others. President Ramaswamy indicated there is a lot of activity in those spaces and connectivity between the Postsecondary and K-12 communities. He mentioned land grant Universities, mentioning the University of Fairbanks and how they should be able to leverage their mandate to work with the State Legislature and use the federal dollars coming to them to reach the K-12

communities throughout the state. Commissioner Brown asked what kind of success stories or good trends they have seen in regards to dual high school college credit models. President Ramaswamy said the best examples of the dual credit model are where the K-12 schools, community college, and 4-year colleges and universities are all partners and the transfer of credits between them is seamless. The biggest roadblock to these programs is when the students are not able to easily transfer their credits earned in high school to the post-secondary institution they plan on attending. VP Grace followed up regarding the distinction between dual credit and AP, saying one is not inherently better than another, but dual credit can be a stronger pathway if the student intends to stay within their region, due to additional funding and cost savings that may be available. Commissioner Brown followed up by asking if dual credit appeared to be a growing option before COVID disrupted things. President Ramaswamy replied yes, and that though it predates the pandemic there is a lot more interest in it now, as well. He indicated it is being driven by the cost of education and an effort to remove any potential obstacles or impediments from students being able to realize their higher education goals.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Efirm referenced her written report included in the meeting packet on page 78. During the past quarter, the Commission's Executive Office has focused on issues with distribution of and finding a permanent solution for the funding of the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS), the Alaska Education Grant (AEG), and the WWAMI contract agreement. Additionally, they have worked closely with Finance staff and the Department of Revenue on investment policy updates and recommendation, worked with staff to complete the Institutional Authorization regulations project, monitored COVID mitigation, managed Juneau lease changes, met regularly with staff on outsourcing and other projects, and attended numerous meetings and conferences.

Ms. Efirm provided a budget update, focusing on Governor Dunleavy's directive to distribute the APS, AEG, and WWAMI payments for FY22, based on the legal determination that the funds were appropriated prior to the Constitutional Budget Reserve sweep. Additionally, the Higher Education Investment Fund (HEIF) remains unfunded due to the Legislature not acting to reverse the sweep. She also addressed that ACPE is currently preparing and proposing ACPE's FY23 budget in advance of the Governor releasing his budget in December.

Ms. Efirm presented an update on the Outsourcing project. She relayed that the decision was made to extend the timeline of the project after careful review of the current status of the project and where it needed to be to ensure the best outcome, and in consideration of staff workloads. The new deadline for the cutover to CampusDoor for originations is April 1, 2022, and deadline for the loan servicing conversion to American Education Services (AES) is October 01, 2022.

Regarding Human Resources, Ms. Efirm relayed that there are positions currently vacant, with 48 positions filled. She also mentioned the Governor's memo advising Department and Division heads to continue to have staff telework to the full extent possible. With this in mind

and the increases in COVID-19 cases due to the Delta Variant, ACPE has suspended face-to-face meetings pending a reevaluation of the situation sometime in November.

Ms. Efird discussed the issue of the Juneau lease and space needs. While the plan had been to negotiate a reduction in our lease space, the cost of renovating the space to accomplish this kept rising. It was therefore decided to renew the lease as is for one year, to allow management to continue to evaluate what our overall space needs will be post-COVID, and whether another, smaller space might suit ACPE better moving forward.

She also highlighted the special meeting of the Alaska Student Loan Corporation held on October 12, 2020, specifically the presentation and adoption of a new investment policy that was prepared by Chief Finance Officer Julie Pierce in conjunction with the Department of Revenue. The corporation voted to adopt a higher risk investment policy to begin generating new funds, moving forward with a more growth focused investment policy instead of the prior policy that had been very conservative in just maintaining existing funds. She went on to touch upon the following additional items:

- She attended the first in-person Education Finance Council (EFC) meeting during the pandemic in Washington, DC. It was very informative and helpful to hear how other states are using some of their COVID and ARPA, and explore how we could adapt that for Alaska.
- She also had the chance to meet with Senator Murkowski's staff while in D.C. about the importance of the preferred lending laws that prevent Alaskan institutions from suggesting ACPE as a preferred lender. While Senator Murkowski was not in Washington at the time, she has since reintroduced the state based education loan awareness act.
- She is meeting regularly with President Pitney to discuss ways in which ACPE and UA can continue to partner.
- She made a formal request through Commissioner Johnson with the State Department of Education for ACPE to receive some of the available COVID funds.
- She discussed focusing efforts on educating 7th- 12th graders on APS eligibility and requirements to receive the scholarship.

Discussion: Commissioner Story thanked Ms. Efird for her efforts on the APS, and then asked if she could expand upon how ACPE would use the ARPA funds to help education efforts in Alaska. Ms. Efird discussed the importance of focusing on FAFSA completion rates, perhaps creating an initiative to help drive that, as well as working with unemployment offices to help unemployed adults to pursue postsecondary opportunities. Another idea was to restart the college and career guides program, which has been highly requested. She also mentioned finding ways to provide additional relief to borrowers still suffering financial setbacks due to the pandemic. Commissioner Story had a follow-up comment about FAFSA completion, wherein she strongly encouraged and endorsed pursuing communication grants to use to educate students on the Federal grant money that can be available for them in pursuing their education. Ms. Efird followed up stating that a high percentage of students who complete the FAFSA go on to enroll and attend postsecondary education and/or training, so it is a huge factor in supporting student pathways. She mentioned how some states are now requiring FAFSA completion as part of graduation from high school, and those states are seeing increases in enrollment.

MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORTS

Finance – Julie Pierce, CPA, Chief Finance Officer, referred to her report beginning on page 88 of the meeting packet. She went over a summary of the FY22 approved operating budget, highlighting the following adjustments from the last time it was presented: a decrease in Interagency personal services, an offsetting increase in the Interagency contractual line, and an overall decrease of two vacant PCNs. She also discussed page 89, the final FY21 operating budget compared to actual expenditures and obligations, through June 30 for the fiscal year. Ms. Pierce mentioned that the Alaska Student Loan Corporation board met on October 12th and adopted a revised investment policy, with the next corporation board meeting happening on November 4, 2021, the focus of which will be reviewing the audited financial statements. She also mentioned that copies of the financial statements would be sent out to Commission members for information purposes only.

Program Operations – Kerry Thomas, Director of Program Operations, spoke about her written report starting on page 91, which summarizes ACPE's year-to-date loan volume. The in-school loan programs continue to see multi-year declines that are outpacing any changes in enrollments. She stated their priority is to continue looking at the data and try to understand what is causing the changes in loan volume. Alternately, she noted that refinance loan volume increased over \$2 million for first quarter FY22 compared to last year, due to a large marketing campaign that occurred over the summer. In terms of projects, she went over how they are actively working on the outsourcing project for the originations and servicing of the State loans. The plan is to cut over to Campus Door as the new originations platform on April 1, 2022, while the timeline for the servicing conversion is extended to October 2022, to ensure a smooth transition for ACPE's borrowers and establishing efficient processes post conversion. She touched upon the second placement collection vendor project and that it is expected to go live at the end of November. Lastly, she mentioned that it is ACPE's publication season, and they are actively working on the higher education almanac and the Alaska performance scholarship outcomes report, both of which are due in January.

Discussion: Commissioner Story wondered if they had looked at doing a marketing push like they did for the refinance program but for the lower performing in-school loans. Ms. Thomas replied that they do market the in-school loan programs, typically through presentations to students or parents, direct mailings, and social media. She mentioned that the Communications and Outreach team is currently working with an external vendor to refine ACPE's marketing, as it's been easier to work with the credit bureau to identify borrowers that are eligible for the Refinance loan than it has been to target and identify current Alaskan students. Executive Director Efirid added that she appreciated Commissioner Story's comment and that we are very focused on marketing, to the extent that ACPE has contracted an outside vendor to help improve and target our marketing. She stated that ACPE truly believes that we have a better product for students that will save them money in the long run.

Outreach and Early Awareness – Kate Hillenbrand, Director of Communications and Outreach, highlighted her division's successful efforts to increase both the number of telephonic and virtual

sessions regarding FAFSA completion and postsecondary guidance held for the quarter, and in increasing the number of Alaskan students and educators attending these sessions (meeting packet, page 100). She reported that ACPE is also moving forward with an Alaska localization project with the Alaska Career Information System (AKCIS) platform, in an effort to better highlight and align Alaska education scholarships and workforce opportunities. She also touched upon contracting with a local marketing firm as previously mentioned by Ms. Efird, to assess ACPE's current marketing initiatives and provide feedback to improve and enhance our marketing and strategic planning efforts. An outcomes report will be delivered at the January 2022 Commission meeting. Finally, she reported that they had launched a preliminary redesign of ACPE's public homepage as part of continued efforts to streamline access to ACPE's virtual resources, with additional enhancements to continue to be rolled out throughout 2022.

Information Support Services – Jamie Oliphant, Director of Information Support Services (ISS), drew attention to the section of her report referencing the Outsourcing Project on page 105 of the meeting packet. She mentioned that ISS is looking at maintaining our historical data, as even though our current systems will be retired this historical information is going to be important to the data driven analysis that ISS will be doing in the future. She briefly discussed ISS working with Operations on the Second Placement Vendor project and with Outreach on the ACPE homepage redesign. She mentioned that there was an increase in vendor support, including onboarding a new third party vendor and dealing with vendor staff changes. Regarding Network, she stated that security is of the utmost importance to ISS, with efforts continuing to monitor the recent run of malware attacks against the state and ensure ACPE continues to be unaffected. As part of this, ISS has begun implementation of an enhanced user authentication process, which should be complete by the end of October. She touched upon how ACPE has been operating as a remote environment for almost two years now, and that efforts are always ongoing to improve and enhance remote support and make teleworking more efficient. She wrapped up by going over the impending phone transition to Microsoft Teams, which was briefly postponed but would be implemented for Anchorage staff the day after the Commission meeting.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Alaska Student Loan Corporation – Commissioner Liston did not have anything additional to add beyond what Executive Director Efird and CFO Pierce had already discussed in their reports.

Board of Education and Early Development – Commissioner Hamilton was on sabbatical and unable to attend, so there was no Dept. of Education and Early Development update.

UA Board of Regents – Commissioner Anderson referred to President Pitney's presentation, only adding a request that ACPE participate in the upcoming Student Loan Lending Report at the next Board of Regents meeting. Vice Chair Parker advised there would be a joint meeting of the State Board of Education and the Board of Regents the next week, the first of what hopefully will be ongoing biannual or quarterly meetings.

Discussion: Executive Director Efird commented that ACPE has already corresponded with UA regarding the upcoming Regents meeting and have already provided information for the presentation in question.

Student Representative – Commissioner Garcia reported that there is a strong interest among students for increased financial aid options for those students that are pursuing a second degree. He relayed that there is also a need for more support in funding for people in rural communities to be able to attend University in person, as many are not able to afford the transportation costs needed to get to the major cities from the rural areas of Alaska. He also cited rising concerns among students about whether liberal arts programs would continue to be funded. He also discussed that students are split over the idea of potential vaccine mandates for in-person attendance and/or dormitory living.

Alaska Workforce Investment Board – No report as Commissioner Edenshaw was not in attendance.

Network Report – Written report provided in the meeting packet.

Commissioner Closing Comments

- Vice Chair Parker expressed that she appreciated Commissioner Garcia’s contributions and that it is important to hear from the student representative and keep in touch with what students are saying and what is important to them. She expressed that she will continue to keep her focus on students and doing right by them, as they are reason we are all here.
- Commissioner Story discussed the fourth special session of the legislature, and the ongoing issues surrounding balancing the budget and how much to draw from the permanent fund and what to use it for. She discussed her concerns regarding the HEIF and what it would mean if the funds remain swept. She stated that Legislative Legal has determined it is a policy call at the discretion of the governor, and invited discussion on how involved ACPE wanted to be in advocating for that policy change.

Discussion: Chair Bicchinella asked Assistant Attorney General Sonneborn about what would be needed to formally discuss addressing this issue as a board. Ms. Sonneborn indicated any new action items would require a motion to amend the agenda to consider the action. Commissioner Story indicated that the Department of Revenue was holding back from sweeping the funds as long as possible due to the ramifications from a loss of interest standpoint in liquidating the funds. Vice Chair Parker asked if the HEIF could be re-funded later if the sweep is not reversed. Commissioner Story indicated that while she hoped it wouldn’t be impossible, it would be very difficult as things stand to get the full \$434 million dollars put back into the HEIF. She indicated there were Legislators interested in clarifying during the next session that the HEIF should not be included in the sweep, but that she also did not believe there was enough support to get the three quarter vote needed to reverse the sweep at this time. Vice Chair Parker voiced her support to sending a letter to the Governor stating the importance of funding the state’s scholarship and grant programs, due to how vital they are to Alaskan students. Commissioner Anderson asked if there needed to be specific public notice that the Commission is considering addressing this issue before proceeding, and whether the discussion should be saved for the next commission meeting. After some procedural discussion, Ms. Sonneborn indicated that there did not need to be any

additional public notice given beyond the reasonable notice that the meeting was taking place, to include the time, date, location, etc., which the existing notice has addressed. Ms. Efird stated for the record that there was a quorum in place during this part of the meeting to be able to discuss official business.

Vice Chair Parker motioned to amend the agenda to allow for discussion on the reverse sweep of the Higher Education Investment Fund. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. By unanimous roll call vote by members present, the motion to amend the agenda passed. Vice Chair Parker then motioned for the Commission to send a letter to Governor Dunleavy, drafted by Executive Director Efird and signed by the Chair, asking that he not include the HEIF in the sweep and keep those funds available for Alaskan students. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote of all members present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Brower moved that the Commission recess the Regular Meeting and reconvene in executive session to deliberate and discuss the Governor's FY23 Budget Proposal, in accordance with AS 44.62.310(c). The matters to be discussed are limited to confidential documents under AS 37.07.020(a) and confidential and deliberative discussion of budget matters. Vice Chair Parker seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all members present voted aye. The motion carried.

Discussion: Before the regular meeting recessed and was reconvened in private Executive Session, Executive Director Efird requested that ACPE staff be allowed to participate in the Executive session, including the following: Assistant Attorney General Sonneborn, Chief Finance Officer Pierce, Director Thomas, Director Hillenbrand, Director Oliphant, and Executive Secretary Thompson. There were no objections from Commissioners.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Anderson moved to adjourn. Commissioner Liston seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, all members present voted aye. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m.

Approved by:

Chair

Date

January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 <i>Option #1</i>	12 <i>Option #2</i>	13	14
15	16	17	18 <i>Option #3</i>	19 <i>Option #4</i>	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

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Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
THROUGH: Sana Efird, Executive Director
FROM: Kerry Thomas, Director of Program Operations
DATE: December 21, 2021
SUBJECT: Commission Biennial Certification of WICHE PSEP Fields

Per 20 AAC 18.007, the Commission is required to biennially certify the fields of study for which PSEP loans are available, based on:

- Non-availability of that professional program of study in Alaska
- Documentation of an Alaska labor shortage in that profession; and
- Documentation that the salaries in the given professional field are sufficient for a PSEP graduate to repay the associated PSEP debt

The WICHE Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP) makes qualifying professional education available to students when opportunities are not available in their home states.

Through the Alaska PSEP participation, students generally pay a reduced tuition rate to the school, as well as a PSEP support fee, in compensation for the school's reserving slots for PSEP students and any reduction in tuition cost. The Commission finances the support fee costs in the form of a PSEP loan which the student must repay upon completion of the program of study.

The table below lists the Alaska PSEP fields and summarizes the average Alaska wages and projected need in each of the currently supported fields:

PSEP Field of Study (Years of Study)	Total # of Participating Students from Alaska	Number of New Students in FY21	21/22 PSEP Support Fee	2020 Average Alaska Salary*	Forecasted Alaska Growth through 2028**
Dentistry (4)	3	0	\$28,000	\$242,850	9%
Physical Therapy (3)	1	1	\$16,125	\$101,190	8%
Occupational Therapy (3)	0	0	\$14,650	\$93,980	7%
Optometry (4)	1	0	\$19,275	\$146,680	8%

Physician Assistant (2)	0	0	\$19,075	\$150,430	8%
Pharmacy (varies)	0	0	\$8,525	\$147,040	4%
Podiatry (4)	0	0	\$16,625	N/A	N/A

*United States Bureau of Labor Statistics

**State of Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Staff Recommendation:

Commission approval of continuing participation in the seven fields listed above.



Pat Pitney, Interim President

The University of Alaska Board of Regents selected Pat Pitney to serve as the university’s interim president beginning on Aug.1, 2020.

Previously Pitney served as the state’s Director of the Division of Legislative Finance. She was the former Vice Chancellor of Administration, University of Alaska Fairbanks and worked at UA Statewide for 17 years. In all, Pitney spent 23 years with the University of Alaska before leaving to serve as the State Budget Director in the administration of former Governor Bill Walker.

Pitney is expected to serve as interim president for a minimum of a year or up to 18 months or until the appointment of a president, whichever comes first.

Pitney moved to Fairbanks in 1987 from Billings, Montana. She earned her MBA from UAF and an engineering physics degree from Murray State University (Kentucky). She has three adult children and two grandchildren. All three of her children are UA graduates, with degrees from UAF, UAA and UAS.

Before moving to Alaska, she was a member of the 1984 U.S. Olympic Team and won gold medal in women’s air rifle.



Dr. Paul Lauer, Ph.D. Vice President for Academics, Students & Research

Dr. Paul W. Layer oversees academic and research programs for the University of Alaska system, which has three accredited universities: UA Anchorage, UA Fairbanks and UA Southeast. In addition, he serves as the co-chair of the Alaska State Committee for Research.

Dr. Layer is also a Professor of Geophysics at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He served as department head/chair for the Department of Geology & Geophysics from 1995 to 2003, and then again in 2007. He also served as dean of UAF's College of Natural Science & Mathematics from 2009 to 2017.

Dr. Layer has had a long affiliation with the University of Alaska Fairbanks since 1989. He has published over 120 papers in his research areas of radiometric geochronology and tectonics, and built strong national and international collaborations in support of his research.

Dr. Layer received his BS in geology from Michigan State University, and his MS and PhD degrees in geophysics from Stanford University. He spent three years as a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Toronto, Department of Physics.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education Members
THROUGH: Sana Efird, Executive Director
FROM: Tyler Eggen, Institutional Authorization Program Coordinator
DATE: January 3, 2022
RE: **Compliance Activities Report for January 12, 2022**

Quarter Applications

- Renewal of Authorization
 - Alaska Academy of Advanced Cosmetology & Massage Institute
 - Alaska Career College
 - Central Texas College
 - Charter College
- Initial Authorization due to Ownership Change
 - Glenda's Training Center
 - Trend Setters
- Program Amendments
 - Northern Industrial Training
 - Vocational Training & Resource Center

Commission Meeting
January 2022

- Institutions qualifying for exemption from authorization in the quarter.

Location	Initial Certification	Recertification
Alaska	6	4
Out-of-State	2	5

Institutional Monitoring

Thomas Edison State University (TESU) has informed ACPE that it will not be renewing its institutional authorization, and will allow its status to expire on July 31, 2022. Due to COVID-19, the institution has not been providing any on ground programs and has no active students currently enrolled that would be subject to notification to closing an institution. As the location at Eielson Air Force Base is closing, and the main campus is not, students will be able to obtain copies of their student records via the TESU website. Any student who enrolls in online programs will be covered by the institution's SARA participation through the State of New Jersey, Office of the Secretary of Higher Education.

State Board of Education and Early Development Regulation Change

At the December 9th, 2021 State Board of Education and Early Development meeting, the board presented a regulation change regarding teacher certification. Stated in the current regulations found under 4 AAC 4, to obtain certificates the applicant must have received a degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education. The proposed regulation change would allow for applicants from nationally accredited institutions of higher education to obtain their teaching certificate. Later in the same Board meeting, the Board opened the 30 day public comment period regarding the proposed change.

ACPE will continue to monitor the regulation change and provide an update at ACPE's next Commission meeting.

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's Entry Level Driver Training

On February 7th, 2022, the new Entry-Level Driver Training (ELDT) mandate set by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) will be in effect. The ELDT regulation sets the baseline for training requirements for entry level drivers. All Commercial Driving License (CDL) training providers will have to apply and be approved by the FMCSA for students seeking to obtain their CDL, upgrading from Class B to Class A CDL, and HAZMAT, Passenger, and School Bus endorsements for the first time. If a

person possesses a CDL or endorsements prior to February 7, 2022, these new requirements will not affect them.

State of Alaska, Department of Administration, Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has opened up the public comment period regarding a change to reflect this change, and altering the requirements for commercial driving schools to register with ELDT rather than the Professional Truck Driving Institute (PTDI), which will cease providing and recognizing PTDI certification after February 7, 2022.

ACPE has been in regular communication with the DMV and authorized institutions regarding this matter.

Learning Community Grant – Regulations and Outcomes

In February 2020, a \$15,000 grant was awarded to the Commission from the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO), with an 18-month window to complete work in two areas, the modernization of institutional authorization regulations and the development of standardized outcome metrics. The project is on schedule to meet the goal of adoption by the Commission in 2021. The proposed changes were submitted to the Department of Law for a legal review, and their review is now complete. The proposed regulations are substantial, including approximately forty pages of regulatory changes. In June 2021, ACPE Staff met with the Institutional Standards and Evaluations Committee, along with members from our authorized institutions to present and discuss the proposed changes. The proposed changes went before the Commission at the July 2021, where the Commission approved the motion to open the public comment period, which has since ended. At the October 2021 Commission meeting, the Commission adopted of the proposed regulation changes. The adopted regulations have been submitted to the Department of Law for a final legal review. Upon completing the review, the Department of Law will either approve or disapprove the regulations and transmit them to the Lieutenant Governor's office for filing. Unless returned by the Lieutenant Governor, the Lt. Governor's office files the approved regulations, which become effective 30 days after filing.

Complaints

When complaints arise, our regulatory complaint procedure requires that students attempt to resolve matters with their institution through the institution's grievance policy. Generally, there is resolution at this point. However, if resolution cannot be reached, the student may file a formal written complaint with the Commission.

Starting last quarter, IA staff received one written complaint that could not be resolved at the institutional level. The complaint has yet to proceed through the mediation and conciliation phase. The details of the complaint will remain confidential and staff will provide you with an update on this complaint at the April commission meeting.



