



# I Know I Can

“I Know I Can,” a program of the University of Alaska College Savings Plan and Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, was successfully piloted at six elementary schools in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau in April 2007. Reviews by children, families, and teachers alike were overwhelmingly positive.

Volunteers with a variety of postsecondary education credentials (including apprenticeships, specialized occupational training from military service, as well as vocational or collegiate certificates and degrees) visit second-grade classrooms and read a book titled “*I Know I Can*” to the students. The age-appropriate book tells the story of a group of animal characters trying to determine what they want to be when they grow up and how college fits into those plans. This story is particularly designed for 2nd and 3rd graders to begin career exploration and see its connection to higher education. Through a motivational story line, children learn college is possible.

After discussing the story, each student will be given the opportunity to complete a special postcard to identify what they want to be when they grow up. Upon completing their postcard, each student will receive their **own copy** of the “*I Know I Can*” storybook. The book includes some extra activities that can be enjoyed at home and help initiate conversations about college preparedness with the whole family. The postcard will be mailed back to the children two years later to remind them of their goals and the role of higher education.

“I Know I Can” is an important tool to encourage children and their families to start thinking about college early in their school careers. Research shows that children learn to think of themselves as having higher education and related career opportunities by as early as age eight. The program helps open children’s minds to a multitude of options available to them.

“I Know I Can” is part of a continuum of early outreach efforts to K-12 students in the state of Alaska. The program is projected to grow annually to include new schools and communities statewide. College is possible – help us continue delivering this important message to Alaska’s children.

*The University of Alaska College Savings Plan and the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education are pleased to sponsor this special opportunity for Alaska’s schoolchildren. If you have any questions, please call Shelly Morgan, K-12 Specialist with the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education at (907) 269-7972 or send her an email at: [shelly.morgan@alaska.gov](mailto:shelly.morgan@alaska.gov).*

