



ALASKA COLLEGE & CAREER ADVISING CONSORTIUM (ACAC) NEAR-PEER COLLEGE & CAREER ADVISING

Consortium Participating Member Sites Receive

Intensive summer training annually, for the mentor(s) they employ (travel, housing, and training cost covered; subject to annual maximums set by ACPE).

Professional development for their mentors through year-round, distance-delivered training and participation in a network of fellow mentors.

A **toolkit** of proven successful ACAC activities and resources that can be adapted to fit their community and school environment.

Optional **resources**, such as sample job descriptions, memorandums of agreement (MOAs), etc., for use in developing, fundraising for, and administering their mentor programs.

Recommended Delivery Models

Large schools: 1-2 mentor(s) per school

Medium Schools: 1 mentor per school, or 1 mentor serving 2 schools (where feasible)

Rural districts with hub: 1 mentor in hub school providing distance-delivered services to village schools

Rural districts with many small schools: 1-2 mentor(s) located anywhere in the district providing distance-delivered services to village schools

Service Learning Approach: 2-3-year term limit for mentors, where feasible, has been proven to be successful

GOAL

Increase the number of Alaska's high school students accessing and benefiting from various forms of postsecondary education – career & technical schools, apprenticeships, colleges, universities – through relevant mentorships with recent college graduates working alongside school counselors.

PRINCIPLES

Connecting with students on a unique level and providing personalized guidance through near-peer mentorships

Determining the best fit for each student by promoting all forms of postsecondary education

Maximizing reach in Alaska's distinctive environment through a variety of delivery models

Making it Happen

Mentors must meet the following specifications:

- Must be a Near-Peer* – graduated from college within the last 2 years (Associate's, Bachelor's, or Master's) at the time of hire
- Provide college & career planning focused services for the entire student body
- Cannot recruit exclusively for any specific college, institution, or career training

Mentors may be employed by participating organizations/entities, such as:

- Local/regional Native Corporations
- Local non-profits
- School districts, etc.

A memorandum of agreement (MOA) defines the service area and specifies the partnership provisions pertaining to mentors' placement:**

- Employer of the mentor, position title, and cost
- Funding partners
- District(s) receiving services from the mentor
- Base location and office space for the mentor
- Format and budget for distance-delivered services and/or travel-based services
- ACPE's role as Consortium facilitator and training provider

**Training and resources may also be available to districts' employees, e.g., counselors, advisors, or other staff members, who cannot meet the near-peer requirement*

***Sample MOAs available on request*

Funding

Each site is required to identify funding to cover the cost of hiring a mentor. Funding can be derived from multiple sources. Funding for such initiatives has come from:

- Local/regional Native Corporations
- School districts
- Local/national grants
- AmeriCorps programs

*Please note:
Consortium participating members must apply for and manage any grant funds. ACPE can provide examples of materials previously used.*



Contact

Dominika Szpotanska
ACAC Coordinator
(907) 269-7971
Dominika.szpotanska@alaska.gov

acpe.alaska.gov/acac

acac



Alaska
Commission on
Postsecondary
Education