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Staff Report Alaska Academy of Advanced Cosmetology & Massage Institute Renewal of Authorization

Summary

Alaska Academy of Advanced Cosmetology & Massage Institute (AAAC) is located in Juneau and is the only authorized cosmetology school in Southeast, Alaska. The Commission has authorized its operation for six years and the school is attached to The View Salon and Spa. It currently offers programs regulated by the Board of Barbers and Hairdressers; a massage therapy program for licensure, with Board of Massage Therapy; and an elective wellness class. The applicant is requesting a renewal of authorization for Manicuring, Advanced Manicuring, Esthetics, Hairdresser, Barber, Non-Chemical Barber, Braiding, Instructor, and Wellness.

Chief Administrator	Kimberly Steadman	Financial Statements	Financially Sound
Address	2525 Industrial Blvd #C1 Juneau, AK 99801	FY20 Tuition Revenues	\$91,590
Year Founded	2015	FY 2020 Enrollment	10 Authorized 13 Exempt
Authorized Since	2015	FY 2020 Complaints	0
Surety Amount/Type	\$30,000 / Bond	FY 2020 Completion Rate	91%
Fee Paid	\$2,500 + 250 late fee(unpaid at time of writing)	FY 2020 Placement Rate	80%

Previous Commission Meeting & Relevant Information

The Board of Barbers and Hairdressers reprimanded Ms. Steadman in 2019. The order requires a licensed practitioner manager on premise at all times. The action dates back to a six-month period in 2016 when an esthetician instructor, licensed in another state, was teaching students without an Alaska license. The students enrolled during that period achieved licensure and Commission staff notified the school that communications regarding investigations or adverse action from other regulatory bodies must be reported to the Commission. The probation period ended on August 31, 2021.

At the October 2020 Commission meeting, ACPE provided a renewal of authorization through January 30, 2022. The approval was contingent upon maintaining a teach-out plan, providing disclosure notice of financial status for student signature, and maintaining full bonding. This was to allow the institution one full year to improve its financial status.

Program name	Program length	Tuition and Fees
Manicurist (online option available)	20 hours	\$2,925
Hair Braiding	35 hours	\$1,704
Advanced Wellness	50 hours	\$1,820
Advanced Manicurist	250 hours	\$5,400
Barber/Hairdresser	1650 hours	\$19,752
Non Chemical Barbering	1350 hours	\$11,815
Instructor	600 hours	\$11,145
Esthetics	400 hours	\$13,213
Pathway to Massage Therapy	800 hours	\$15,115

Review & Site Visit

Since the last renewal of authorization, Ms. Steadman was able to travel to Hoonah, AK to teach manicuring to eight students. The Academy's most popular programs have been their Esthetics and Non-Chemical Barbering.

On August 20, 2021, Ms. Steadman received a Notice of Complaint from the Board of Barbers and Hairdressers. Ms. Steadman did not inform the Commission of this Notice at any point. The matter of the complaint is under investigation within the Board of Barbers and Hairdressers, and the findings of that investigation will be reported at a future Board of Barbers and Hairdresser's Board Meeting.

The previous renewal for authorization was contingent upon providing disclosure notice of financial status for student signature. This was supposed to be signed by currently enrolled students as of October 2020, as well as prospective students prior to enrollment. ACPE

received communication on two occasions that the disclosure notice of financial status for student signature was provided to students nearly two months after the start of their enrollment.

ACPE requested the institution to complete the Remote Site Visit form in lieu of a physical site visit, which has been the protocol due to COVID-19. The institution did not complete the requirements, and new deadlines were provided. The institution was notified that it would be subject to the \$250.00 late fee if another deadline had passed. The institution did not meet the new deadline, and was subject to the late fee, which at the time of writing this report is unpaid.

The Remote Site Form includes providing a list of enrolled students since the institution's previous renewal of authorization, in which two students at random would be selected for a student file review. As the institution did not provide the form and list of students, ACPE submitted a Public Records Request to the Board of Barbers and Hairdressers to obtain files on record. In the files obtained by the records request, a number of potentially serious violations were found, including but not limited to inaccurate hours of attendance and practical operations on monthly report forms and two termination/withdrawal forms that were sent to the Board of Barbers and Hairdressers.

ACPE is also evaluating if an unlicensed hairdresser was also providing instruction or training to students, in which the same individual was providing hairdressing services in the school's associated salon. Additionally, there are questions regarding if a former student was working at the salon prior to achieving the professional licensure to perform the described work.

Evaluation

Minimum Standards Component - AS 14.48.060	Staff Evaluation/Comments
1. Program and courses meet stated objectives	Industry- recognized and approved curriculum for preparatory for licensing exams.
2. Adequacy of space, equipment, and resources	Unable to verify
3. Appropriateness of staff/faculty credentials	Not Compliant
4. Catalog/brochure compliance	Compliant
5. Credential compliance	Certificate and diploma
6. Adequacy of records	Not Compliant
7. Compliance with applicable laws	Fire inspection received; finished probation with the Board of Barbers and Hairdressers on 8/31/2021, subject to complaint on 8/20/2021, in which ACPE was not notified by the institution.
8. Financial soundness	Compliant
9. Advertising and sales	Compliant

10. Administrators are of good reputation	Not Compliant
11. Student housing, if any	N/A
12. Refund policy compliance	Reviewed
13. Costs and charges compliance	Compliant

Staff Recommendation Action

At this time, Institutional Authorization staff cannot provide a recommendation for renewal of authorization for the Alaska Academy of Advanced Cosmetology and Massage Institute. The required documents for renewal of authorization were due on 10/31/2021; at which time, the application packet was not complete.

An Initial Review letter was sent on 11/3/2021, which outlined items missing in the packet, including the Certificate of Liability Insurance, in which a deadline of 12/3/2021 was given. Additional deadlines were given to provide the documentation, including 12/17/2021 and 12/23/2021.

The Remote Site Visit Form was sent on 10/29/2021, indicating that it was being used in place of a physical site visit, with a deadline of 11/29/2021. Additional deadlines were given to provide documentation, including 12/3/2021 and 12/17/2021. On 12/20/2021, Institutional Authorization received part of the requirements of the Remote Site Visit form. Another deadline was given for 12/23/2021, to provide the Remote Site Visit form and a list of students to be randomly selected for student file review.

Acknowledgement from Ms. Steadman of the incomplete renewal of authorization materials was not received by IA staff until 1/4/2022. At which time Ms. Steadman agreed to submit all outstanding documents by close of business on 1/4/2022. As of 1/6/2022, some of the additional required documents have been received, including providing some information regarding licensure of those within the institution, however, the Certificate of Liability Insurance and Remote Site Visit form have not been provided. As such, a Student Records review has not been conducted.

Given the lack of information provided, and unresolved questions relating to licensure of staff and students, monthly reporting and the recent departure of students, IA staff proposes a temporary three month extension of renewal for consideration by the Commission. This temporary extension could provide the Alaska Academy of Advanced Cosmetology and Massage Institute the opportunity to submit the remaining required documentation for IA staff to fully review and deliver a more comprehensive recommendation regarding renewal for the Commission at the April 2022 meeting.



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Staff Report Alaska Career College Renewal of Authorization

Summary

Alaska Career College is a private, for-profit career college located in Anchorage. Opening in 1985 as the Travel Academy, it operated as the Career Academy from 1991 until 2011 when it was approved to operate under its current name after adding an AAS degree program. Throughout its history, the institution has been owned and operated by the Deitz family.

The College offers five certificates and two associate degrees that prepare graduates for immediate employment. Traditional daytime classes are offered as well as evening and weekend classes that accommodate working adults. The College is nationally accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC).

President and Founder	Jennifer Deitz	Financial Statements	Financially Sound
Address	1415 E Tudor Rd Anchorage, AK 99507	FY20 Tuition Revenues	\$4,268,480
Year Founded	1985	FY 2020 Enrollment(Full Time)	322
AK Branch Authorized Since	1985	FY 2020 Complaints	0
Surety Amount/Type	\$250,000 / Bond	FY 2020 Completion Rate	80%
Fee Paid	\$2,500	FY 2020 Placement Rate	89%

Review

Since ACC's last renewal by ACPE in January 2017, it had discontinued the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Business Management & Computer Technology (4/2019) and the Aircraft Dispatcher Specialist programs due to low student interest. In April 2021, ACC was initially approved by ACCSC to provide a portion of its program via distance education. ACC's next accreditation review with ACCSC is to take place May 2022.

The Therapy Massage Specialist program prepares students for professional licensure through the Board of Massage Therapists. The most popular program is the Medical Assistant Specialist.

Program name	Program length	Tuition and Fees
Medical Assistant Specialist	46 hours	\$15,895
Medical Insurance Coding & Billing Specialist	34 hours	\$12,079
Phlebotomy Technician Specialist	26.5 hours	\$9,937
Therapeutic Massage Specialist	48 hours	\$15,895
Business Office Technology Specialist	42 hours	\$15,895
Business Admin & Accounting Technology(AAS)	65.5 hours	\$24,928
Business Admin & Human Resource Management (AAS)	65.5 hours	\$24,928

Site Visit

A virtual review of student records was conducted during the renewal of authorization application process with no issues identified. A physical site inspection will take place when staff are authorized to travel.

Staff finds the application is in compliance with applicable statutes and regulations.

Evaluation

Minimum Standards Component - AS 14.48.060	Staff Evaluation/Comments
1. Program and courses meet stated objectives	Institution is accredited by the ACCSC
2. Adequacy of space, equipment, and resources	Verified
3. Appropriateness of staff/faculty credentials	Compliant licenses
4. Catalog/brochure compliance	Compliant
5. Credential compliance	Certificate and diploma
6. Adequacy of records	Reviewed at remote site visit

7. Compliance with applicable laws	Fire inspection received; no observations of non-compliance with other applicable laws
8. Financial soundness	Compliant
9. Advertising and sales	Compliant
10. Administrators are of good reputation	Compliant
11. Student housing, if any	N/A
12. Refund policy compliance	Reviewed and documented
13. Costs and charges compliance	Compliant

Staff Recommendation Action

Staff recommends a five year authorization of Alaska Career College, through January 31, 2027.



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Staff Report Central Texas College Renewal of Authorization

Summary

Central Texas College (CTC) is a public community college founded in Killeen, TX in 1965. In 1970, CTC began offering courses at nearby Fort Hood, commencing a relationship with the military that led to the establishment of campuses on bases around the world, including Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson (JBER) and Fort Wainwright. All campuses are regionally accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). The primary location at Fort Richardson was opened in 1978 and authorized from 1994 until 2000, at which time it was determined to qualify for exemption. In 2014, due to changes in federal Title IV eligibility requirements (and related Alaska regulations), CTC was again required to be authorized. The both campuses offer students seven programmatic opportunities.

Chancellor	Jim Yeonopolus	Local Administrator	Sabine Thomas, Alaska Area Director
Address	PO Box 1800 Killen, TX 76549	JBER Address	Education Center, Bldg. 7 Fort Richardson, AK 99506
		Fort Wainwright Address	4391 Neely Rd Fort Wainwright, AK 99703
Year Founded	1965	Financial Statements	Financially Sound
AK Branch Opened	1978	FY20 Tuition Revenues	\$34, 774,258
Surety Amount/Type	\$10,000 / Bond	FY 2020 Complaints	0

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Fee Paid	\$2,500	FY 2020 Enrollment*	15- JBER 4- Ft. Wainwright
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*Completion and retention statistics are based on full time, non-transfer students. As many of CTC's students have transfer credit and the majority are part-time, those statistics do not provide a meaningful measurement and are not included in this report.

Review

CTC provides students the opportunity to enroll in degree programs or a wide range of education and training opportunities for those students who do not select a degree program. The most popular program in Alaska is the Associate of Arts in General Studies.

With CTC's main campus located in Texas, CTC is a NC-SARA participant through that state, allowing students to enroll in additional courses via distance education that may not be offered at the branch campuses located in Alaska.

Program name	Program length	Tuition and Fees
Business Management (AAS)	60 hours	\$15,000
Child Development (AAS)	60 hours	\$15,000
Criminal Justice (AAS)	60 hours	\$15,000
Information Technology (AAS)	60 hours	\$15,000
General Studies (AA)	60 hours	\$15,000
Teaching (AA)	60 hours	\$15,000

Programs available at both JBER/ Fort Wainwright

Site Visit

A virtual review of student records was conducted during the renewal of authorization application process with no issues identified. A physical site inspection will take place when staff are authorized to travel.

Staff finds the application is in compliance with applicable statutes and regulations.

Evaluation

Minimum Standards Component - AS 14.48.060	Staff Evaluation/Comments
1. Program and courses meet stated objectives	Institution is accredited by the SACSCOC
2. Adequacy of space, equipment, and resources	Facility is provide by US Military and is approved by accreditor
3. Appropriateness of staff/faculty credentials	Compliant licenses
4. Catalog/brochure compliance	Compliant
5. Credential compliance	Certificate and diploma

6. Adequacy of records	Reviewed at remote site visit
7. Compliance with applicable laws	Fire inspection received; no observations of non-compliance with other applicable laws
8. Financial soundness	Compliant
9. Advertising and sales	Compliant
10. Administrators are of good reputation	Compliant
11. Student housing, if any	N/A
12. Refund policy compliance	Reviewed and documented
13. Costs and charges compliance	Compliant

Staff Recommendation Action

Staff recommends a five year authorization of Central Texas College, through January 31, 2027.



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Staff Report Charter College Renewal of Authorization

Summary

Charter College currently offers 22 programs through its Anchorage and Wasilla campuses. The offerings include seven certificate, nine associate, and four baccalaureate degree programs. Most degrees are offered online, but there are a variety located in Alaska that are delivered via blended delivery. The College is owned and operated by Prospect Education, LLC, of Reno, Nevada, with 12 additional campuses located in Washington, California, Montana and New Mexico. The College is nationally accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) with the Nursing program is accredited through the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).

Chief Administrator	Joshua Swayne, CEO, Prospect Education	Local Administrator	Josh Bicchinella, Campus President, Charter College Alaska
Address	2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd. Anchorage, AK 99508	Financial Statements ¹	Financially Sound
	5911 Old Seward Hwy Anchorage, AK 99518	FY20 Tuition Revenues	\$37,741,052
	721 W. Parks Hwy Wasilla, AK 99654		
Year Founded	1985	FY 2020 Enrollment ²	822- Anchorage 110 Wasilla
AK Branch Authorized Since	1985	FY 2020 Complaints	1
Surety Amount/Type	\$250,000 / Bond	FY 2020 Completion Rate	54%

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Fee Paid	\$2,500	FY 2020 Placement Rate	77%
		FY 2020 Retention Rate	69%

1 Prospect Education LLC

2- All terms

Review

The College is nationally accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) through February 28, 2022. In July 2021, the College applied with ABHES to reclassify ten non-main campuses to Separate Education Centers (SECs), which was previously not an option when Charter obtained accreditation in 2017. As such, Charter College Anchorage would have SECs including its Wasilla location as well as the Billings and Missoula, Montana locations. The Nursing program is programmatically accredited through the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) received a continued accreditation status in March 2021, to be reviewed every eight years, but surveyed every year through an annual reporting process.

The campuses offer students courses taught by an in-class instructor, as well as courses delivered blended delivery. The most popular programs in Anchorage are the AAS in Nursing and Certificate in Medical Assistant, and the only program offered in Wasilla is the Certificate in Medical Assistant. Charter College is an NC-SARA participant through the state of Washington, however, Alaska residents are enrolled through Charter College Anchorage.

Program name	Program length	Tuition and Fees
Business Administration (BS) ¹	180 hours	\$41,400
Computer Information Systems (BS) ¹	180 hours	\$62,100
Health Care Administration (BS) ¹	196.5 hours	\$39,405
Health Technology Management (BS) ¹	198 hours	\$35,100
Allied Health (AAS) ¹	90 hours	\$13,500
Business Administration (AAS) ¹	90 hours	\$13,500
Business Management(AAS) ¹	108 hours	\$35,640
Cybersecurity (AAS) ¹	108 hours	\$41,364
Computer Networking Systems (AAS) ¹	108 hours	\$41,364
Medical Assistant (AAS) ²	90 hours	\$20,250
Medical Billing and Coding (AAS) ¹	108 hours	\$36,072
Medical Billing and Coding(Degree Completion) (AAS) ¹	90 hours	\$13,500
Nursing (AAS) ²	108 hours	\$58,806
Business Office Administration (Certificate) ¹²	72 hours	\$23,760
Computer Aided Design (Certificate) ¹	72 hours	\$18,000
Health Unit Coordinator (Certificate) ¹	72 hours	\$18,000

Heating, Ventilation, Air Condition, and Refrigeration (Certificate) ¹	72 hours	\$24,48
Medical Assistant (Certificate) ²	70 hours	\$23,100
Medical Office Administrative Assistant (Certificate) ¹	73 hours	\$24,090
Welding (Certificate) ²	72 hours	\$26,712
Phlebotomy (Diploma) ²	9 hours	\$3,375

¹ Online ² Blended

Site Visit

A virtual review of student records was conducted during the renewal of authorization application process with no issues identified. A physical site inspection will take place when staff are authorized to travel.

Staff finds the application is in compliance with applicable statutes and regulations.

Evaluation

Minimum Standards Component - AS 14.48.060	Staff Evaluation/Comments
1. Program and courses meet stated objectives	Institution is accredited by the by ABHES and the Nursing program is accredited by ACEN
2. Adequacy of space, equipment, and resources	Verified
3. Appropriateness of staff/faculty credentials	Compliant licenses
4. Catalog/brochure compliance	Compliant
5. Credential compliance	Certificate and diploma
6. Adequacy of records	Reviewed at remote site visit
7. Compliance with applicable laws	Fire inspection received; no observations of non-compliance with other applicable laws
8. Financial soundness	Compliant
9. Advertising and sales	Compliant
10. Administrators are of good reputation	Complaint
11. Student housing, if any	N/A
12. Refund policy compliance	Reviewed and documented
13. Costs and charges compliance	Compliant

Staff Recommendation Action

Staff recommends a five year authorization of Charter College, through January 31, 2027.



THE STATE
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Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

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Staff Report Glenda's Training Center Initial Authorization

Summary

Glenda's Training Center has been an authorized school for nine years, attached to Glenda's Salon which has been in operation for seventeen years as a hair salon in Wasilla. The previous owner, Glenda Ledford, sold the school to Autumn Pease-Dygert, who has been affiliated with the school for many year prior to the taking ownership. Pease-Dygert is licensed to instruct hairdressing and esthetics. The school offers seven Board of Barber and Hairdresser programs.

Chief Administrator	Autumn Pease-Dygert	Financial Statements	Financially Sound
Address	2061 E. Palmer-Wasilla Hwy, Wasilla, AK 99654	FY20 Tuition Revenues	\$97,725
Year Founded	2004	FY 2020 Enrollment(Full Time)	17
Authorized Since	2019(Previous Initial)	FY 2020 Complaints	0
Surety Amount/Type	\$30,000 / Bond	FY 2020 Completion Rate	100%
Fee Paid	\$2,500	FY 2020 Placement Rate	81%

Review

In July 2019, during the schools renewal for institutional authorization, there was a change of ownership from Glenda Ledford as the sole proprietor to Glenda's Training Center, LLC, which was owned by Ledford. In October 2019, the school and salon was authorized to move to its current location. In October 2021, Glenda's Training Center LLC was sold to Autumn Pease-Dygert, however Ledford is still affiliated with the school as an instructor.

Students enrolled through the Training Center obtain licensure through the Board of Barbers and Hairdressers. The most popular program is Esthetics. Since taking over of the Training

Center in October 2021, there has been eight students enrolled in Hairdressing and Esthetician programs.

Program name	Program length	Tuition and Fees
Hairdressing	1650 hours	\$8,500
Barbering	1650 hours	\$8,500
Non-Chemical Barbering	1350 hours	\$7,450
Esthetician	350 hours	\$5,475
Manicurist	12 hours	\$550
Manicuring with Advanced Endorsement	250 hours	\$4,625
Instructor	600 hours	\$6,150

Site Visit

A virtual review of student records was conducted during the renewal of authorization application process with technical assistance provided and required changes. A physical site inspection will take place when staff are authorized to travel.

Staff finds the application is in compliance with applicable statutes and regulations.

Evaluation

Minimum Standards Component - AS 14.48.060	Staff Evaluation/Comments
1. Program and courses meet stated objectives	Industry-recognized and approved curriculum preparatory for licensing exams.
2. Adequacy of space, equipment, and resources	Approved by Board of Barbers and Hairdressers
3. Appropriateness of staff/faculty credentials	Compliant licenses
4. Catalog/brochure compliance	Compliant, technical assistance provided and required changes.
5. Credential compliance	Certificate and diploma
6. Adequacy of records	Reviewed at remote site visit, technical assistance provided and required changes.
7. Compliance with applicable laws	Fire inspection received; no observations of non-compliance with other applicable laws
8. Financial soundness	Compliant
9. Advertising and sales	Compliant
10. Administrators are of good reputation	Background check - no adverse findings
11. Student housing, if any	N/A
12. Refund policy compliance	Reviewed and documented
13. Costs and charges compliance	Compliant

Staff Recommendation Action

Staff recommends a two year authorization of Glenda’s Training Center LLC, through January 31, 2024, per 20 AAC 17.020(g), which allows for up to two years for initial authorizations.



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Staff Report Trend Setters Initial Authorization

Summary

Trend Setters School of Beauty has been training students in Alaska to become Hairdressers for almost fifty years. It recently moved locations to the University Center Mall in Midtown Anchorage and the Millhouse family has sold the school to Danielle Tremblay, who began as a student at the School in 2005 as has served in many roles at the school. Tremblay is a licensed Hairdresser under the Board of Barbers and Hairdressers and is in the process of obtaining her Instructor license.

Chief Administrator	Danielle Tremblay	Financial Statements	Undetermined
Address	3901 Old Seward Hwy #28, Anchorage, AK 99503	FY20 Tuition Revenues	\$110,134
Year Founded	1972	FY 2020 Enrollment	18
Authorized Since	1978	FY 2020 Complaints	0
Surety Amount/Type	\$70,000 / Bond	FY 2020 Completion Rate	88%
Fee Paid	\$2,500	FY 2020 Placement Rate	100%

Review

Trend Setters has classes starting every four weeks, which hold a capacity of two to ten students per class, with a maximum of 60 students. With the new location, Trend Setters has reviewed and revamped its program to better reflect the changing world of the beauty industry.

Program name	Program length	Tuition and Fees
Hairdressing	1650 hours	\$8,500

Site Visit

A virtual review of student records was conducted during the renewal of authorization application process with technical assistance provided and required changes. A physical site inspection will take place when staff are authorized to travel.

Staff finds the application is in compliance with applicable statutes and regulations.

Financial Soundness

The Trend Setters LLC provided financial statements prepared by a finance related entity that lacked the proper accountant license found under the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing, Board of Public Accountancy. As such, ACPE could not determine the institution's financial soundness in accordance with 20 AAC 17.060(i).

