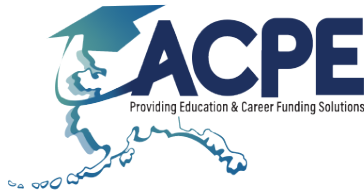


ACPE PRESS RELEASE

Sana Efir
Executive Director
907-465-6740
acpe.alaska.gov



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Executive Director Efir Retires, Thomas Named Acting Executive Director

Juneau, Alaska – After almost 20 years of State of Alaska service, including four years as Executive Director of the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE)/Executive Officer of the Alaska Student Loan Corporation (ASLC), Sana Efir retires effective September 30, 2024. During her tenure with ACPE, Executive Director Efir led ACPE through a multi-year strategic planning process, culminating in the launch of its new strategic plan, mission, vision, and priorities in the spring of 2024. Also during this time, ACPE successfully completed a multi-phase outsourcing project of its loan originations and servicing. The outcome of this project resulted in cost-saving to the agency and allows ACPE/ASLC to continue offering education loans at the lower interest rates. Since 2020, Efir also worked with the Alaska Legislature on the passage of two major bills in support of amplifying education funding solutions for Alaskans. These pieces of legislation resulted in enhanced education loan options for students and, most recently, implementing sweeping changes to the Alaska Performance Scholarship.

During her tenure with the State of Alaska, Efir served as Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Education & Early Development and Assistant Commissioner of the Department of Health & Social Services. These roles, including that of Executive Director with ACPE, highlight Efir's passion for education and wellness of Alaskans. Executive Director Efir is looking forward to her upcoming retirement and sharing many adventures with her husband, Dwight, family and friends, and their adored Great Dane, Lola.

ACPE's Kerry Thomas, will serve as Acting Executive Director, starting October 1, 2024. Thomas brings nearly 20 years of experience within ACPE to this role. During her tenure with ACPE, Thomas served various roles including Internal Auditor and Director of Operations. Prior to ACPE, Director Thomas served as an Accounting Supervisor and Accountant IV with the State of Alaska.

Director Thomas is pleased to serve as Acting Executive Director/Executive Officer in support of the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education's mission to provide sustainable solutions for college, career and technical training.

ABOUT ACPE:

Funded by the Alaska Student Loan Corporation, ACPE provides sustainable solutions for college, career and technical training.

ACPE PROVIDES:

- Postsecondary education planning tools and resources
- Advocacy and support for postsecondary participation in Alaska
- Financial aid for college and career training
- Education consumer protection through Institutional Authorization and complaint investigation

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