Due to a lack of acceptable financials statements, a financial soundness test could not be performed. As a result, as no financial soundness can be determined, and by default, the institution is considered to be financially unsound. An institution that is found to be financially unsound must meet certain requirements per regulation, which are as follows:

20 AAC 17.045. Bonding Requirements

(h) For a postsecondary educational institution that is not financially sound, the amount of the required surety bond, cash deposit, or commission-approved negotiable securities is the greater of

(1) the highest amount of revenue received by the institution for all students enrolled in all programs during an academic or a vocational program period, term, or semester of the previous year

(j) An institution considered not to be financially sound must maintain a commission approved, detailed teach-out plan as well as document surety to cover all costs of delivery of the proposed teach-out plan. An institution that continues to operate in other than a financially sound status must annually update its detailed teach-out plan and required surety.

20 AAC 17.117.

(g) An institution that has been found by the commission to be financially unsound shall clearly and conspicuously disclose that finding to all students and applicants and provide information on how to contact the commission for more information.

Trend Setters is working on obtaining financial statements audited by an independent licensed certified public accountant and will be providing those as soon as possible. Trend Setters surety bond is already at \$70,000, which would cover the amount of student refunds if the institution was unable to obtain further approval of institutional authorization, as there are various refund options available under 20 AAC 17.117. Prior to the Commission meeting, ACPE will be provided documentation of detailed teach out plans and a disclosure of notice to current and prospective students that Trend Setters has been found by the Commission to be financially unsound that includes contact information for the Commission. The notice must be obtained with a student's signature, no more than seven days for currently enrolled students, and prior to a prospective student signing an enrollment contract, to be put in the students file.

Evaluation

Minimum Standards Component - AS 14.48.060	Staff Evaluation/Comments
1. Program and courses meet stated objectives	Industry-recognized and approved curriculum preparatory for licensing exams.
2. Adequacy of space, equipment, and resources	Approved by Board of Barbers and Hairdressers
3. Appropriateness of staff/faculty credentials	Compliant licenses
4. Catalog/brochure compliance	Compliant, technical assistance provided and required changes.
5. Credential compliance	Certificate and diploma
6. Adequacy of records	Reviewed at remote site visit, technical assistance provided and required changes.
7. Compliance with applicable laws	Fire inspection received; no observations of non-compliance with other applicable laws
8. Financial soundness	Undetermined
9. Advertising and sales	Compliant
10. Administrators are of good reputation	Background check - no adverse findings
11. Student housing, if any	N/A
12. Refund policy compliance	Reviewed and documented
13. Costs and charges compliance	Compliant

Staff Recommendation Action

Staff recommends an authorization for three months for Trend Setters, through April 30, 2022, contingent upon maintaining a teach-out plan, providing disclosure notice of financial status with Commission for student signature, and maintaining full bonding.



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Staff Report Northern Industrial Training Amendments to Authorization

Summary

Northern Industrial Training (NIT) is a family-owned vocational school in Palmer that offers programs primarily to prepare students for employment in the oil, gas, trucking and construction trades. Programs include a commercial truck driving courses following the Federal Motor Carriers Safety Association's (FMSCA) Entry Level Driver Training regulations and several construction courses accredited by the National Center for Construction Education & Research (NCCER). NIT is accredited by the American Welding Society (AWS), a national professional organization, as a Test Facility. This designation allows NIT students who pass the AWS welding exam to obtain AWS Certification. NIT has membership on organizations representing industry groups such as the Alaska Safety Alliance and the Alaska Industry Support Alliance and is continually collecting feedback on the skills and knowledge desired by employers. The institute is seeking authorization to add eighteen programs.

Chief Administrator	Joey Crum, CEO		Address	1740 N Terrilou Ct Palmer, AK 99645
Year Founded	2003		Authorized Since	2003
Surety Amount/Type	\$350,000 / Bond		Fee Paid	\$1800

- New Programs

Program or degree name	Program length	Tuition/Fee Cost
Administrative Assistant Level 1- Live Distance	160 hours	\$4,000
Administrative Assistant Level 2*	160 hours	\$4,250
Administrative Assistant Level 2- Live Distance*	160 hours	\$4,250
Administrative Assistant Level 3*	128 hours	\$4,250

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January 2022
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Administrative Assistant Level 3- Live Distance*	128 hours	\$4,250
Structural Welding- Hybrid Live/Distance	320 hours(80)	\$9,000
Advanced Welding- Hybrid Live/Distance	320 hours(80)	\$9,750
Ultimate Welding- Hybrid Live/Distance	640 hours(160)	\$18,250
Pipe Welding- Hybrid Live/Distance	320 hours(80)	\$10,000
Construction Equipment Training- Hybrid Live/Distance	320 hours(80)	\$10,000
Heavy Duty Mechanics Level 1- Hybrid Live/Distance	320 hours(80)	\$8,800
Outboard Mechanics- Hybrid Live/Distance	240 hours(40)	\$6,000
ATV Mechanic- Hybrid Live/Distance	240 hours(40)	\$6,000
Project Management- Hybrid Live/Distance	240 hours(100)	\$5,000
Health Safety Environmental Technician- Hybrid Live/Distance	240 hours(110)	\$6,000
Pro Truck Driver TD107- Hybrid Live/Distance	160 hours(40)	\$6,875
Pro Truck Driver TD108- Hybrid Live/Distance	240 hours(80)	\$9,000
Pro Truck Driver TD110- Hybrid Live/Distance	320 hours(80)	\$13,500

Hours within parenthesis are number of hours of distance education in relation to program.

*New Program

Review

Hybrid Live/Distance to Existing Programs

Fourteen programs have been authorized for full in person training. Due to COVID-19, NIT saw the need to offer flexible training opportunities as there are travel restrictions, reduced travel and social distancing requirements. While the core components of the courses require hands on training, the lecture portions can be delivered via a Live-Distance option, using a variety of platforms such as Blackboard and Collaborate and NCCER Testing System. This will allow for students who are not locally available to enroll in courses and only need housing for the practical application.

Administrative Assistant Level 2 & 3 - Live & Hybrid Live/Distance

In April 2019, the Commission authorized NIT to offer Administrative Assistant Level 1, as NIT identified a need for entry level training in basic administrative assistant skills. Working with tribal partners, they were able to develop a 160-hour, four week program with the goal of providing skills and knowledge required for entry level employment an office clerk or administrative assistant.

Seeing a new need, NIT's Administrative Assistant Level 2 continues in a 160-hour program that provides further training and tools for those who have completed Administrative Assistant Level 1. The program offers advance sections of Microsoft Office products, computer skills and platforms such as Zoom and Adobe. Administrative Assistant Level 3, building on previous levels, would be offered as a 128-hour program focusing on advancing areas of Microsoft Office products, accounting and bookkeeping, and marketing fundamentals.

The required application and supporting materials were reviewed by commission staff and comply with statutes and regulations.

Recommendation for Commission Action:

Staff recommends authorization of eighteen programs in this amendment application through October 31, 2023, which is commensurate with the current period of authorization.



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Staff Report Vocational Training & Resource Center Amendment to Authorization

Summary

VTRC is a component of and operated by the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (CCTHITA). Historically, VTRC offered Commercial Driver's License training in Juneau and short courses of study in online vocational certifications (Flagger, HAZWOPER). VTRC is approved to offer forty-five Penn Foster programs, as well as certificates in Child Development, First Aid/CPR/AED, and others around business, finance, and work readiness. VTRC has collaborated with Northern Industrial Training (NIT) as a vendor for the Administrative Assistant Level One course. VTRC continues to reset its program offerings and implement program changes, based on community assessments and southeast Alaska needs.

Chief Administrator	Sarah Dybdahl, Director		Address	3239 Hospital Dr. Juneau, AK 99801
Year Founded	1996		Authorized Since	1997
Surety Amount/Type	\$60,000 / Bond		Fee Paid	\$100

- New Programs

Program or degree name	Program length	Tuition/Fee Cost
Administrative Assistant Level 2	160 hours	\$4,000

Review

Predicated on NIT's authorization of its Administrative Assistant Level 2 program, VTRC's program would be offered quarterly and instructed by NIT staff. VTRC determined due to the level of interest in the Administrative Assistant Level 1 program, that it would provide students

further training. As NIT would be used as a vendor for the program, students would be enrolled as VTRC students and follow all guidelines found in VTRC's catalog.

It is noted that if NIT makes any changes that depart from their approved program, or if there are changes to NIT's institutional status, it may have an impact on VTRC to offer its program. Minor change may be eligible for administrative approval, however, significant changes may require an application for amendment of authorization to the Commission. NIT is currently in good standing and is authorized until October 31, 2023.

The required application and supporting materials were reviewed by commission staff and comply with statutes and regulations.

Recommendation for Commission Action:

Staff recommends authorization of program Administrative Assistant Level Two through July 31, 2023, which is commensurate with the current period of authorization.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
FROM: Sana Efird, Executive Director
DATE: January 3, 2022
SUBJECT: Executive Director Report

During this quarter, the Executive Director's Office has worked with staff on our two large and very detailed outsourcing projects; advocated for the reinstatement of and finding a permanent solution for the Higher Education Investment Fund (HEIF); worked with the Governor's Office to include valid FY2023 funding for the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS), the Alaska Education Grant (AEG), and the WWAMI contract agreement; prepared for the upcoming legislative session; and attended numerous meetings with staff, partners, and stakeholders.

Budget Update:

Governor Dunleavy released his FY2023 Proposed Budget on December 15, 2021. The Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE) budget includes:

- A decrement of \$142.0 to reflect a reduction in personal services associated with the deletion of 4 additional vacant PCNs;
 - Full-time Accountant/Payment Processing Supervisor, range 16, located in Juneau
 - Full-time Financial Aid Specialist, range 14, located in Juneau
 - Full-time Financial Aid Specialist, range 14, located in Juneau
 - Full-time Customer Service Specialist, range 13, located in Juneau
- One increment request in the amount of \$36.9 to cover a routine annual increase in the cost of the state's WWAMI contract with the University of Washington;
- A budget structure change to move funds for the Alaska Education Grant program from the Program Administration and Operations Results Delivery Unit (RDU) to a new State Financial Aid RDU reflecting two components for the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) and the Alaska Education Grant (AEG). This structural change will provide additional transparency for the pass through state financial aid programs;
- Technical adjustments for PERS increases;
- The APS, AEG, and WWAMI programs' funding source was switched from the HEIF to Unrestricted General Funds (UGF) since the HEIF was swept into the Constitutional Budget Reserve (CBR) and a reverse sweep did not occur. Consequently, there are currently no funds designated for HEIF moving forward.

- A UGF increment of \$1,647.5 to fund an additional ten WWAMI students, increasing the program from 20 to 30 students per year.

I am also pleased to share that Governor Dunleavy, with the support of Commissioner Johnson, has approved two ARPA requests for ACPE for the current FY2022 budget:

- \$75,000 for FAFSA Completion Initiatives
- \$40,000 for AKCIS Alaska localization upgrade project

Senior Managers continue to meet consistently to review and revise our current operating budget to ensure oversight and control of expenditures.

Legislative Planning:

The second regular session of Alaska's 32nd Legislature will convene on January 18, 2022. Of utmost importance during this session is passage of ACPE's legislation that was introduced during last session as HB 114 and SB 94 - *An Act relating to the education loan program and Alaska supplemental education loan program; and providing for an effective date.* (See attached ACPE Legislation Talking Points document.)

Additionally, ACPE will be monitoring and advocating for resolution of the Higher Education Investment Fund question regarding whether the fund is sweepable or not. Please find a link to a recent press release from the Governor's office regarding a lawsuit filed by University of Alaska students relating to this issue here: <https://gov.alaska.gov/newsroom/2022/01/05/dunleavy-administration-urges-a-quick-decision-over-higher-education-fund-savings-account/>. This issue is critically important to having a sustainable and predictable funding source for State financial aid programs.

Prefiled bills are scheduled for release on January 7 and 14, 2022. We will begin providing Commissioner's a legislative update in the newsletter which will be emailed during session.

A list of bills of interest continuing into the second session of the 32nd Legislature is also attached.

The 2022 Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) Outcomes Report is due to the legislature in late January. The 2022 Alaska Higher Education Almanac will be published shortly after in February. Both of these publications will be shared with commission members and higher education stakeholders.

Outsourcing Projects Update:

Staff continue to be immersed in the loan servicing and loan origination outsourcing projects. As shared in the October Commission meeting, management determined an extension of the timelines was necessary to ensure the best outcomes for the project and to relieve pressure on staff. Alaska's unique loan program requirements have resulted in many unanticipated challenges, which have been a major factor in both the decision to extend and the high magnitude of effort needed on the project. The cutover date for loan originations to CampusDoor has been moved to April 1, 2022, while the conversion to American Education Services (AES) for loan servicing will be October 1, 2022.

Human Resources Update:

Recruitment efforts and staff changes over the last quarter resulted in the transition of one employee, with Executive Secretary Kordel Thompson having transferred to a Financial Aid Specialist position in the Program Operations division as of December 13th; and the separation of one employee, with former Quality Assurance Analyst Tracy Busby having transferred to the Department of Revenue as of November 5th. There have been no other appointments or separations as of December 31, 2021.

Currently, there are ten vacant positions, including: two in the Executive Office, one in Finance, one in Postsecondary Planning Activities - Outreach, and six in Program Operations. There is one active recruitment for the Executive Secretary position and no immediate plans to take action on the nine remaining vacancies, but management retains the flexibility to do so if needed to provide support for agency initiatives. At present ACPE has 47 positions filled: 11 in Anchorage, 36 in Juneau. The breakdown of those positions by divisions is as follows: ISS-11, Finance-13, Program Operations-16, Postsecondary Planning Activities - Outreach-6, and Executive Office-1.

COVID-19 Update:

ACPE continues to allow staff to telework to the full extent practical. Staff have been working under a hybrid situation, with close to the maximum amount of staff teleworking that feasibly could. Of 47 total staff, 40 are engaged in telework, with 35 of those teleworking full time. Offices remain open to the public and there has been no impact to service delivery based on the telework engagement. Staff in the office continue to implement enhanced mitigation measures while on site. With the new Omicron variant and increase in positive cases, we continue to suspend most in-person meetings. We are monitoring case counts and will re-evaluate the safety of resuming in-person meetings as case numbers decrease.

Juneau and Anchorage Lease/Space Update:

We have extended the current Juneau lease space through October 2022 and are working with State of Alaska Leasing to evaluate other possible spaces that will fit our business need and downsized footprint. We are also evaluating space needs for Anchorage staff and are pursuing different options in Anchorage as well.

Alaska Student Loan Corporation Meeting:

The Alaska Student Loan Corporation (ASLC) Board held their regularly scheduled meeting on November 4, 2021. Chief Finance Officer Julie Pierce and Karen Tarver Partner, Elgee Rehfeld presented the annual financial statements of the Corporation to the board. The board reviewed and voted to accept the annual Financial Statements of the Corporation for the year ending June 30, 2021.

Professional Organization Meetings/Presentations:

I attended regular monthly and semi-monthly meetings with the Education Finance Council, State Higher Education Officers Association, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), and the Alaska Business Education Compact.

Other Meetings:

- Participated in the Juneau College and Career Fair
- Hosted an APS listening session with stakeholders
- In-person two-day strategic planning and budget projection meetings with Senior Managers
- Continued meetings with Alaska Association of School Boards and a group of Southeast Alaska organizations to discuss partnering with ACPE to support and develop a 7-12 Grade Bridging Framework
- Meetings with Lee Donner from Hilltop Securities
- Met with Governor's Chief of Staff to discuss HEIF concerns and issues associated with the WWAMI program
- WWAMI discussions with University of Washington Medical School
- Introduction meeting with director of Southeast Regional Resource Center
- Meeting to discuss how ACPE can support the Governor's Teacher Recruitment and Retention Taskforce report findings
- Virtual legislative meetings
- Virtual and in-person orientation presentations for new ASLC Board members
- Marketing discussions with contractor and leadership
- In-person presentation and roundtable discussions at the Alaska Association of School Boards Annual Conference
- Continued meetings with Interim UA President Pat Pitney
- Alaska Statewide Education Leaders Collaboration meetings

As always, it is my pleasure and I am humbled to serve the Commission and lead this talented team of individuals to support Alaskans and their access to higher education opportunities. I am continually amazed at the dedication our staff exhibits to meeting the needs of our customers and constituents. I want to acknowledge and commend their efforts. I always invite your feedback and discussion and encourage you to reach out to me any time.

Attachments:

1. Bills of Interest Chart 2021 (Updated)
2. ACPE Legislation Talking Points



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BILLS OF INTEREST 2021

Bill	Short Title	Sponsor	Status	Last Action
HB 18	TEACHERS: NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION	KREISS-TOMKINS	(H) EDC	03/10/2021
HB 19	LIMITED TEACHER CERTIFICATES; LANGUAGES	KREISS-TOMKINS	(S) EDC	05/17/2021
HB 25	PUBLIC SCHOOLS: SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL LEARNING	HOPKINS	(H) STA	05/19/2021
HB 43	EXTEND SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICE AGENCY	STORY	(H) FIN	03/26/2021
SB 19		STEVENS	Passed	06/29/2021
HB 48	AK PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIP; ELIGIBILITY	STORY	(H) EDC	02/18/2021
HB 49	APPROP: EARLY LITERACY PROGRAMS	STORY	(H) EDC	02/18/2021
HB 60	PUBLIC SCHOOLS: MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION	CLAMAN	(H) FIN	05/19/2021
SB 80		GRAY-JACKSON	(S) FIN	04/21/2021
HB 69	APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUNDS	GOVERNOR (Rules)	Passed	07/02/2021
SB 49			(S) FIN	01/25/2021
HB 71	APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET	GOVERNOR (Rules)	Passed	07/02/2021
SB 51			(S) FIN	01/25/2021
HB 76	EXTENDING COVID 19 DISASTER EMERGENCY	GOVERNOR (Rules)	Passed	05/01/2021
SB 56			(S) FIN	02/12/2021
HB 78	FUNDING FOR CORRESPONDENCE PROGRAMS	GOVERNOR (Rules)	(H) EDC	02/18/2021
SB 58			(S) EDC	03/03/2021
HB 108	CONCURRENT SECONDARY & TRADE SCHOOL	MCCARTY	(H) EDC	04/09/2021

HB 114	EDUCATION & SUPPLEMENTAL LOAN PROGRAMS	GOVERNOR (Rules)	(H) EDC	02/24/2021
SB 94			(S) FIN	04/23/2021
HB 129	ALASKA PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT	FIELDS	(H) EDC	03/08/2021
HB 132	SCHOOL APPRENTICESHIP PROGS; TAX CREDITS	(H) L&C	Passed (S)	05/19/2021 Pending
HB 147	RURAL DEF. TEACHER EDUCATION LOAN PROGRAM	ZULKOSKY	(H) EDC	04/14/2021
HB 2001	APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUNDS	GOVERNOR (Rules)	(H) FIN	6/23/2021
SB 2001			(S) FIN	6/23/2021
HB 3003	APPROP: OPERATING; PERM FUND; EDUCATION	GOVERNOR (Rules)	Passed	10/04/2021
SB 3001			(S) FIN	8/23/2021
SB 8	PRE-K/ELEM ED PROGRAMS/FUNDING; READING	BEGICH	(S) EDC	02/03/2021
SB 10	FREE/REDUCED TUITION FOR ESSENTIAL WORKER	BEGICH	(S) EDC	05/18/2021
SB 15	OPEN MEETINGS ACT; PENALTY	COSTELLO	(S) FIN	04/21/2021
SB 20	OUT OF STATE TEACHER RECIPROCITY	STEVENS	(H) EDC	05/19/2021
SB 32	COLLEGE CREDIT FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS	STEVENS	(H) STA	05/15/2021
SB 34	STATE-TRIBAL EDUCATION COMPACT SCHOOLS	STEVENS	(S) EDC	01/25/2021
SB 42	VIRTUAL AND EARLY EDUCATION, READING	HUGHES	(S) EDC	01/25/2021
SB 72	SEC. SCHOOL CIVICS EDUCATION	STEVENS	(S) FIN	04/21/2021
SB 111	EARLY EDUCATION; READING INTERVENTION	(S) EDC	(S) FIN	04/26/2021
SJR 10	CONST. AM: IN-PERSON PUBLIC EDUCATION	COSTELLO	(S) EDC	03/10/2021

Updated 1/06/2022

ACPE Legislation Talking Points

HB 114 and SB 94 – Educational & Supplemental Loan Programs

An Act relating to the education loan program and Alaska supplemental education loan program; and providing for an effective date.

Background: Federal loans no longer meet Alaska students' full financial needs and those loans are not always less expensive than Alaska loans. Alaska's state loan programs fill this financial gap with low-cost, high-quality loans, providing students a path forward to degree completion and credential attainment.

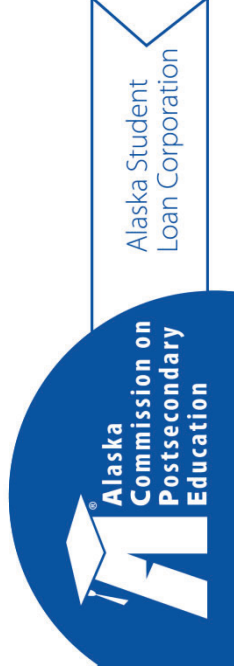
Current Loan Programs: This legislation addresses multiple components of ACPE's current loan programs:

- **Loan Maximums**
 - Current loan limits, set in statute, do not fill the unmet financial need of Alaskan students.
 - Students to borrow from a lender with higher rates and higher maximums so as to avoid having multiple loans with multiple lenders
- **Loan Eligibility**
 - The Alaska Refinance Education Loan is a highly competitive loan product allowing Alaska residents to consolidate multiple Alaska Education loans and/or loans from other lenders into one low interest rate loan
 - In statute only Alaska residents are eligible for this program
- **Loan Repayment**
 - Repayment conditions are also critically important to the debt incurred over the lifetime of a loan.
 - Immediate repayment options are a financial benefit to borrowers and are linked to lower default rates compared to programs with deferred repayment options.

Proposed Statute Changes:

- **Loan Maximums**
 - Eliminates annual and lifetime loan maximums
 - Alaska Student Loan Corporation to set annual and lifetime loan maximums,
 - Allows for responsiveness to the needs of Alaska students and higher education institutions
- **Loan Eligibility**
 - Expands eligible population to include:
 - Previous Alaska borrowers
 - Graduates from Alaska high schools and postsecondary institutions
 - Current Alaska residents.
- **Loan Repayment**
 - Offer future student loans with immediate repayment requirements
 - Reduce costs for student borrowers because interest would not be deferred and capitalized
 - New student borrowers could choose to apply for to lower costs and would not impact current borrowers
- This bill has a zero fiscal note. All costs and savings would be operating expenditure related. The anticipated increase in loan origination volume would positively affect ASLC's operating economies of scale.

ACPE Outreach Initiatives 2017 - 2021



January 2022 Commission Meeting

January 12, 2022

Kate Hillenbrand, Director Communications & Outreach

ACPE's Mission

Promote access to and success in education and career training beyond high school

Mission in Action

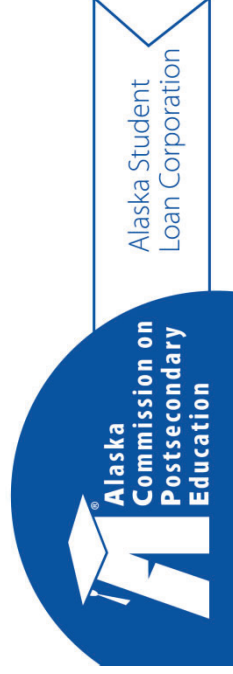
Financial aid & loan programs for college and career training

Education planning resources for students, schools, families, stakeholders

Early postsecondary outreach programming for grades K-8

Advocacy and support for postsecondary participation in Alaska

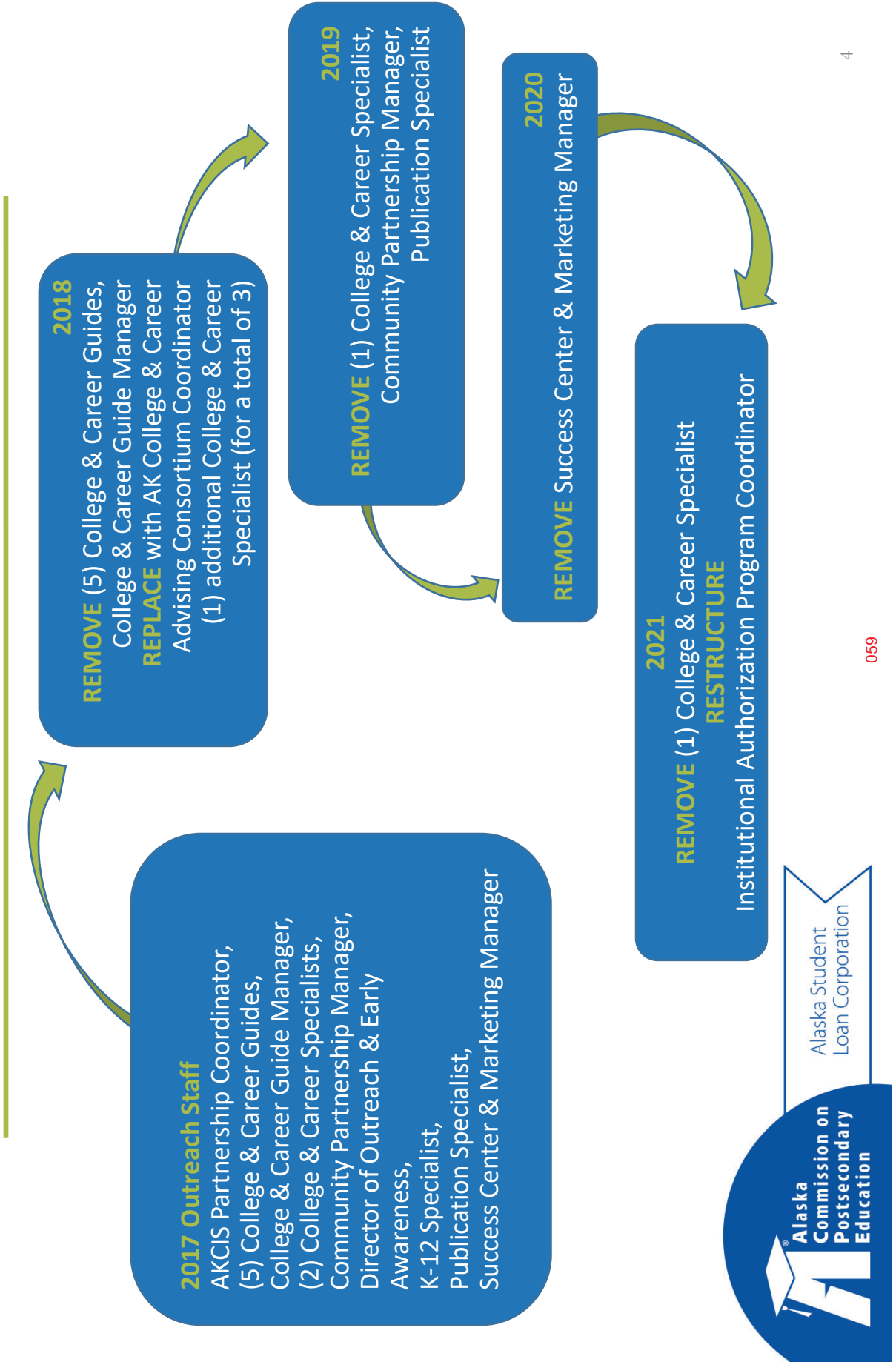
Institutional Authorization & Consumer Protection



ACPE Outreach Staffing



Outreach Staffing Changes 2017 - 2021



Outreach Staffing Changes 2017 - 2021

- Organizational staffing change in Outreach in 2021
 - Institutional Authorization Program Coordinator position moved from reporting to the Executive Director to the Director of Communications & Outreach.
 - IA Program Coordinator position filled internally by a Success Center College & Career Specialist
 - Success Center position remains vacant
- Outreach has seen a staffing decrease from 14 positions to 6 at the end of 2021
 - AKCIS Partnership Coordinator
 - ACAC Coordinator
 - (1) College & Career Specialist
 - Director of Outreach & Communications
 - Institutional Authorization Program Coordinator
 - K-12 Specialist



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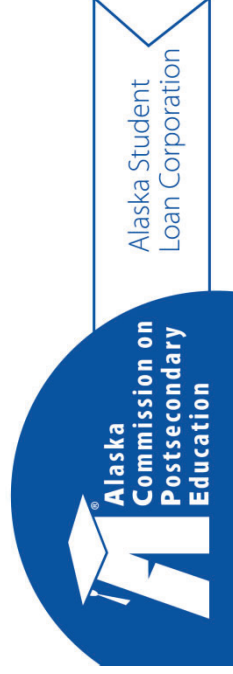
ACPE Outreach Programs



Outreach Programming 2017 - 2021

Previous Outreach Initiatives

- College & Career Guides (initially grant funded until 2017) at peak were in 10+ schools and communities throughout Alaska
- Extensive travel to schools, districts, etc. by
 - Success Center staff, AKCIS coordinator, K-12 Specialist
 - Hosted trainings, FAFSA Completion, program implementation/events
- College Goal Alaska (FAFSA) Events throughout Alaska through local site coordinators
- Targeted Marketing initiatives with dedicated marketing staff
 - Specific only to ACPE Loan Programs (paid)
- Success Center & UAA One-Stop staffing



Outreach Programming 2017 - 2021

Current Outreach Initiatives

- **ACAC – AK College & Career Advising Consortium**
 - **FAFSA Time Alaska**
 - **Apply Now Alaska**
 - **Decision Day Alaska**
- **AKCIS – Alaska Career Information System**
- **Early Career Explorers**
- **I Know I Can**
- **Kids2College**
- **ACPE Loans & Resources Marketing**
 - **Inclusive of ACPE services and financial aid resources**
- **Virtual Success Center Services**
- **K-12 Bridging Program (Pilot in SE AK)**
- **FAFSA Completion**
- **Strategic website updates**



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ACPE Outreach Marketing Efforts



Outreach Marketing Efforts 2017 - 2021

ACPE Loan Programs

- **Direct Mailer (print)**
 - Alaskans age 18-25, and parents of Alaskans 17-19
- **Print Publications**
 - “Rack Cards” for schools/universities
- **Social Media Campaigns**
- **Targeted Communications w/university Financial Aid Offices**
- **Identify Alaska students attending out-of-state**

APS/AEG

- **Direct Mail to HS Seniors**

College & Career Training in Alaska Magazine

- **Direct Mail to HS Juniors**



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Outreach Marketing Efforts 2017 - 2021

Recent & Ongoing Efforts

- **Direct Mailer (print)**
 - Prequalified borrowers for REFI
 - “Parent Postcard” for ASEL & FEL
- **Print Publications**
 - Reduce print costs for “Rack Cards” for schools/universities
 - Available online
- **Social Media Campaigns**
 - Reframe options – extended reach but did not see increase in loan applications
- **FAFSA Completion Initiatives**
- **Marketing Contract with vendor for strategic planning**



ACPE Outreach & COVID-19



Outreach & COVID-19

Alaska HS Senior Survey Spring 2020

- 607 respondents represented 59 communities, large and small
- 33% of respondents indicated their postsecondary education plans were impacted by COVID-19.
- 42.92% still plan to remain in Alaska and pursue PSE this fall (down 1.3%) and many of the 19.63% who indicate they will not pursue PSE fall 2020, are planning to take a gap year and resume pursuit of PSE in the fall of 2021.



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Outreach & COVID-19

Alaska Performance Scholarship

- Established an APS Workgroup with DEED
- Resulted in Test Score Requirement Waivers due to site closure and test administration cancellations
 - Class of 2020
 - Class of 2021
- HEIF Funding/Reverse Sweep multiple years
 - Due to multiple years of inconsistent State funding
 - Decrease in use of APS and AEG
 - Qualified recipients increased



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Outreach & COVID-19

ACPE Outreach Virtualization Efforts

- Since 2020, all ACPE Outreach resources have transitioned to virtual offerings
 - New Resources available for download
 - Increase in video trainings & how-to's
 - Appointment virtualization through youcanbook.me
 - Increase in virtual campus tours & events available to K-12
 - Improved cross-collaboration with strategic partners



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ACPE Outreach & Strategic Partnerships



Outreach & Strategic Partnerships

ACPE Outreach & Stakeholder Feedback

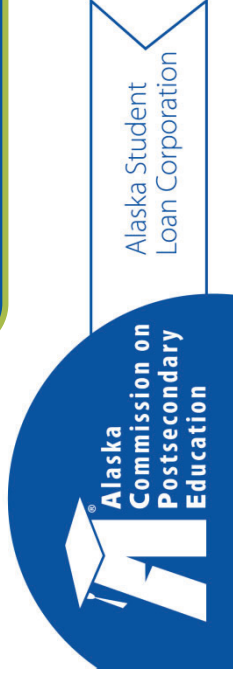
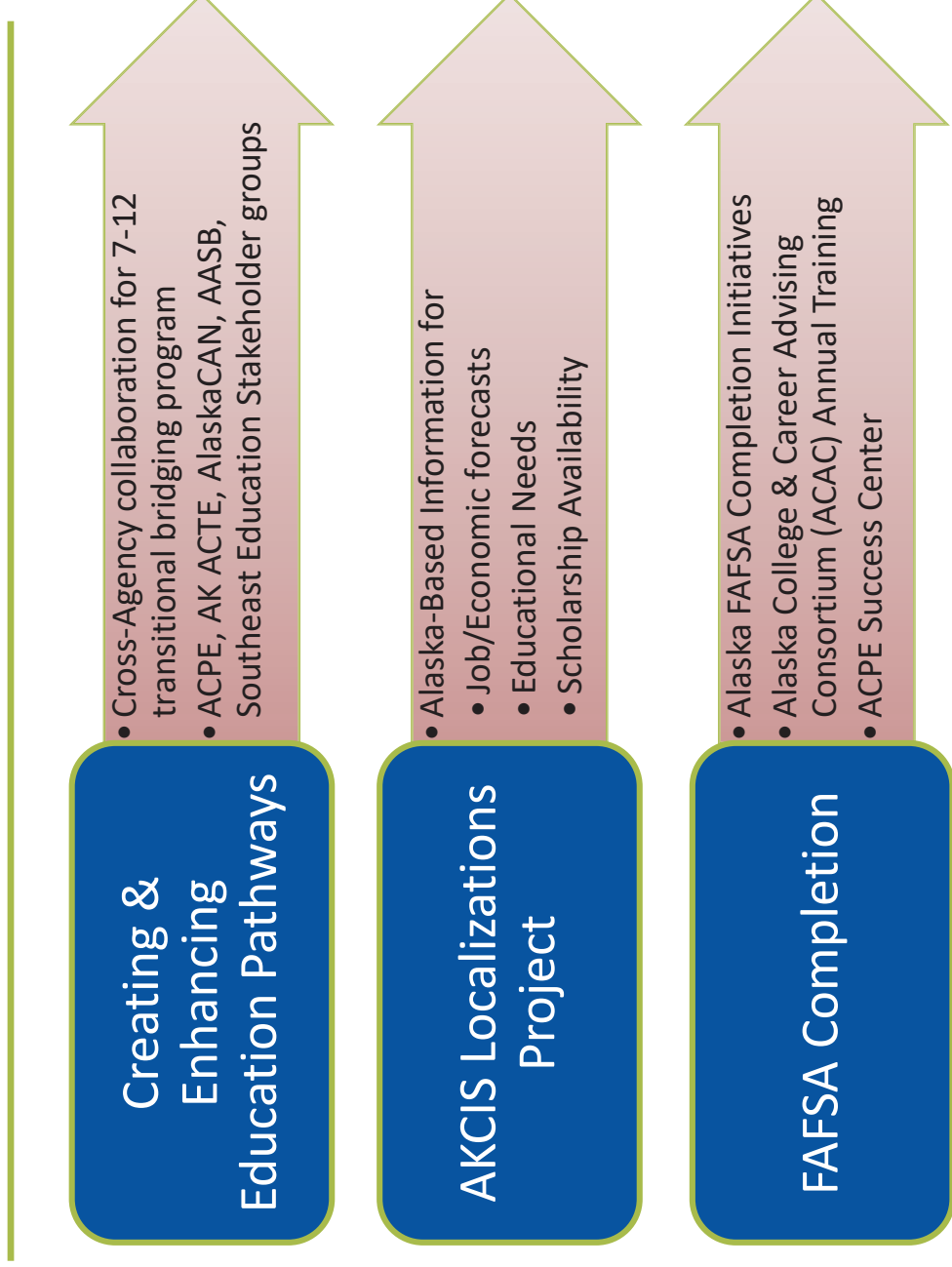
- Stakeholder Feedback Initiatives
 - APS/AEG Program Recommendations
 - ACPE Strategic Planning Feedback Sessions
 - Cross-Sector collaboration with partnerships including
 - DOLWD
 - UA CTE
 - Business Education Compact
 - AlaskaCAN!
 - Southeast AK Regional Groups
 - Federal Student Aid – FAFSA Completion



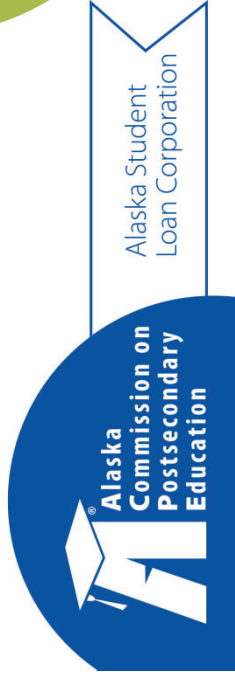
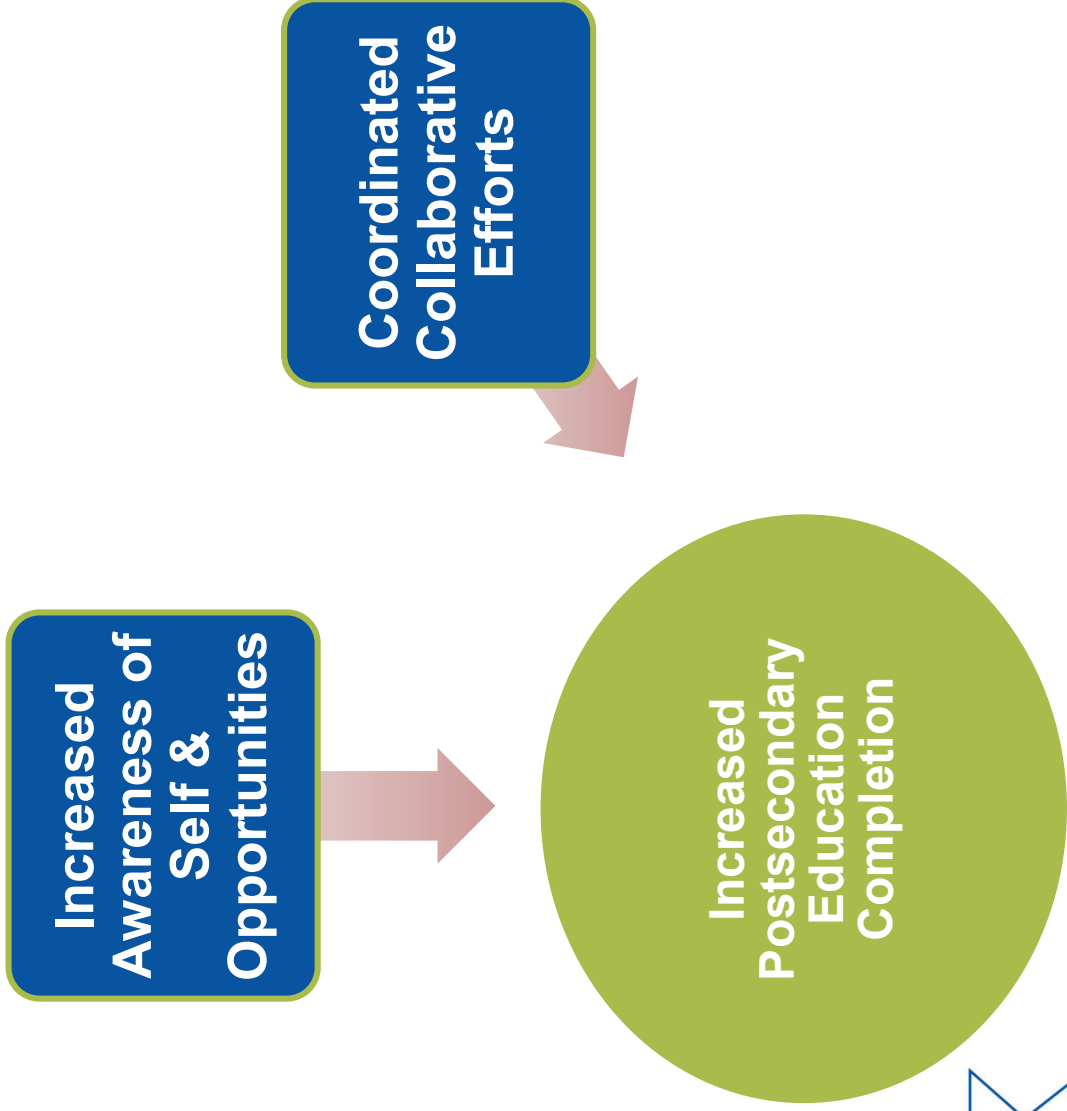
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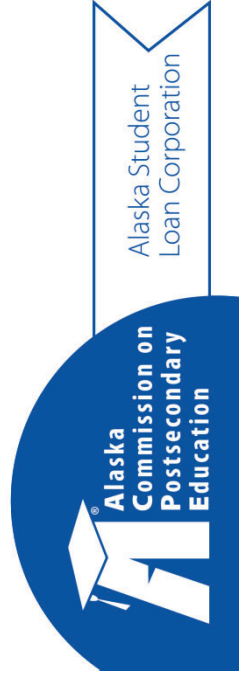
Outreach & Strategic Partnerships – Supporting Enrollment



Outreach & Strategic Partnerships – Supporting Completion

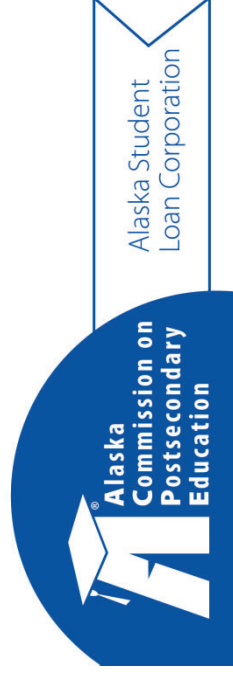


ACPE Resources

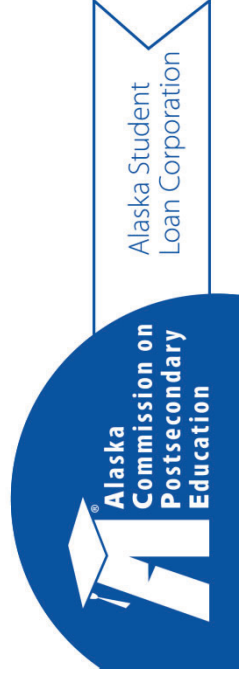


ACPE Resources

- **ACPE Educational Loans**
acpe.alaska.gov/loans
- **ACPE Downloadable Materials**
acpe.alaska.gov/planning/request-materials
- **FAFSA Completion**
acpe.alaska.gov/AlaskaFAFSACompletion
- **Institutional Authorization**
acpe.alaska.gov/institutional-authorization
- **Interstate Compacts & Reduced Education Costs**
acpe.alaska.gov/LOANS/Other-Loan-Options
- **Schedule an Appointment with ACPE**
acpe-successcenter.youcanbook.me/



**Thank You!
Questions?**





THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

**Alaska Commission on
Postsecondary Education**

FINANCE OFFICE

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TTY: Dial 711 or 800.770.8973
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acpe.alaska.gov

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
THROUGH: Sana Efird, Executive Director
FROM: Julie Pierce, Chief Finance Officer
DATE: January 12, 2022
SUBJECT: Finance Report

FY2023 Operating Budget

Following is a summary of the Commission's FY2023 operating budget request included in the Governor's proposed budget released December 15, 2021.

Budget Line	Interagency (ASLC Receipts)	Unrestricted General Fund	General Fund Program Receipts	Statutory Designated Program Receipts	Total
Personal Services	\$ 6,521.7	431.5	22.4	-	\$6,975.6
Travel	32.4	-	-	-	32.4
Contractual	2,981.9	82.8	29.2	150.0	3,243.9
Supplies	108.2	-	-	-	108.2
WWAMI		4,942.4			4,942.4
AEG	-	5,841.8	-	-	5,841.8
APS	-	11,750.0	-	-	11,750.0
Total	\$ 9,644.2	23,048.5	51.6	150.0	\$ 32,894.3
Positions	51.74	-	0.26	-	53.00

Changes from FY2022 Management Plan budget:

- **Interagency Receipts** (ASLC receipts)
 - Personal services line
 - A decrease of \$142.0 due to the elimination of 4 vacant and no longer needed PCN's offset with overall annual personal service cost increases.
 - An increase of \$80.0 for health insurance, SBS and risk mgt. rate changes.
 - A decrease of \$230.7 for PERS actuarial rate adjustment.
 - An increase of \$160.0 to align authority with anticipated expenditures
- **Unrestricted General Fund** – This category represents funding for WWAMI, AEG and APS programs that were previously funded by Alaska Higher Education Investment Fund (AHEIF).
 - An increase of \$36.9 related to the WWAMI contractual obligation.
 - An increase of \$1,647.5 to expand the WWAMI Medical Education Program by 10 Students from 20 to 30 Students
- **General Fund Program Receipts** – no change. This category represents funding received from institutional authorization fees.
- **Statutory Designated Program Receipts** – no change. These receipts represent private grants to support ACPE's Postsecondary Planning Activities programs.
- **Budget Structure Change** - Creation of new RDU for State Financial Aid Programs including AEG and APS.

FY2022 Summary Operating Budget and Actual Expenditures/Obligations

Following is a summary of the Interagency (ASLC Receipts) FY2022 operating budget adjusted internally between line items and approximate actual expenditures/obligations for the period ended December 31, 2021.

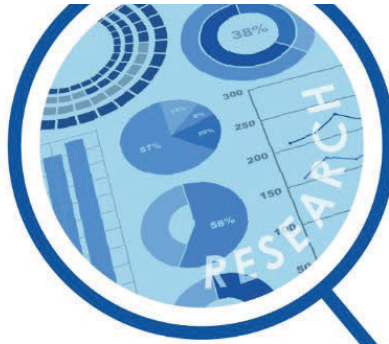
Fiscal Year 2022 - for the period ended December 31, 2021			
Interagency (ASLC Receipts)			
Summary Budget and Actual Expenditures/Encumbrances			
Category	Budget	Total Actual Expenditures or Encumbrances	Unencumbered Balance
Personal Services	6,654,000	5,770,685	883,315
Travel	32,400	15,099	17,301
Contractual	3,113,750	1,858,199	1,255,551
Commodities	136,350	4,019	132,331
Total	9,936,500	7,648,002	2,288,498

Alaska Student Loan Corporation

The Corporation Board met on November 4, 2021 to review and accept the annual audited financial statements of the Corporation for the year ended June 30, 2021.

The next Corporation Board meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2022 to review fixed interest rates.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this report further, please do not hesitate to contact me at 907-465-6757 or at julie.pierce@alaska.gov.



PROGRAM OPERATIONS

Quarterly Report

Program Operations Report:
October 2021 – December 2021



DIVISION OF PROGRAM OPERATIONS-QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

Education Loan Updates

Year to date FY22 in-school loan volume declined compared to the same period in FY21, while refinance loan volume has increased over the same period. The combined decrease for Alaska Supplemental Education Loans (ASEL) and Family Education Loans (FEL) is \$1,065,000 or 19% for FY22 compared to FY21. Refinance loan volume increased \$2,825,000 for FY22 compared to FY21.

Project Updates

Alternative Loan Originations and Servicing Outsourcing

The project to outsource alternative loan originations and servicing is on track to meet the phase I cutover to CampusDoor in April. As noted last quarter, management determined it was necessary to delay cutover to CampusDoor for loan originations until April 1, 2022. The delay was deemed necessary due to unforeseen challenges setting up ACPE loan programs on the CampusDoor system, inadequate time for thorough system testing, and staff availability to complete project deliverables as scheduled. This change also affects the second phase of the conversion to American Education Services (AES) for loan servicing, which is now scheduled for October 1, 2022.

Project Complexity/Intensity

The outsourcing of ACPE's alternative loans is a complex multi-agency project that requires a significant investment of agency time and resources. Nearly half of ACPE's staff are contributing to this project, while also ensuring operational activities continue to be met. Project members are also contributing to other agency projects, which adds challenges of competing deadlines and overlapping resources.

- 48% of ACPE staff contributing to the project
- 22 dedicated project members
- 50% or more of project members time is devoted to the project

What's Working

- Coordination and collaboration between ACPE, CampusDoor, and American Education Services (AES)
- Effective communication strategies and project management ensuring timely completion of project requirements to meet the existing timeline

Challenges

- ACPE's unique program requirements
- Ensuring compliance with state and federal laws while minimizing system customization with vendors
- Managing project requirements and priorities across multiple vendors
- Managing multi-agency projects and ongoing operational activities

The outsourcing of loan originations is in the final stages of development and the project team is scheduled to begin user acceptance testing (UAT) January 31, 2022. The testing phase will occur over a six-week period and conclude with a two-week sign-off period before the go-live date.

The testing phase is a critical portion of the project. The team will conduct end-to-end testing of the origination process to ensure the functionality and performance is behaving as expected. Examining the user experience from start to finish offers greater assurance applicants will receive a quality user experience.

The testing phase will include the application process and file transfer protocols from CampusDoor to AES for ongoing loan servicing. Additional testing will occur with AES to validate mandatory servicing requirements and essential reporting outputs.

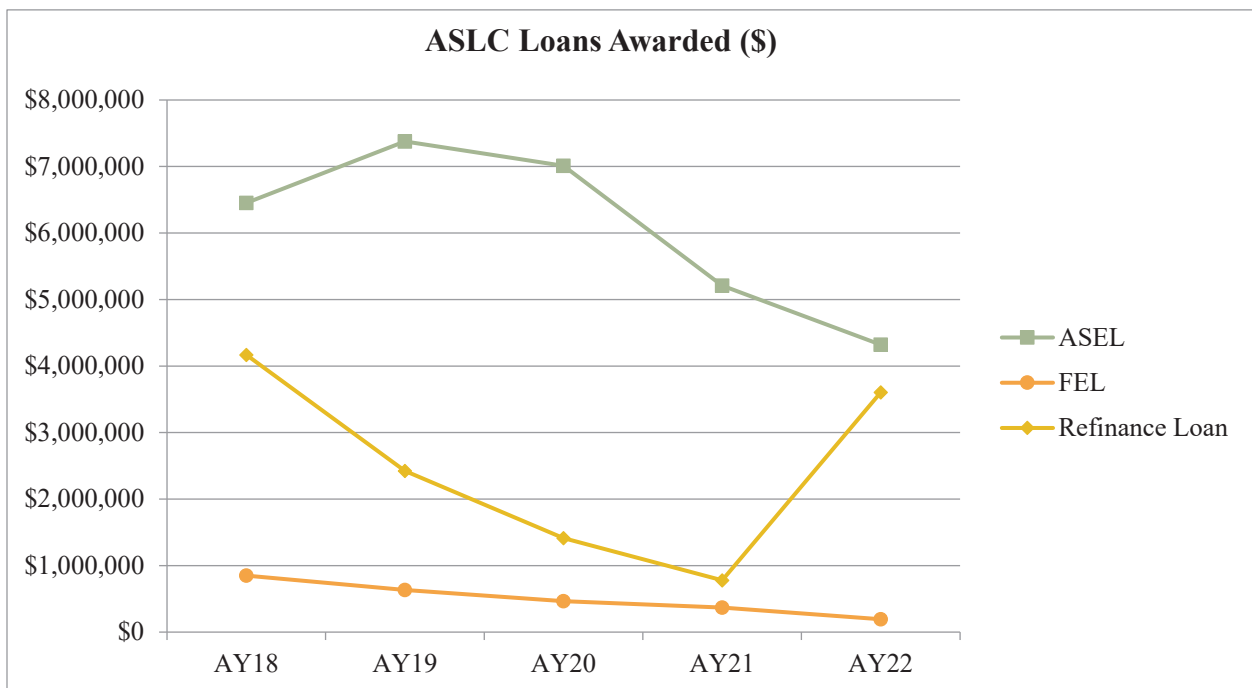
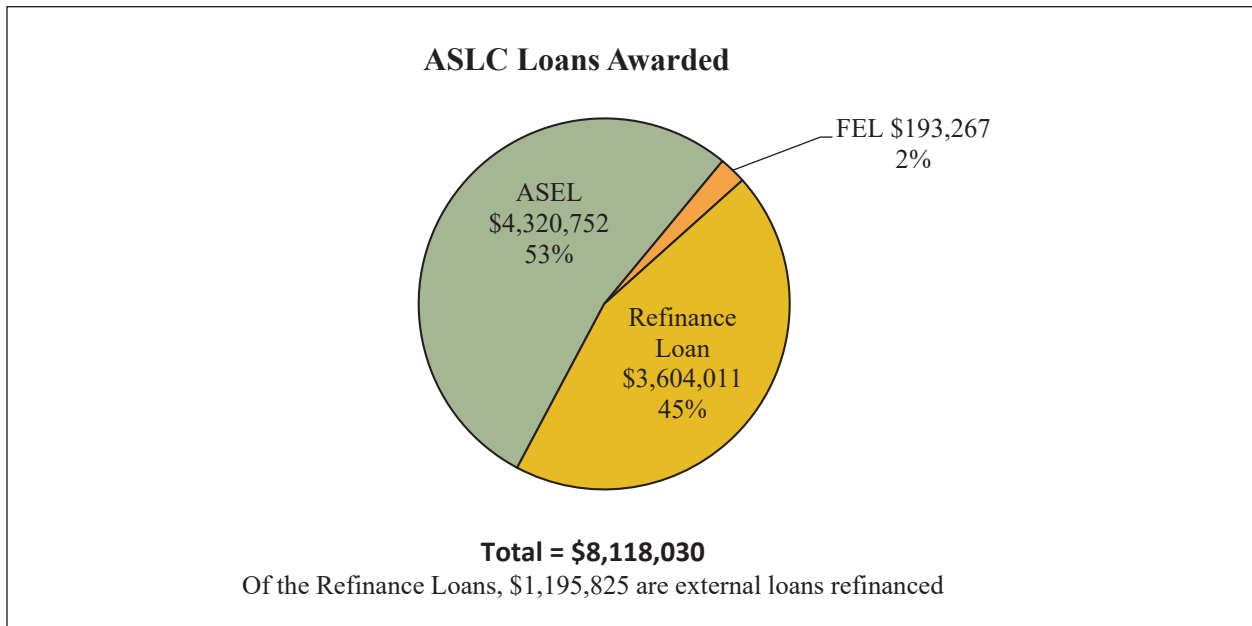
Phase II of the outsourcing project will shift from loan originations and the servicing of newly originated loans, and focus solely on the transfer and ongoing servicing of ACPE's legacy loans. This phase of the project will span six-months and will conclude with a two-week sign-off period before the go-live date of October 1, 2022.

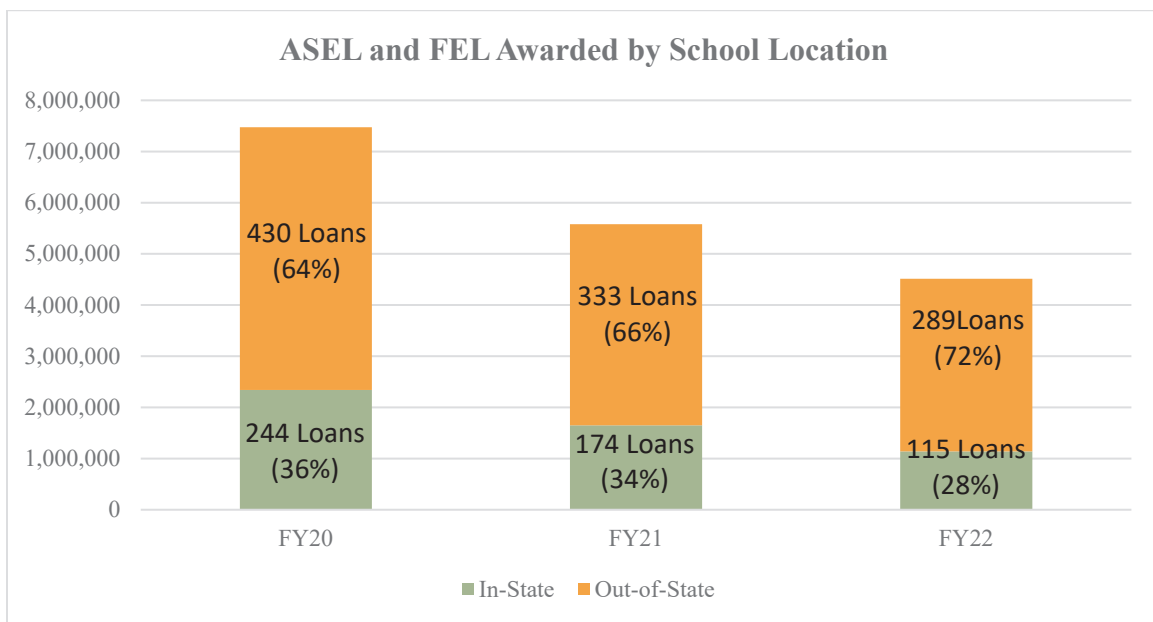
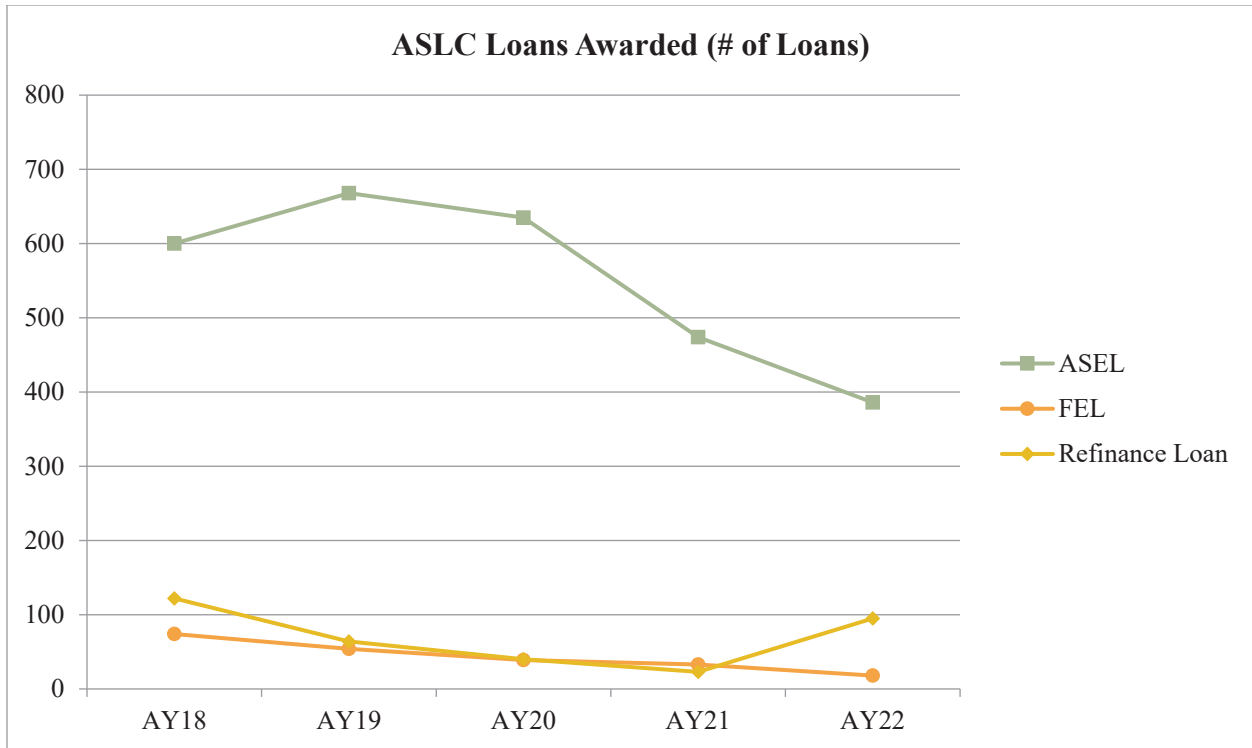
Publications

The 2022 Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) Outcomes Report is due to the legislature in late January. The 2022 Alaska Higher Education Almanac will be published shortly after in February. Both of these publications will be shared with commission members and higher education stakeholders.

LOAN ORIGINATIONS

Program Year 21/22 through November 2021





Loans Awarded

Loan Type	2021-2022		2020-2021		% Change	
	# of Loans	Amount Awarded	# of Loans	Amount Awarded	# of Loans	Amount Awarded
Family Education Loans	18	\$193,267	33	\$368,664	-45.45%	-47.58%
AK Supplemental Loans	386	\$4,320,752	474	\$5,209,904	-18.57%	-17.07%
Refinance Loans	95	\$3,604,011	23	\$778,743	313.04%	362.80%
Total:	499	\$8,118,030	530	\$6,357,311	-5.85%	27.70%

ASEL Loans Awarded – by FICO Band

FICO Band	In-State		Out-of-State	
	# of Loans	Percent of Total In-State Loans	# of Loans	Percent of Total Out-of-State Loans
720+	52	13.47%	193	50.00%
680-719	36	9.33%	57	14.77%
650-679	24	6.22%	24	6.22%

REFI Loans Awarded – by FICO Band

FICO Band	# of Loans	Percent of Total Refinance Loans
780+	29	30.53%
720-779	40	42.11%
680-719	26	27.37%

Loans Awarded – by Enrollment Intensity¹

Intensity Level	2021-2022		2020-2021		% Change
	# of Loans	Percentage	# of Loans	Percentage	
On-Time	83	20.54%	91	17.60%	-8.79%
Full-Time	292	72.28%	372	74.08%	-21.51%
Half-Time	29	7.18%	44	8.31%	-34.09%
Total	404		507		-20.32%

¹ Enrollment intensity statistics reflect only loan programs in which all three intensity levels are available (ASEL and FEL).

Special Programs

Loan Type	2020-2021		2019-2020		% Change	
	# of Loans	Amount Awarded	# of Loans	Amount Awarded	# of Loans	Amount Awarded
Winn Brindle	1	\$59,900	2	\$59,643	-50.00%	0.43%
WWAMI Medical Education Loan	58	\$1,354,679	58	\$1,318,273	0.00%	2.76%
WICHE PSEP Loan	5	\$119,400	9	\$205,910	-44.44%	-42.01%
Total:	64	\$1,377,916	69	\$1,769,803	-7.25%	-22.14%

ACPE Loans Serviced by AES- Loan Detail by Loan Status

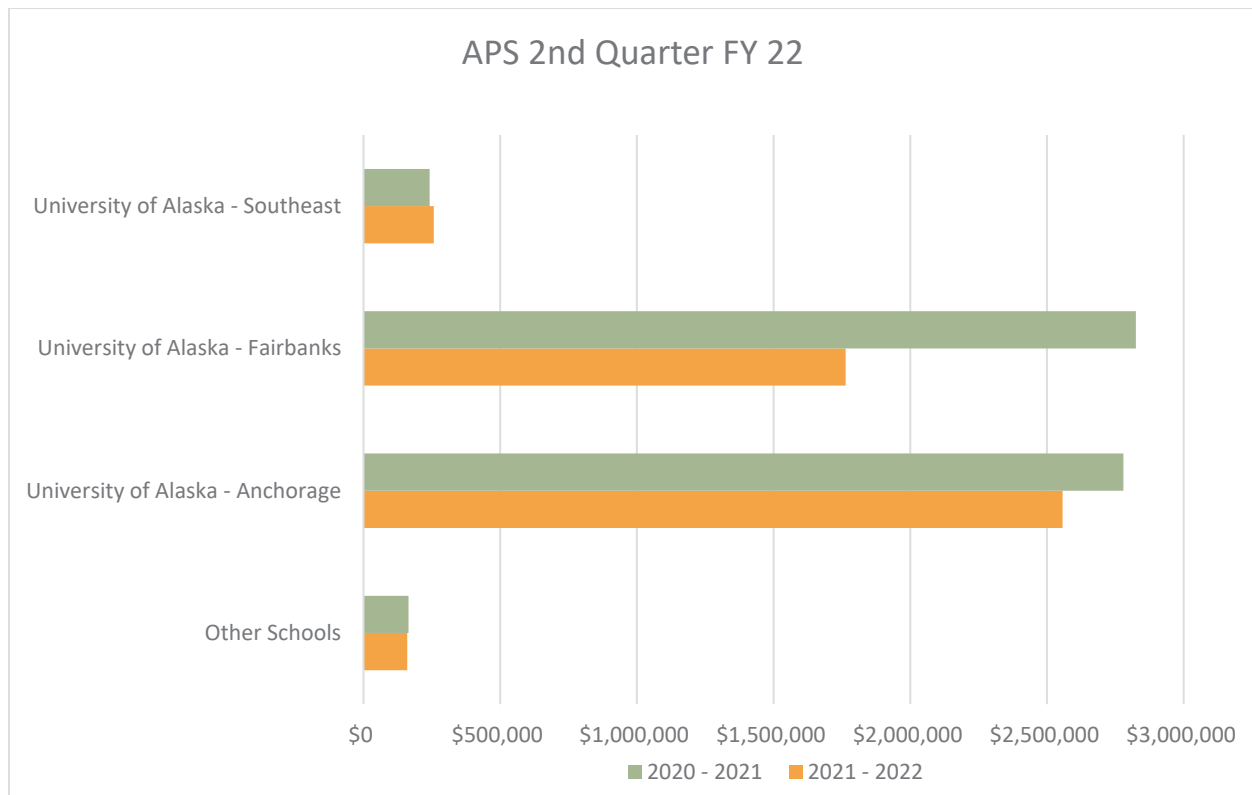
	# of Loans	Principal Amount	Interest Amount	Total Loan Amount
In-School	22	\$95,474	\$36,471	\$131,945
Grace	2	\$8,000	\$113	\$8,113
Repay- Current	5,093	\$21,235,312	\$901,481	\$22,136,793
Repay- Past Due	771	\$3,445,456	\$116,353	\$3,561,808
Claim	41	\$342,625	\$20,708	\$363,333
Forbearance	601	\$2,374,745	\$107,319	\$2,482,063
Deferment	610	\$2,864,135	\$248,466	\$3,112,601
Total	7,140	\$30,365,747	\$1,430,910	\$31,796,657

FFELP Complaints

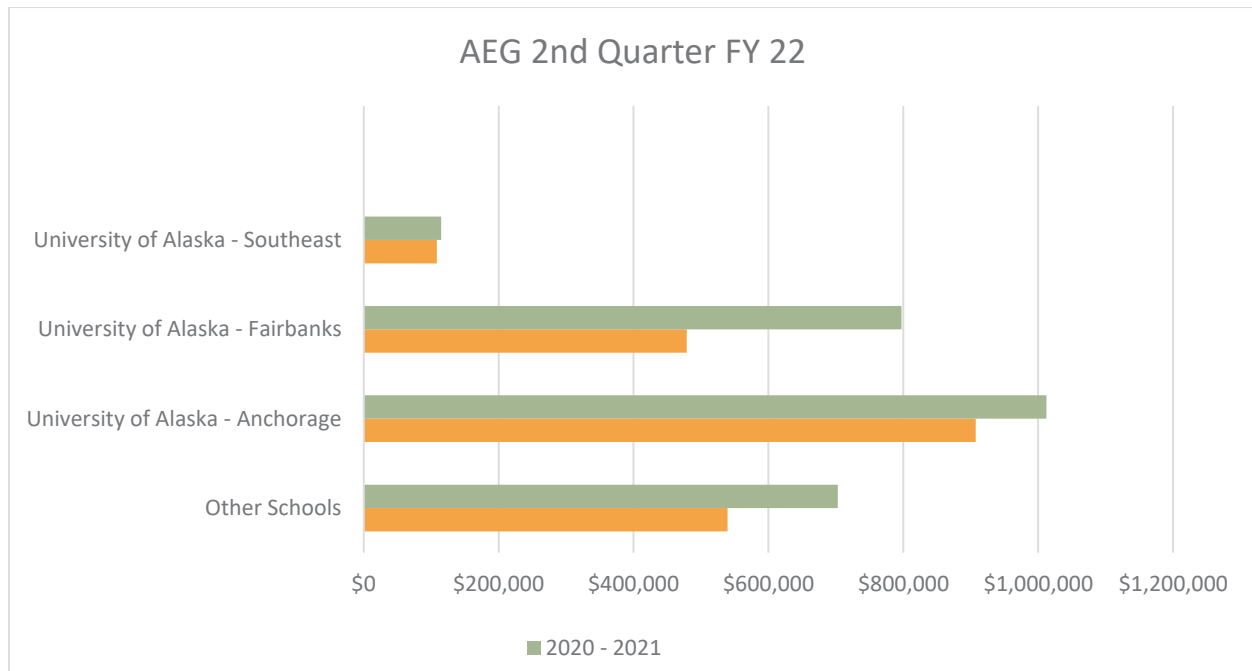
# of Complaints	0
Complaint Descriptions	N/A

ALASKA PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIP & ALASKA EDUCATION GRANT

Program Year 21/22 through December 2021

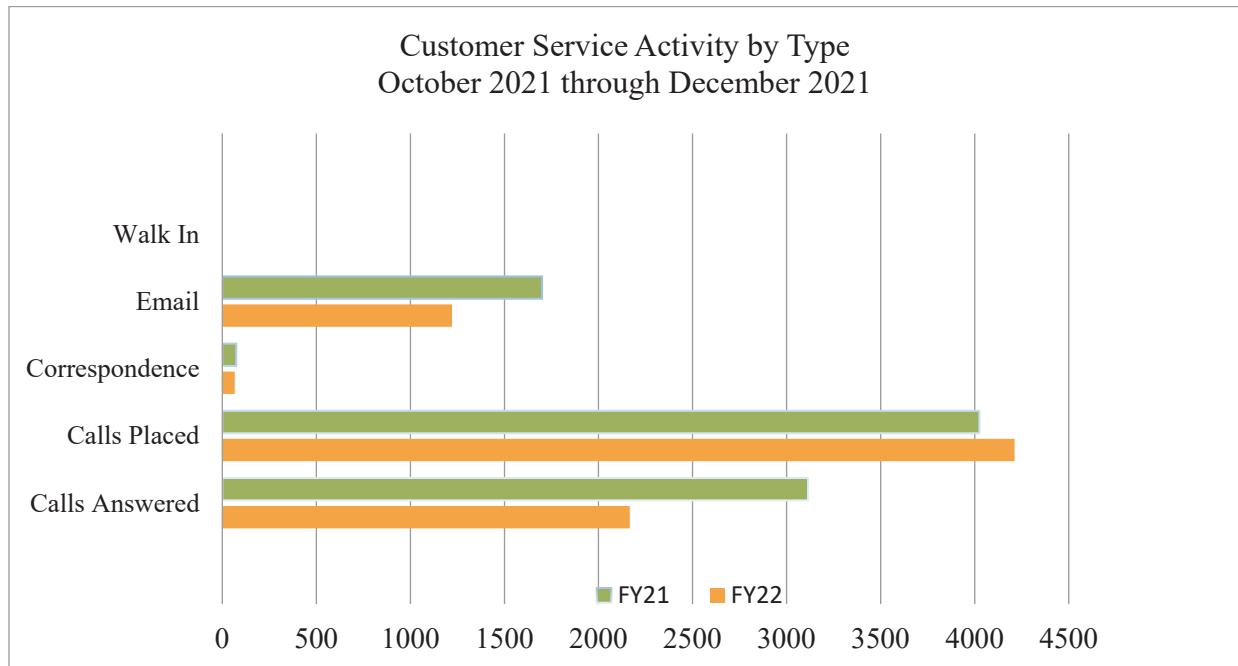


Other Schools	2020 - 2021	2021 - 2022
Alaska Bible College	\$18,429	\$16,645
Alaska Career College	\$23,183	\$0
Alaska Christian College	\$14,266	\$13,671
Alaska Driving Academy	\$892	\$0
Alaska Pacific University	\$40,423	\$63,608
Amundsen Educational Center	\$2,378	\$0
AVTEC	\$31,506	\$27,344
Charter College	\$14,861	\$25,566
Embry Riddle	\$0	\$1,500
Ilisagvik College	\$2,378	\$1,783
Land and Sea Aviation Alaska	\$4,755	\$4,754
Metroasis Advanced Training Center	\$3,566	\$0
Northern Industrial Training	\$4,755	\$0
Trendsetters	\$2,378	\$0
Wayland Baptist University - Anchorage/Fairbanks	\$1,189	\$5,053
Total	\$164,959	\$159,924
Grand Total	\$6,011,276	\$4,738,122



Other Schools	2020 - 2021	2021 - 2022
Alaska Bible College	\$12,500	\$7,500
Alaska Career College	\$264,500	\$152,500
Alaska Christian College	\$143,250	\$69,252
Alaska Pacific University	\$73,000	\$89,250
AVTEC	\$28,500	\$3,000
Charter College	\$165,028	\$186,744
Ilisagvik College	\$2,500	\$10,250
Wayland Baptist University - Anchorage/Fairbanks	\$13,500	\$21,000
Total	\$702,778	\$539,496
Grand Total	\$2,627,211	\$2,034,140

CUSTOMER SERVICE



Call Center Activity – October 2021 through December 2021

	2021 – 2022	2020-2021	% Change
Calls Received in IVR*		5,882	
Calls Received in CS Queue	2,346	3,338	-29.72%
Calls Answered by CS	2,166	3,114	-30.44%
Hold Time in CS Queue	2 min 54 sec	1 min 36 sec	81.25%
Calls Placed	4,212	4,025	4.65%

*IVR statistics are temporarily unavailable

Payment Information - October 2021 through December 2021

Automatically Processed

Method	# of Borrowers	Amount Received	% of Total Dollars
Web Pay	11,698	\$4,333,588	58.90%
PFD	890	\$950,264	12.92%
TelPay/IVR	453	\$433,101	5.89%
Premiere Payments	918	\$329,576	4.48%
Bill Pay	573	\$152,279	2.07%
Third Party Payer	62	\$65,044	0.88%
Third Party Payer AWG	127	\$52,087	0.71%
State AWG	59	\$18,184	0.25%
Total	14,780	\$6,334,122	86.09%

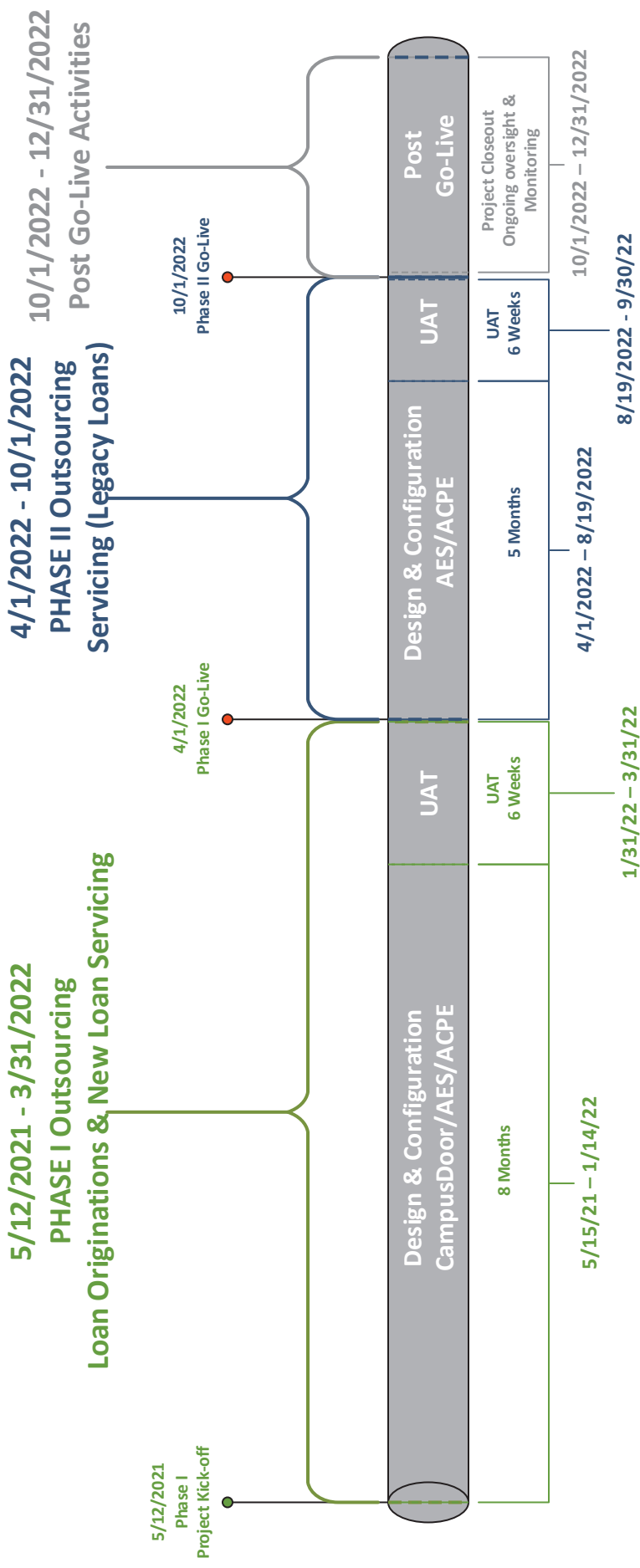
Scanned

Method	# of Borrowers	Amount Received	% of Total Dollars
AWG Checks	960	\$307,712	4.18%
Coupon Checks	264	\$126,240	1.72%
Local Payments-Scanned	128	\$113,957	1.55%
Total	1,352	\$547,908	7.45%

Manually Processed

Method	# of Borrowers	Amount Received	% of Total Dollars
External Consolidation	18	\$475,374	6.46%
Local Payments-Not Scanned	-	\$0	0.00%
Total	18	\$475,374	6.46%
Total ACPE Processed	16,150	\$7,357,404	100.00%
AES Processed Payments		\$2,087,832	
Grand total of Payments		\$9,445,236	

State Loan Outsourcing May 2021 – December 2022



- * CampusDoor – Loan Origination Vendor
- * American Education Services (AES) – Loan Servicing Vendor
- * UAT - User Acceptance Testing



Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

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Toll Free: (800) 577-3367
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TTY: Dial 711 or (800) 770-8973
Fax: (907) 269-7991
acpe.alaska.gov

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
THROUGH: Sana Efird, Executive Director
FROM: Kate Hillenbrand, Director of Communications & Outreach
DATE: January 3, 2022
SUBJECT: Outreach Report

The ACPE Communications & Outreach division delivers postsecondary awareness and assistance resources in support of ACPE's mission to *promote access to and success in education and career training beyond high school*. Throughout the fourth quarter of 2021, Outreach connected with students, families, and ACPE stakeholders through over 300 telephonic or virtual service sessions; organized and/or presented in over 50 work sessions, trainings or webinars; and reached nearly 9,000 Alaskans through these efforts.

COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

ACPE Outreach Activities: October - December 2021		
Service Interactions	Oct - Dec 2021	
Telephonic & Virtual Service Interactions*	355	
Virtual Sessions, Webinars, Trainings**	53	
Virtual Session Attendees***	8,801	
Top Reason for Service Interaction	Topic Distribution	ACPE Outreach Campaigns
APS/AEG/ACPE Loans	13%	ACPE Outreach delivered consistent, targeted marketing campaigns specific to FAFSA, APS/AEG, and ACPE loan programs.
FAFSA	64%	
Other/Not Sure	23%	

*Includes Success Center phone calls, Zoom sessions (1:1 & group), AKCIS Helpdesk, etc.

**Includes group/school presentations, FAFSA Time Alaska, AKCIS trainings & webinars, I Know I Can, Kids2College, etc.

***Total number of attendees in Virtual Sessions section – does not include Telephonic & Virtual Service Interactions totals



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During the fourth quarter, Outreach continued its efforts to remain responsive and nimble to the needs of Alaska's schools, districts, and stakeholders. Outreach continued in developing its strategic marketing work with an external firm. These efforts are ongoing and are contributing to agency-wide strategic conversations about return on investment, identifying and segmenting marketshare, and campaign delivery methods. Continued updates will be shared at upcoming Commission meetings.

Alaska Career Information System (AKCIS)

AKCIS is a cost-effective online platform for comprehensive career, education, and financial aid information. It is an interactive planning tool with a personal, portable online portfolio. ACPE makes AKCIS available across Alaska at no cost to sites through a single statewide license.

Quarter 4 2021 Highlights:

- Activation & Fee Waiver Agreements, submitted annually by AKCIS sites, 338 sites processed.
- 75% of the Alaska schools with any high school enrollment (211/281) have active AKCIS site accounts. (78% of Alaska schools with high school enrollment of 10+ students have active AKCIS site accounts.)
- 91% of the Alaska school districts (49/54) have listed AKCIS as the system they use to create Personal Learning & Career Plans (PLCPs)
- 28 AKCIS distance training activities for 8,006 Students/Families and 204 Educators/Service Providers for a total of 8,210 total individuals (2020 4th Quarter Comparison: 34 AKCIS training activities for 1,403 individuals were conducted)
- The AKCIS Partnership Coordinator actively participated in the National Career Development Convenings (Policy, Practices, and Outcome Indicators) that will shape the 2nd Edition of the National Career Development Report.
- Districts continue to seek consultation and training from the AKCIS Coordinator to create PLCP (Personal Learning & Career Plan) Implementation Plans and encourage a more systemic approach to AKCIS utilization for counselors, teachers, and administrators throughout schools 6th-12th grades.
 - The PLCP Implementation Plan prompts school and district staff to set goals for desired student outcomes, suggests actions steps and details to be considered, shares ACPE and AKCIS career development resources, and outlines success measurements.
- The AKCIS Coordinator presented
 - during ACPE's ACAC Training
 - to the Anchorage Community Employment & Resources Fair
 - to the Alaska's Peoples Tribal Workforce Roundtable



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- at the Alaska WIOA Title I Youth Program Annual Training
- at the CIS Consortium of States Meetings
- to the Association of Alaska School Boards
- to the Sitka School District and Community AKCIS Implementation Planning Meeting
- to parents at the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District Parent Postsecondary Night. This event was recorded and made available to all parents of secondary students in the district.
- Customized links to Alaska resources have been included in AKCIS PLCP 360, to include: AlaskaNativeHire.com, AnchorageJobFinder.com (including job postings across the state), and AlaskaWorks.com.

On the Horizon:

- AKCIS will be the foundation for a new course for “Rural Career Counselors” administered by DEED CTE for schools/districts without school counselors. Course will be offered for CEU credits.
- The AKCIS Coordinator will lead the National CIS (Career Information System) Network annual meetings.
- The AKCIS Coordinator will present two break-out sessions at the Alaska Society for Technology in Education Conference.

EARLY COLLEGE & CAREER EXPLORATION PROGRAMS:

I Know I Can (IKIC) – 1st-3rd grade College and Career Awareness Program

I Know I Can is sponsored through a partnership between ACPE and Alaska529. IKIC involves local alumni in communities across the state as readers of an age-appropriate storybook introducing concepts about college and careers to 1st-3rd graders. After discussion with the volunteer, children draw a picture of their career dreams on a postcard, which is mailed back to them two years later. We have a total of 1,034 students scheduled to participate so far for the 2021-22 year. Events began in October 2021 and will run throughout the school year.

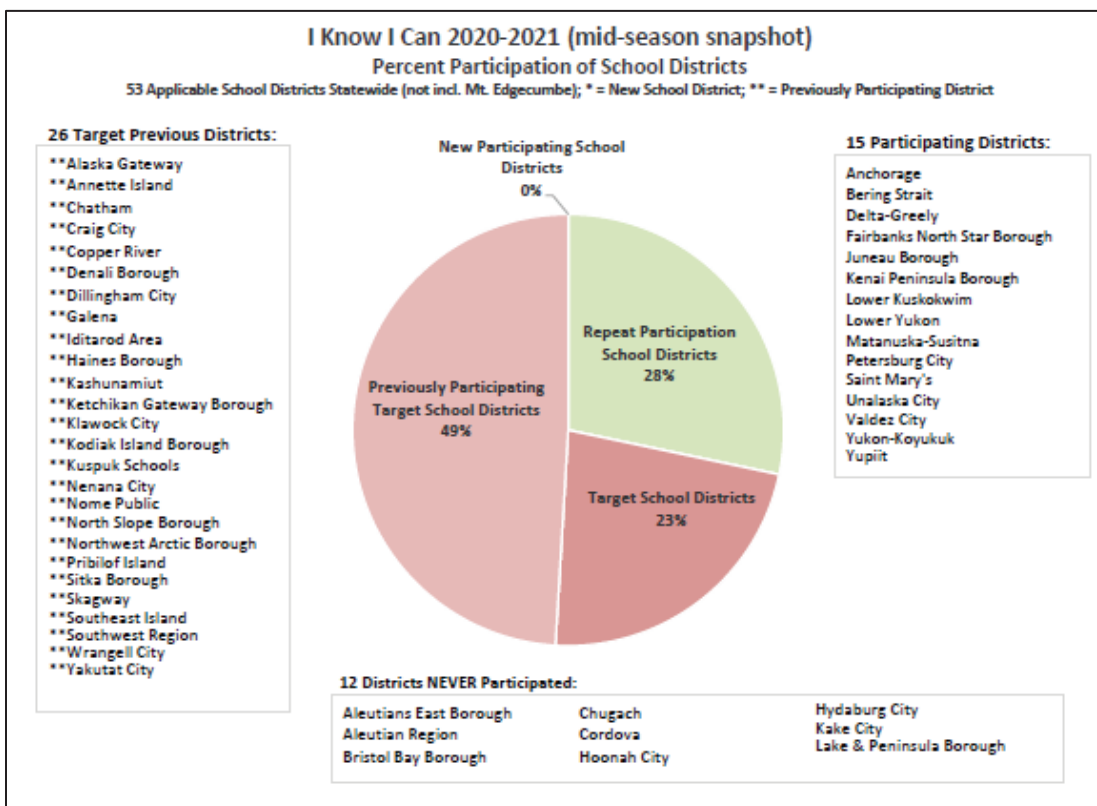
We continue to offer asynchronous activities where students read and do associated activities on their own time, as well as synchronous activities where volunteers connect via Zoom to read. Break-out groups are an option for students connecting through individual Zooms, however so far most students are connecting as a whole classroom.



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Quarter 4 2021 Highlights:

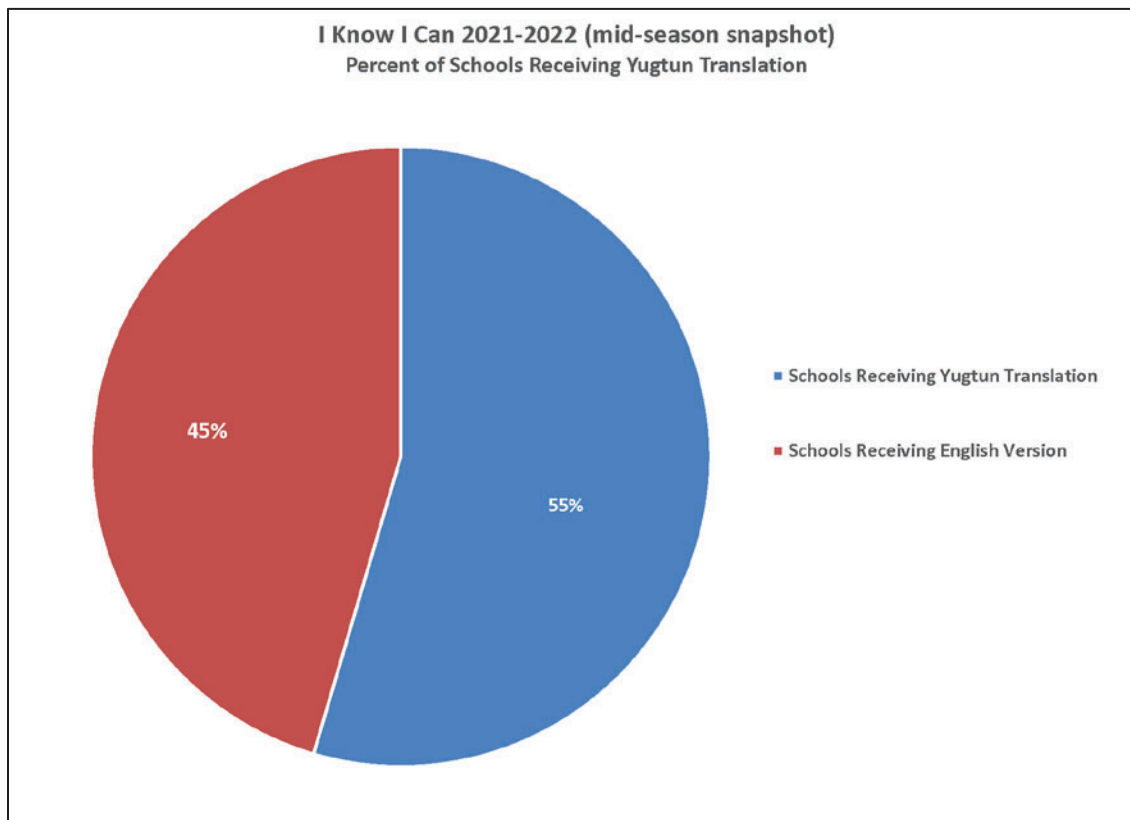
- I Know I Can events for the 2021-2022 school year are currently scheduled for a total of **33** schools across **15** school districts.
- **fifteen** events have been completed (**45%** completion)
- **Thirteen** of 39 events have been hosted virtually by ACPE (**33%** virtual)
- **Three** school/orgs are participating for the first time (**9%** new school participation)
- Over **50** volunteer alumni will participate in reading and discussing *I Know I Can* and career dreams with **over 1,000** 1st – 3rd grade students.
- LKSD and LYSD schools have received the first translated version - **Yugtun (Central Yup'ik)**.
- The *I Know I Can* book is available as a password protected digital download for participating students to access. All related activities are also available to print.



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On the horizon:

Kids2College

Twenty-nine schools have applied for **Kids2College** so far, but 3 have asked to postpone until 2022-2023, so we have a total of **26 participating schools** as of December 2021. We anticipate nearly **1,000 Kids2College** students this year, and hope to add more in January, when most schools are scheduled to begin. We have received campus applications from **4 campuses** and expect to have at least **two virtual campus events**, in addition to seven different virtual tours available on our website. Campuses are encouraged to work together to host multi-campus events wherever possible.

Early Career Explorer (ECE)

Early Career Explorer classroom resources have been downloaded by **36 schools**, in **19 school districts**, spread across **22 communities**. **Twenty schools** are using PK-K resources, **20 schools** are using resources with grades 1-3, and **15 schools** are using resources with grades 3-4. So far, we have **2,155** students using Early Career Explorer resources as of December 2021, about twice as many as last year.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
THROUGH: Sana Efird, Executive Director
FROM: Jamie Oliphant, Director of Information Support Services (ISS)
DATE: 1/3/2022
SUBJECT: ISS activities

Agency-wide Projects and Activity

Alternative Loan Origination and Servicing Outsourcing – Continuation of the design phase of the project and prepping for user acceptance testing for origination implementation scheduled for April 2022. This project will continue to take the majority of ISS resources through December 2022.

Alaska Presence Benefit Posting – Annual project working with Finance to post the AK Presence Benefit, a benefit to those borrowers attending school or residing in Alaska.

2021 1098 and 1099 IRS Reporting – Annual project where ACPE reports education loan tax-related data on IRS forms to our borrowers and supplies a data file to the IRS. ISS, Finance and Operations are currently in the final testing phase with implementation set for January 2021.

MS Teams Phone Transition – The Juneau office successfully transitioned from Cisco Phones to MS Teams phones on December 16th. The Anchorage office was transitioned in the previous quarter. Our call center remains on Cisco until we complete the servicing outsourcing phase of the project. This is because of the complexities of our call center that MS Teams cannot accommodate at this time.

Network Projects and Activity

Annual Security Training – Staff completed the State's and ACPE's annual security training this past quarter. We have also implemented a security tips and tricks that is sent to staff on a quarterly basis.

Enhanced User Authentication – Finalized the implementation of the enhanced user access protocol.

Equipment Recycle Program – Currently working on cleaning approximately 100 old PC's that are scheduled to be fully decommissioned and recycled in the first quarter of 2022.

Risk Mitigation of Known Software Vulnerabilities – In mid-December the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) announced CVE-2001-44228, a widespread exploitation of a critical remote code execution. ACPE took immediate steps to review and assess this vulnerability. At this time we have not been affected, however we continue to actively work with the State Security Office as well as complete our own mitigation response.

ISS continue to embrace the Lean philosophy and implement continuous improvements using approved tools and software to automate different functions that use to be completed manually. Staff also continue to complete routine updates and changes to ensure our systems are operating accurately, securely and efficiently.

Please feel free to contact me if there are any questions or need for additional information on this report. It is a pleasure serving the Commission.



Alaska Postsecondary Access and Completion Network

65by2025.org

65by2025@gmail.com

TO: Members, Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
FROM: Kate Hillenbrand, President
 Alaska Postsecondary Access and Completion Network
DATE: January 3, 2022
SUBJECT: Alaska Postsecondary Access & Completion Network Activities Update

Throughout the fourth quarter of 2021, the Alaska Postsecondary Access & Completion Network (AlaskaCAN), carried out a variety of activities in support of its strategic plan, mission, and vision. During the fourth quarter, AlaskaCAN finalized and implemented Committee Action Plan templates utilizing the SMART Goal model to ensure committee initiatives directly aligned with and supported the overarching Strategic Plan and Mission of AlaskaCAN. Additionally, strategic financial planning sessions are continuing to identify the most effective use of financial resources in support of mission attainment.

AlaskaCAN is nearing completion of its work with an external vendor to completely revamp and revitalize the AlaskaCAN website (65by2025.org). The new website will enhance functionality, allow for ongoing updates and improvements to be made in real-time, and will give users a better understanding of AlaskaCAN initiatives, goals, and ways in which they can become involved.

During the fourth quarter, AlaskaCAN focused its time on planning for the 2022 AlaskaCAN Conference. Awarding a technology support contract to a local Alaskan vendor, AlaskaCAN 2022 will be held virtually again this year. The theme is “Flexibility, Innovation, and Accessibility in Education: Making it Work” and will be held from 9:00-12:30 on March 1 – 3, 2022.

AlaskaCAN also contracted with ACPE for updating its completion Dashboard metrics. This update is set for completion and launch during the 2022 AlaskaCAN Conference and will reflect new completion data through 2021.

AlaskaCAN members are gearing up for what will surely be an exciting and busy first quarter of 2022 with upcoming Board of Directors Elections and also hosting the 2022 AlaskaCAN Conference, and launching the new website and updated Dashboard.

As always, AlaskaCAN appreciates ACPE’s support and endorsement of the “65% by 2025” statewide attainment goal. Additional Network information is located at www.65by2025.org.

Administrative Action Log
October – December
(2nd Quarter FY22)

Appeals and Complaints

DATE	DESCRIPTION	ACTION TAKEN
10/1/21	Appeal 2021 PFD Garnishment	Referred to Office of Administrative Hearing 11/16/21
11/30/21	Settlement Offer	Denied
11/29/21	Appeal 2021 PFD Garnishment	Denied

Commission Members' Affiliations

Please provide any updates the Commission Secretary

BARBARA ADAMS

Nenana City Public School – School Board, Advisory North Seat
 American Educational Research Association – Member
 American Evaluation Association – Member
 National Rural Education Association – Member
 National Council of Teachers of Mathematics – Member
 Mixed Methods International Research Association – Member
 Fairbanks Retriever Club – Member, Formerly Treasurer
 Nenana Community Church – Member
 Former Affiliations:
 Education Northwest Board of Directors – Ex Officio, Chair, Vice Chair,
 Secretary/Treasurer, Member
 University of Alaska Fairbanks – Graduate College, School of Education,
 Interior-Aleutians Campus
 University of Alaska, K-12 Outreach
 NSF Math Focus Project Grant External Advisory Committee, Interior-
 Aleutians Campus, UAF
 Friends of the Library, Nenana Public Library – Board Member
 American Mathematical Society – Member
 Acoustical Society of America – Member

DALE ANDERSON

Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
 Alaska Travel Industry Association
 City and Borough of Juneau Assembly member
 Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission
 Commissioner Juneau Chamber of Commerce
 Juneau Convention and Visitors Bureau
 University of Alaska Board of Regents

JOSHUA BICCHINELLA

Anchorage Chamber of Commerce
 Wasilla Chamber of Commerce
 Palmer Chamber of Commerce
 Big Lake Elementary PTO
 Wasilla Government Affairs Committee Member
 Alaska Postsecondary Access and Completion Network Director (Business Seat)
 Pi Alpha Alpha Honor Society Member- Walden Chapter
 Meadow Lakes Community Council Member

PEARL BROWER

Wells Fargo Advisory Board
 Alaska Postsecondary Access and Completion Network - Tribal/Vocational Seat
 Friends of Tuzzy Library - Secretary/Treasurer
 Tribal College Journal – Chair
 Alaska Airlines Community Advisory Board
 The Foraker Group Operations Board of Directors Leadership: Barrow

JOHN BROWN

Academic Advisory Council of Mat-Su Central (AAC)
 Alaska Council of School Administrators (ACSA)
 Alaska Association of Elementary School Principals (AAESP)
 Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals (AASSP)
 Alaskans for Palmer Hayflats (APH)

Mat-Su Principal Association (MSPA)
Wasilla Chamber of Commerce (WCC)

MIA COSTELLO

Alaska State House of Representatives
Finance Committee: 2011 - 2014
Alaska State Senate
Chair, Labor and Commerce Committee 2015-Present
Member, Judiciary Committee 2015-Present
Member, Regulatory Review Committee 2015-Present
Other Political and Government Positions
Governor's Office Deputy Director of Communications
Legislative aide
State Public Information Officer
Intern coordinator for U.S. Senator Ted Stevens
Governor's Outdoor Recreation and Trails Advisory Council
Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports Statehood
Celebration Commission
Business and Professional Positions
Coach, NineStar Education and Employment
Services Teacher, Anchorage and Juneau School
Districts Public relations executive
Owner, Mia Costello Consulting
Service Organizations and Community Involvement
Alaska Outdoor Council
National Rifle Association
Alaska Airmen's Association
Anchorage Republican Women's Club, Juneau Big Brothers Big Sisters
Masters Swimming

CHERYL EDENSHAW

Northwest Artic Borough Economic Development Commission – Member
Kikiktagruk Inupiat Corporation Board – Member
Alaska Workforce Investment Board – Member
Chukchi/UAF Advisory Council – Chair
Former affiliations:
Kotzebue Advisory Board – Chair
Kotzebue City Council – Member
Native Village of Kotzebue – Member
Maniilaq Assn. Board of Directors – Member
Aqqaluk trust – Trustee

RODOLFO GARCIA

Georgeson Botanical Garden Friends
The American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
The Society of Physics Students- UAF Chapter
Psi Chi Honors Society- UAF Chapter
Geoscience Club- UAF Chapter
Associated Students of UAF- Senator and Chair of Rules Committee for 2020-2021 academic year

LINDSAY HALLAM

American Library Association- Member
Alaska Library Association- Member
Christian Librarian Consortium- Member
Association of Christian Librarians- Member
Alaska Advisory Council on Libraries- Member

KEITH HAMILTON

Alaska Christian College, President
 Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, Commissioner
 Board of Education and Early Development, Member
 Certified-Christian Non-Profit Leader, Azusa Pacific University Evangelical
 Covenant Church Ministerium
 Kenai Peninsula Alaska Ministerial Association
 Kenai Peninsula Executive Directors Association
 North Park University, Board of Trustees Personnel Board, Member
 Soldotna Chamber of Commerce
 Former Affiliations:
 Alaska Children's Trust Steering Committee Alaska Juvenile Justice
 Advisory Council, Member Arctic Barnabas Ministry, Board Member
 Covenant Bible College Midwest, Windsor, Board Vice Chair
 Evangelical Covenant Church, National Board of Christian Formation,
 Secretary Faith Based and Community Initiatives Advisory Council, Member
 Mission Springs Conference Center, Scotts Valley, CA, Board Member New
 Hope Counseling Center, Ex-Officio Board Member
 Sexual Abstinence Curriculum Task Force, Rocklin Unified School District,
 Member Task Force on Postsecondary Education, Member

DONALD HANDELAND

American Society of Civil Engineers
 Former Affiliations:
 Alaska State Board of Education and Early Development
 Alaska Advisory Task Force on Higher Education and Career Readiness
 Alaska Association of Student Governments Executive Board

DONN LISTON

Legislative Staff, 1983 session
 Master's Degree in Education, UAS 1989
 Alaska Type A Certified Teacher, 2003-2019
 Classroom teacher/Adult Basic Education Instructor
 BP Teacher of Excellence, 2013
 Legislative Staff, 2018 session
 Member of Susitna Rotary, Willow Chamber of Commerce

LISA PARKER

University of Alaska Board of Regents
 City of Soldotna Council member
 Resource Development Council Board of Directors
 Alaska State Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors
 Alaska Municipal League Board of Directors – November 2017 – Present
 Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education Board of Directors – March 2017-Present
 City Council Soldotna, Alaska – 2002-2007; 2016 – Present
 Governor's Sustainability Conference – June 2015
 Governor's Oil and Gas Policy Transition Team – December 2014
 Resource Development Council Board of Directors – 2004 – Present
 Alaska Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors – 2009 – 2018
 Anchorage, Alaska Downtown Rotary – 2013 – 2016
 Soldotna, Alaska Rotary – 2016 - 2018
 Kenai Peninsula Food Bank Board of Directors – 2013 – 2015

Kenai Peninsula Planning Commission – December 2010 – January 2012
 Kenai Peninsula Borough Board of Adjustment – December 2008 – December 2010
 Conference of Alaskans, 2004
 Anchorage Charter Commission, 1975 (elected to Commission at age 19)
 U.S. Department of Transportation, Pipeline Safety Standard Committee 1994-1999,
 Committee Chair – 1994-1998, Reappointed 2004 – 2011.
 University of Alaska, Kenai River Campus, College Council 1997-2003, Vice-Chair
 1999-2002
 Blood Bank of Alaska, Board of Directors 2000-2002
 Kenai Watershed Forum Board of Directors, 1999-2002
 Alaska – Alberta Bilateral Council, 2002. Appointed by Governor Tony Knowles
 Governor’s Water Quality Work Group, 1996-1997
 American Planning Association, Alaska Chapter, Regional Vice-President South
 Central Alaska 1997-1999
 Alaska Trails Plan Review Taskforce, Governor’s Trail & Recreational Access for
 Alaska Citizens Advisory Board, 1999
 Governor’s Natural Resources Policy Transition Team, Chair Subcommittee on Oil,
 Gas, and Mining, 1995
 International Oil Spill Conference Technical Review Committee, 1994-1995
 Alaska Common Ground, Board of Directors, 1991-1993
 Kenai Peninsula Community Care Center, Board of Directors, 1992-January 2007
 National Association of Environmental Professionals, 1988-1998
 Mining and Petroleum Training Services, Board of Directors, 1984-1992
 Alaska Reapportionment Board, Vice-Chair, 1990
 Assist numerous nonprofit organizations in capital campaigns and fundraising efforts

ANDI STORY

Alaska Native Language Preservation Advisory Council – House Liaison (nonvoting)
 Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) Legislative Advisory Committee - member
 UAS College of Education External Advisory Committee – member
 National Conference of State Legislatures’ (NCSL) International Education Study Group – member
 Governor’s Teacher Retention and Recruitment Working Group - former member
 Juneau School District Board of Education – member 2003-2018

2020

Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education Acronyms

STEPHANIE BUTLER

Updated 03-2020

ACRONYMS AND TERMS FOR ALASKA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION (ACPE)

65 by 2025	Initiative of the Alaska Postsecondary Access & Completion Network, funded by a Lumina grant, to increase the percentage of working-age Alaskans who will have a postsecondary credential to 65% by the year 2025.
Accreditation	Accreditation is a peer review process that examines competency, authority, or credibility of a higher education institution. Alaska requires that colleges and universities operating in the state be accredited by a body recognized by the Secretary of Education. The goal of accreditation is to ensure that education provided by institutions of higher education meets acceptable levels of quality and that credits are transferrable.
Alaska Education and Workforce Outcomes Database (Outcomes)	Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) developed to manage, analyze and evaluate outcomes of educational programs and services. Outcomes is a partnership between the University of Alaska, Alaska Department of Education & Early Development, Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development and ACPE. Outcomes replaces the ANSWERS system.
American Education Services (AES)	American Education Services. (AES) is a Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) and private (alternative) student loan national servicer, owned by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA). AES services ACPE's legacy FFELP portfolio.
Alaska Career Information System (AKCIS)	AKCIS is a web-based statewide service offered by ACPE to provide comprehensive, interactive and user-friendly career and postsecondary education/training information to help youth and adult users explore and plan for careers, with emphasis on careers within Alaska. AKCIS is offered in all 54 school districts.
Alaska College and Career Advising Corps (ACAC)	Designed under a federal College Access Challenge Grant (CACG), ACAC provides training and information resources to partners and volunteers across the state who are committed to developing a postsecondary education culture and helping Alaska's students access and benefit from postsecondary education and career training. The program includes mentoring through the FAFSA Time Alaska, Apply Now Alaska and Decision Day Alaska programs
AlaskAdvantage	The trademarked name of a now-discontinued suite of ACPE education loan programs and services that offered benefits or outreach to Alaskans and to the organizations that serve Alaska's students. This program ended when the Department of Education

	discontinued the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP).
Alaska Education Grant (AEG)	A state need-based grant ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 per academic year for qualifying Alaska residents attending participating Alaska postsecondary institution. AEG awards are funded by the Alaska Higher Education Investment Fund (HEIF), and operating costs are absorbed by ACPE.
Alaska Navigator: Statewide Workforce and Education-Related Statistics (ANSWERS)	ANSWERS is the State of Alaska's P-20W Statewide Longitudinal Data System. ANSWERS was developed to link existing Alaska K-12, higher education and employment data to deliver critical information to Alaska's policymakers, educators, and general public about the state's education continuum. In 2012, the state received a \$4 million federal grant over 3 years to develop the system. The system has been rebranded and is now known as the Alaska Education and Workforce Outcomes Database (Outcomes)
Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS)	Alaska's state performance-based scholarship to incent Alaska's students, parents and educators to strive for excellence in education. Awards may be used at participating colleges, universities or approved career and technical education programs in Alaska.
Alaska Postsecondary Access and Completion Network (Alaska CAN or The Network)	The Network, is a non-profit organization originally created by ACPE under a federal College Access Challenge Grant (CACG). The Network focuses on increasing postsecondary access and success in Alaska and promulgated the state's 65 by 2025 attainment goal. Board members represent secondary and postsecondary education, business, rural and urban areas, and community nonprofits. It establishes a network for members to share best practices, tools and resources relating to college access and success.
Alaska Presence Benefit	A legacy annual credit to qualifying borrowers' loan principal balances to reduce their costs. Borrowers qualify while living in Alaska. The ASLC Board approves the offering of benefits annually based on cash flows and costs estimates. This benefit is not offered on new loans.
Alaska Student Aid Portal (ASAP)	ACPE web portal to provide students with secure access to real-time grant and scholarship account information regarding their eligibility, award level, remaining terms available, remaining years in which to use available terms, and ability to change record of school of attendance.
Alaska Student Loan Corporation (ASLC)	The state corporation that funds the student loan programs and ACPE's operating budget. Created in 1987 to provide a means of alternative financing in the form of tax-exempt bonds. ASLC is governed by a board of directors appointed by the governor (two

	from ACPE and the Commissioners of Revenue, Administration and Community & Economic Development).
Alaska Supplemental Education Loan (ASEL)	Alaska's state education loan program to provide supplemental financial assistance if the federal loan program is insufficient to cover the costs of attendance or if the borrower does not qualify for financial aid under the federal student loan program.
Annual Percentage Rate (APR)	The Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is the yearly cost of borrowing a loan, shown as a percentage of the amount borrowed. Because APR is calculated the same way on different loans from different lenders, the APR also allows applicants to compare loans with different terms and conditions.
Apply Now Alaska	An initiative coordinated statewide by ACPE and based on the American College Application Campaign model, to assist first-generation and low-income high school students as they navigate the complexities of the admissions process to postsecondary institutions. The event season runs from November to February.
Ascendium Education Group (AEG)	ACPE's federal loan guarantor, located in Madison, Wisconsin. Formerly known as Great Lakes Higher Education Guarantee Corporation.
Award Letter	An official document issued by a school's financial aid office that lists the financial aid offered to the student through the school. It provides details of a borrower's financial need and the breakdown of the financial aid package according to amount, source and type of aid. The award letter (also called a Financial Aid Notification/FAN) includes the terms and conditions for the financial aid and cost of attendance.
Administrative Wage Garnishment (AWG)	State statutes and regulations provide ACPE the authority to garnish wages of a borrower who has defaulted on their state loan, without the need for a court order. Limitations are structured in state and federal law.
Award Year	The academic year for which financial aid is requested (or received).
A.W. "Winn" Brindle Education Loan (WB)	This program, which is no longer funded, was funded by private donations and offered forgivable loans to full-time students in a fisheries-related degree or certificate program.
Borrower Benefits	Interest rate reductions and account credits that reduce the overall cost of borrowing. ASLC benefits are variable and are evaluated and approved annually based on cash flows and costs estimates.

Campus-Based Aid	<p>Financial aid programs administered by the student’s school. The federal government provides the school with a fixed annual allocation, which is awarded by the financial aid administrator to qualifying students. Programs include the Perkins Loan, Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant, and Federal Work-Study. Note that there is no guarantee that every eligible student will receive financial aid through these programs because the awards are made from a fixed pool of money.</p>
Capitalized Interest	<p>Unpaid interest charges added to the principal balance of an educational loan thereby increasing the size of the loan. Interest is then charged on the new balance, including both the unpaid principal and the accrued interest. Capitalizing the interest increases the monthly payment and the amount of money ultimately repaid. Interest is generally capitalized when there is a change in the status of the loan at a time when there is unpaid interest outstanding, such as going from deferment to repayment status. Borrowers can significantly reduce their costs by paying interest each month, even if a payment is not due.</p>
Clearinghouse (or National Student Clearinghouse (NSC))	<p>A non-profit association that maintains a comprehensive electronic registry of postsecondary student records provided by the participating schools. Over 2,700 colleges, 91% of the nation’s enrollment, participate. The Clearinghouse process identifies those borrowers who withdraw from school and need to begin repayment; transfer from one school to another; return to school and may be eligible for a deferment; continue in school and are eligible for deferment or in-school extension.</p>
Cohort Default Rate (CDR)	<p>A measurement of loan cohort performance that identifies the percent of the cohort that is in default at a given time. Cohorts may include schools, states, or calendar groups. Alaska loan cohort rates are calculated annually based on loans entering repayment between January 1 and December 31 of the cohort year, which are greater than six months (180 days) past due at the end of the first 12 months of repayment and have not previously defaulted. These calculations differ from the federal cohort default rate calculations.</p> <p>The US Department of Education cohort default rate is calculated as the percentage of borrowers who entered repayment on Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program or William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program loans between Oct. 1st and Sept. 30th of a given year and subsequently defaulted prior</p>

	to Sept. 30 th two years later (for example, the 2016 CDR is calculated on student loans entering repayment between Oct 1, 2015 and Sept 30, 2016 and subsequently default prior to Sept 30, 2018).
College Access Challenge Grant (CACG)	A federal grant program to foster partnerships among federal, state, and local governments and philanthropic organizations through matching challenge grants aimed at increasing the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.
Consolidation Loan	A loan that combines several student loans into one bigger loan from a single lender. The consolidation loan pays off the balances on the other loans. ACPE no longer offers a consolidation loan; however, federal consolidation loans are still available.
Cosigner	A cosigner is responsible for loan repayment if the borrower fails to repay it. Borrowers who do not meet ACPE's credit requirements must provide a cosigner who meets those requirements. Also called an endorser.
Cost Of Attendance (COA)	Also known as the cost of education or budget. The total cost for the student to attend school, including tuition and fees, room and board, allowances for books and supplies, transportation, and personal and incidental expenses. Loan fees, if applicable, may also be included in the COA. Childcare and expenses for disabilities may also be included. Schools establish standard budgets for students: living on-campus and off-campus, married and unmarried, and residents and nonresidents.
Credit Rating or Credit Score	Credit ratings or scores are calculated by credit bureaus based on an individual's past debt and repayment history. Credit bureaus and credit reporting agencies provide this information to banks and businesses to determine if an applicant meets the applicable underwriting standard to qualify for a loan. Credit scores generally range from 300 to 850, with the 2019 Alaska average score being 675.
Credit Reporting	ACPE reports the current status of all accounts to national credit bureaus monthly, which impacts the borrower's credit rating. Accounts that are 60 or more days delinquent are reported past due.
Dear Colleague Letter (DCL)	An official communication to schools and lenders that explains and clarifies the federal Department's guidance regarding federal regulations and statutes. Also known as a Dear Partner Letter.
Decision Day Alaska	An initiative, derived from the national College Decision Day, to recognize high school seniors for their postsecondary educational plans and encourage younger students and families to prepare

	early for postsecondary education. The event season runs from May to June.
Default	Failure to make monthly payments on the loan as agreed, or failure to abide by terms and conditions of a loan promissory note (PN). ACPE borrowers who default may be subject to wage and PFD garnishment and transferred to a collection agency, among other consequences.
Default Rate	The general definition of default rate is the measure as a percentage of borrowers who failed to make scheduled payments in a specified date range. See also Cohort Default Rate CDR.
Deferment	A period of time during which a borrower is allowed to postpone repaying the loan. With the exception of federal subsidized loans, interest continues to accrue during deferment periods. A borrower can postpone paying the interest charges by capitalizing the interest, which increases the size of the loan. Most loan programs allow students to defer their loans while they are in school at least half-time. A borrower who defaults on a loan loses eligibility for a deferment on that loan.
Dependent	For purposes of completing the FAFSA, a dependent student is generally one who is unmarried and under 24 years old. Federal need-based aid to dependent students is awarded based on their parents' income.
Direct Loans (DL)	<p>The William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program (AKA the Direct Loan Program) is a federal program through which the federal government makes student loans. Loans may be subsidized for students considered high need under the FAFSA formula, meaning that the loans have very low rates and the federal government pays the interest during the in-school period and during certain other deferments.</p> <p>Generally, ACPE's interest rates are the next lowest option for Alaska students, after subsidized loans.</p>
Direct Payment (ACH)	Automatic electronic debit from borrower's bank account each month for loan repayment. Borrowers making direct payment at ACPE receive a 0.25% interest rate reduction. The benefit is reviewed annually by the ASLC Board.
Disclosure	A written statement of the repayment terms of the loan sent to the borrower at the time the loan is scheduled for repayment. It identifies the principal balance, the estimated interest to be paid over the life of the loan, annual interest rate, annual percentage rate, the number of payments to be made and the monthly payment amount. A new disclosure is sent to the borrower if the repayment schedule changes, for example if the student receives a deferment. A disclosure may also be called a truth-in-lending statement or a statement of loan terms.

Due Diligence	The process of exercising a servicer's responsibility for collecting on a loan.
(ED) U.S. Department of Education	An acronym sometimes used for the Department of Education. Executive Branch of the federal government that establishes policy for, administers, and coordinates most federal assistance to education.
Electronic Signature (E-SIGN)	An electronic symbol or process attached to, or logically associated with, a record and used by a person with the intent to sign the document or record. Established under the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act on 6/8/2000.
Education Finance Council	The Education Finance Council is an association representing the nation's nonprofit and state-based student loan and finance organizations. These public purpose organizations are dedicated to the single purpose of making college more affordable.
Education Loan Management Resources (ELM)	Education Loan Management Resources created a uniform data exchange network for student loan processing. This technology platform allows lenders to exchange critical loan data with schools efficiently.
Expected Family Contribution (EFC)	The amount the family is expected to contribute to paying for a student's education, as determined by the FAFSA Federal Methodology. The EFC includes parent and student contributions, and varies according to the student's dependency status, family size, number of family members in school, taxable and nontaxable income and assets. The difference between the student's costs and the EFC is the student's financial need, and is used in determining the student's eligibility for need-based financial aid.
Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act 2003 (FACTA)	Federal act allowing consumers to obtain each year, free of charge, a personal credit history report, requiring that merchants omit from sales receipts all but the last five digits of a customer's credit card number, and requiring that procedures for government oversight and financial institution notification of ID theft and fraud be implemented. Amended the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA).
Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA)	The Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1681, is U.S. federal law enacted to promote the accuracy, fairness, and privacy of consumer information contained in the files of consumer reporting agencies.
Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA)	The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, Pub. L. 95-109; 91 Stat. 874, codified as 15 U.S.C. § 1692 –1692p, designed to eliminate abusive practices in the collection of consumer debts, to promote fair debt collection, and to provide consumers with an avenue for

	disputing and obtaining validation of debt information in order to ensure the information's accuracy
Fair Isaac Credit Score (FICO)	A statistical model developed by the Fair Isaac Corporation, which is used by credit bureaus, and banking institutions to calculate and determine an individual's credit score.
Family Education Loan (FEL)	ACPE's FEL program provides low interest loans to families to assist in paying the costs of education for family members. Borrowers may be parents, grandparents, foster parents, or spouses.
Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP)	FFELP was terminated in 2009. Through FFELP, ACPE offered federally-guaranteed low-cost loans to students and parents. FFELP loans included Stafford, PLUS, Consolidated, all of which are now offered directly by the federal government.
Federal Methodology	The need analysis formula used on the FAFSA to determine the EFC. The federal methodology takes family size, the number of family members in college, taxable and nontaxable income and assets into account.
Federal Work-Study (FWS)	Program providing undergraduate and graduate students with part-time employment, usually at the school of attendance, during the school year. The federal government pays a portion of the student's salary, making it cheaper for departments and businesses to hire the student. For this reason, work-study students often find it easier to get a part-time job. Eligibility for FWS is based on need. Money earned from a FWS job is not counted as income for the subsequent year's need analysis process.
Finance Charge	The estimated amount of interest that will be paid over the life of the loan.
Financial Aid	Money provided to the student and the family to help them pay for the student's education. Major forms of financial aid include gift aid (grants and scholarships) and self-help aid (loans and work).
Financial Aid Administrator (FAA)	A staff member at an eligible school who is charged with the administration of financial aid programs.
Financial Aid Counseling	Students with federal loans are required to meet with a financial aid administrator or participate in a distance education-counseling program before they receive their first loan disbursement and again before they graduate or otherwise leave school. During these counseling sessions, called entrance and exit interviews, the FAA reviews the repayment terms of the loan and the repayment schedule with the student.

Financial Aid Office (FAO)	The college or university office that is responsible for the determination of student financial need and the awarding of financial aid.
Financial Aid Package	The complete collection of grants, scholarships, loans, and work-study employment from all sources (federal, state, institutional and private) offered to a student to enable them to attend the college or university.
Financial Literacy	The ability to understand and effectively apply various financial skills, including personal financial management, budgeting, and investing. Financial literacy helps individuals become self-sufficient so they can achieve financial stability. ACPE incorporates financial literacy education into the loan application process.
Forbearance	During a forbearance period, the lender allows the borrower to temporarily postpone repaying the principal, but the interest charges continue to accrue, even on subsidized loans. Forbearances are granted at the lender's discretion, usually in cases of extreme financial hardship or other unusual circumstances when the borrower does not qualify for a deferment. Typically, accrued interest is capitalized.
Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)	Form used to apply for a broad category of federal and state student aid programs. No fee is charged.
FAFSA Time Alaska	FAFSA Time Alaska provides FAFSA-specific resources and training to site coordinators volunteering to host FAFSA completion events around the state. The event season runs from October to April. (Previously known as College Goal Alaska)
Federal Student Aid (FSA)	Aid offered to postsecondary education students by the federal government in the form of grants, loans, work-study programs, and other forms of assistance.
Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)	A widely accepted set of rules, conventions, standards, and procedures for reporting financial information, as established by the Financial Accounting Standards Board.
Gift Aid	Financial aid, such as grants and scholarships, which does not need to be repaid.
Grace Period	The time that begins when a borrower leaves school (whether because of graduation or withdrawal) or drops below the required enrollment level, and ends the day before the repayment period starts. The length of the grace period is stipulated in the promissory note that the borrower signed. Payments are not due during the grace period.

Graduate PLUS Loan	A federal loan made to a graduate or professional student, defined as a student enrolled in a program or course above the baccalaureate level or enrolled in a program leading to a professional degree at an eligible school.
Graduated Repayment	A repayment schedule where monthly payments are smaller at the start of the repayment period and gradually become larger.
Grant	A type of financial aid based on financial need that the student does not have to repay.
Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation (Great Lakes)	ACPE's former federal loan guarantor from 2018 through early 2019 when it transitioned to Ascendium Education Group AEG as part of corporate restructuring.
Guaranty Agency or Guarantor	A state or private nonprofit organization that has an agreement with the U.S. Secretary of Education to administer a loan guarantee program under the Higher Education Act, and enforces federal and state law regarding student loans. It is responsible for overseeing the student loan process, and insures them against default for the lender.
Health Education Assistance Loan (HEAL)	A low interest loan administered by the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). It is available to medical school students pursuing medicine, osteopathy, dentistry, veterinary medicine, optometry, podiatry, clinical psychology, health administration and public health. Undergraduate pharmacology students are also eligible.
Higher Ed Loan Mgt System (HELMS)	Loan servicing software used by ACPE since 1996.
Higher Education Investment Fund (HEIF)	Fund established in statute for the purpose of making grants and scholarships. This fund was established to endow the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) and the Alaska Education Grant (AEG).
Income-Based Repayment (IBR)	IBR is a federal loan repayment option with payment caps based on income and family size. After 25 years of qualifying payments and/or economic hardship deferments, the US Department of Education repays the outstanding balance and accrued interest on eligible loans. IBR is available for all federal student loans, except parent PLUS loans.
Income-Sensitive Repayment	A repayment plan for federal loan programs available to borrowers whose standard monthly loan payment (10-year repayment term) exceeds a percentage of their discretionary income. The monthly payment amount is based on a percentage of gross monthly income, and must at least satisfy monthly

	interest accrual. The plan is designed for borrowers who have a low initial income but anticipate it to increase over time.
Independent	A student is considered independent for purposes of not including parent income on the FAFSA if the student is at least 24 years old as of January 1 of the academic year, is married, is a graduate or professional student, has a legal dependent other than a spouse, is a veteran of the US Armed Forces, or is an orphan or ward of the court (or was a ward of the court until age 18), homeless or at risk of being homeless. A parent refusing to provide support for their child's education is not sufficient for the child to be declared independent.
Institutional Authorization	<p>All postsecondary educational providers in Alaska, and the programs they offer, must be authorized in accordance with law as set forth in AS 14.48, or be formally determined by ACPE to be exempt from authorization. ACPE's authorization process is designed to ensure postsecondary education providers and programs meet minimum standards set out in law, relative to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional financial soundness • Ethical business practices • Educational program • Administrative capacity <p>Authorization is a separate process from accreditation.</p>
Institutional Student Information Report (ISIR)	The electronic version of the Student Aid Report (SAR) delivered to schools. It is sent by the US Department of Education to provide information about students who completed a FAFSA and indicated they might attend that school. This report includes the EFC and is used by the school to determine eligibility for financial aid.
Interest	Amount charged to the borrower for the benefit of using the lender's money. Interest is usually calculated as a percentage of the principal balance of the loan. The percentage rate may be fixed for the life of the loan, or it may be variable, depending on the terms of the loan.
Interest Cap	The maximum interest rate that can be charged on a loan. Not to be confused with capitalized interest.
Institutional Standards & Evaluation Committee (ISEC)	Five commissioners appointed by the Chair to meet at the call of the Chair to consider matters of initial authorization, program changes, and institutional compliance, and make recommendations for final action to the full Commission.
Lender's Interest and Special Allowance	An accounting mechanism that a lender uses to report to the Department the loans that it has made and to request from the

Request and Report (LaRS)	Department interest benefits and special allowance that it has earned, or to report payments the lender owes to the Department.
Lumina Foundation	An independent private philanthropic foundation focused on increasing success in higher education.
Master Promissory Note (MPN)	A promissory note that authorizes the lender to disburse multiple loans during multi-year terms upon request and the school's certification of loan eligibility.
Medical Cancellation	In the event the borrower is permanently disabled, and therefore unable to be gainfully employed, a loan may be eligible for medical cancellation. Cancellation eligibility is, in part, determined by the loan contract the borrower signed. Alaska statute does not entitle a borrower to medical cancellation; therefore, contract law and Alaska Education Loan Regulations govern this process.
Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority (MOHELA)	Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority is one of several Direct Loan Servicers in the country. The ASLC is a signatory sub-contractor of MOHELA for federal Direct Loan Servicing. MOHELA services Direct Loans allocated to the ASLC, and the ASLC receives a share of the servicing fees paid by the US Department of Education.
National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS)	A private nonprofit organization whose expertise is assisting higher education policymakers and administrators bridge the gap between research and practice.
National College Access Network (NCAN)	National non-profit organization that assists local communities initiate, develop and sustain college access programs designed to increase the number of students who pursue education beyond high school through advising and financial assistance.
National Council of Higher Education Resources (NCHER)	An organization which represents a nationwide network of guaranty agencies, secondary markets, lenders, loan servicers, collection agencies, schools, and other organizations involved in the administration of FFEL portfolios.
National Disbursement Network (NDN)	A central disbursing agent affiliated with Education Loan Management Resources (ELM) that ACPE uses to disburse loan funds to schools that request this method of receiving disbursements. NDN electronically debits an ACPE account and disburses the funds to the school either by electronic fund transfer or by check, depending on the school's preference.
National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS)	The U.S. Department of Education's central database for information about a student's financial aid.

Need Analysis	The process for determining a student's financial need using financial information provided by the student and his or her parents (and spouse, if any) on the FAFSA.
Need-Based	Financial aid based on student's ability to pay. Most government sources of financial aid are need-based.
Northwest Ed Loan Association (NELA)	ACPE's former federal loan guarantor. NELA became affiliated with USAFunds in 2004.
Non-Subsidized Interest	Interest that accrues and is to be paid by the borrower.
Office of Management & Budget (OMB)	Budget office in the Governor's office.
Origination Fee	Administrative fee paid to the lender and charged as a percentage of the loan amount as it is disbursed.
P-20W Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS)	Abbreviation and acronym for the statewide longitudinal data system, which links K-12 education data to postsecondary education and workforce information.
Parent Loans For Undergraduate Students (PLUS)	Federal loans available to parents of dependent undergraduate students to help finance the child's education. Parents may borrow up to the full cost of their children's education, less the amount of any other financial aid received. PLUS Loans may be used to pay the EFC. There is a minimal credit check required for the PLUS loan, so a good credit history is required.
Pell Grant	A federal grant to undergraduates that provides funds based on the student's financial need. The amount of the grant for 2020-21 is \$6,345.
Perkins Loan	Formerly the National Direct Student Loan Program, the Perkins Loan allows students to borrow up to \$5,500/year maximum of \$27,500 for undergraduate school and \$8,500/year maximum of \$60,000 for graduate school. The Perkins Loan has one of the lowest interest rates and is awarded by the financial aid administrator to students with exceptional financial need. The student must have applied for a Pell Grant to be eligible. The interest on the Perkins Loan is subsidized while the student is in school.
Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA)	Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) is a national provider of student financial aid services, including loan guaranty, loan servicing, financial aid processing, outreach, and other student aid programs. It conducts its student loan servicing operations nationally as FedLoan Servicing and American Education Services (AES).

Premiere Credit of North America, LLC (PCNA)	Premiere Credit of North America, LLC (PCNA) is the collection agency contracted to collect on defaulted state education loans.
Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP)	A WICHE program that provides access for Alaska students to enroll full-time in eligible health-related degree programs that are not available in this state. Alaska pays a support fee to reserve seats in these programs, and the Alaska program participants are required to repay the support fee paid on their behalf.
Promissory Note (PN)	Legal contract between borrower and ACPE describing terms and conditions of loan.
Program Participation Application (PPA)	An institution must enter into a program participation agreement with ACPE in order to be eligible to offer state financial aid programs. The agreement sets out the requirements for compliance with state statutes and regulations governing these programs.
Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)	The Public Service Loan Forgiveness program forgives the remaining balance on federal student loans after borrowers have made 120 qualifying monthly payments under a qualifying repayment plan while working full-time for a qualifying employer. Qualifying employers include a US federal, state, or tribal government or not-for-profit organization.
Refinance Loan	A loan that combines several student loans into one loan from a single lender. The refinance loan is used to pay off the balances on the other loans.
Skip Tracing	Skip Tracing is the process by which a lender attempts to obtain corrected borrower address or telephone information when the current address and/or phone is no longer valid.
Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)	Institutional requirements for satisfactory academic progress to continue receiving federal or state aid.
Student Aid Report (SAR)	Record of information from a student's FAFSA provided to the student by the U.S. Dept. of Education (DOE), which includes the calculation of the student's expected family contribution (EFC). The electronic version sent to schools and ACPE is called an Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR).
Servicer	An organization that collects payments on a loan and performs other administrative tasks associated with maintaining a loan portfolio. Loan servicers disburse loan funds, monitor loans while the borrowers are in school, collect payments, process deferments and forbearances, respond to borrower inquiries and ensure that the loans are administered in compliance with all applicable state and federal requirements.

Special Allowance Payment (SAP)	A percentage of the daily average unpaid principal balance, paid to a lender by the Department on an eligible Federal Stafford, PLUS, Supplemental Loans for Students (SLS), or Consolidation loan. The special allowance rate is set by statutory formula. Currently the rates paid by borrowers on the loans are higher than the relevant market index and lenders are required to rebate the difference back to the federal government.
Stafford Loans	Federal loans that come in two forms, subsidized and unsubsidized. Subsidized loans are based on need; unsubsidized loans are not. The federal government pays the interest on the subsidized Stafford Loan while the student is in school and in certain deferment periods. The Subsidized Stafford Loan was formerly known as the Guaranteed Student Loan (GSL).
State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO)	The national association of higher education leaders of statewide coordinating and governing boards and other state policy agencies for higher education. SHEEO serves its members as an advocate for state policy leadership, as a liaison between states and the federal government, as a vehicle for peer collaboration, and as a source of information and analysis on educational and public policy issues. In Alaska, the SHEEO role is shared between the Executive Director of ACPE and the President of the University of Alaska.
Success Center	Located in ACPE's Anchorage office, Success Center staff assist students and parents through the financial aid process and postsecondary education or career training preparation.
Subsidized Loan	With a subsidized loan, such as the Perkins Loan or the Subsidized Stafford Loan, the government pays the interest on the loan while the student is in school, during the six-month grace period following qualifying enrollment and the beginning of repayment, and during any deferment periods. Subsidized loans are awarded based on financial need and may not be used to finance the family contribution.
Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (SEOG)	Federal grant program for undergraduate students with exceptional need. SEOG grants are awarded by the school's financial aid office, and provide up to \$4,000 per year. To qualify, a student must also be a recipient of a Pell Grant.
Teacher Education Loan (TEL)	The TEL was created to provide an incentive for rural high school graduates to pursue teaching careers and return to teach in rural communities; school boards award teacher education loans with preference given to applicants from rural schools, to attend a bachelor's degree program in elementary or secondary education or a teacher certification program. Borrowers who teach in a qualifying school may be eligible for forgiveness benefits.

	Legislation passed in 2014 made the awarding of TELs to new borrowers subject to the availability of funding from the State. Absent such funding, effective fall of 2014, only continuing borrowers will receive additional loans, which are funded by ASLC.
Truth-In-Lending (TIL)	See Disclosure
Truth in Lending Act (TILA)	The Truth in Lending Act (TILA) of 1968 is United States federal law designed to promote the informed use of consumer credit, by requiring disclosures about its terms and cost to standardize the manner in which costs associated with borrowing are calculated and disclosed. It requires publication of the Annual Percentage Rate (APR) on a loan.
Unmet Need	Any negative difference between the amount a student/family has the capacity to pay and the cost of education as certified by the institution's Financial Aid Office is considered to be their "unmet need".
Unsubsidized Loan	A loan for which the borrower is responsible for the interest on an unsubsidized loan from the date the loan is disbursed, even while the student is still in school. Students may avoid paying the interest while they are in school by capitalizing the interest, which increases the loan amount.
Variable Interest Rate (VIR)	In a variable interest loan, the interest rate changes periodically. For example, the interest rate might be pegged to the cost of US Treasury Bills (e.g., T-Bill rate plus 3.1%) and be updated monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually. ACPE does not currently offer any variable rate loans.
Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)	WICHE is a regional organization created by the Western Regional Education Compact, adopted by the Western states. WICHE was created to facilitate resource sharing among the higher education systems of the West. It implements a number of activities to accomplish its objectives. Alaska participates in three WICHE student exchange programs administered by ACPE. Alaska has participated in the WICHE compact since 1955.
Western Undergraduate Exchange Program (WUE)	A WICHE program, WUE allows Alaska residents to enroll at two-year and four-year institutions in participating states at reduced tuition level applicable only to WUE students. Over 100 colleges and universities participate in this exchange program.
Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP)	A WICHE program that enables Alaska residents to enroll at reduced tuition rates in certain graduate programs in other western states.

The Washington, Wyoming Alaska, Montana, Idaho Program (WWAMI)	Provides access to graduate medical education not otherwise available in Alaska. State residents compete only with other Alaska residents for 20 positions reserved at the University of Washington School of Medicine (UWSM) for Alaska students. Alaska pays to UWSM the contractual costs of the program not covered by tuition, but fifty percent of that cost is a loan for the participant if they fail to return to the state and become employed in the medical field for which support was provided. After acceptance by UWSM, the student attends the first year of school at University of Alaska Anchorage.
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