



COMMISSION RETREAT • WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 2021

*Crowne Plaza Anchorage-Midtown
109 West International Airport Road
Anchorage, AK*

Goals

1. Support meaningful engagement among Commissioners so that they can work effectively and cohesively toward common goals in support of Alaska's students.
2. Identify clear, concrete strategies for the Commission to work effectively and cohesively toward common goals in support of Alaska's students.
3. Set the stage for the strategic planning phase of the Commission's work toward achieving common goals in support of Alaska's students.

Agenda

10:00 – 10:45 am

*Coffee and pastries
available at 9:30 am*

Welcome, Introductions, and Networking

Objective: Build relationships among Commissioners and reinforce relationships between them.

Welcome:

Josh Bicchinella, President, Charter College
Sana Efird, Executive Director, ACPE

Facilitator:

Demi Michelau, President, WICHE

10:45 – 11:45 am

Getting to Know ACPE: Mission, Roles, and Responsibilities

Objective: Learn about the roles and responsibilities of the Commission and offer historical perspective to inform current and future planning.

Facilitators:

Sana Efird, Executive Director, ACPE
Kerry Thomas, Director of Operations, ACPE

11:45 – 12:00 pm

Break

12:00 pm – 12:45 pm

Getting to Know Each Other: Identifying our Strengths

Objective: Provide a forum for commissioners to think about and share information regarding their individual strengths and attributes that can meaningfully contribute to the success of ACPE.

Facilitators:

Demi Michelau, President, WICHE

Sana Efird, Executive Director, ACPE

12:45 – 1:30 pm

Networking Lunch and Alaska Trivia Game

Facilitator:

Demi Michelau, President, WICHE

1:30 – 2:30 pm

Leveraging our Collective Strengths as a Commission for Success

Objective: Identify Commission strengths that can be leveraged for maximum impact and recognize areas for improvement.

Facilitators:

Demi Michelau, President, WICHE

Sana Efird, Executive Director, ACPE

2:30 – 3:45 pm

Planning for the Future: Establishing Clear, Concrete Next Steps

Objective: Identify clear and concrete steps that the Commission can take now to best position ACPE for success in the future.

Facilitator:

Demi Michelau, President, WICHE

3:45 – 4:00 pm

A Recap: What Have We Heard? What are the Key Takeaways?

Objective: Identify what each member has learned as a result of the retreat.

Facilitator:

Demi Michelau, President, WICHE

4:00 pm

Closing Remarks

Closing:

Josh Bicchinella, President, Charter College

Sana Efird, Executive Director, ACPE

Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

Commission Retreat

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Sana Efird, Executive Director



Alaska Student
Loan Corporation

POSITIVELY IMPACTING HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT FOR ALASKANS



ACPE Mission

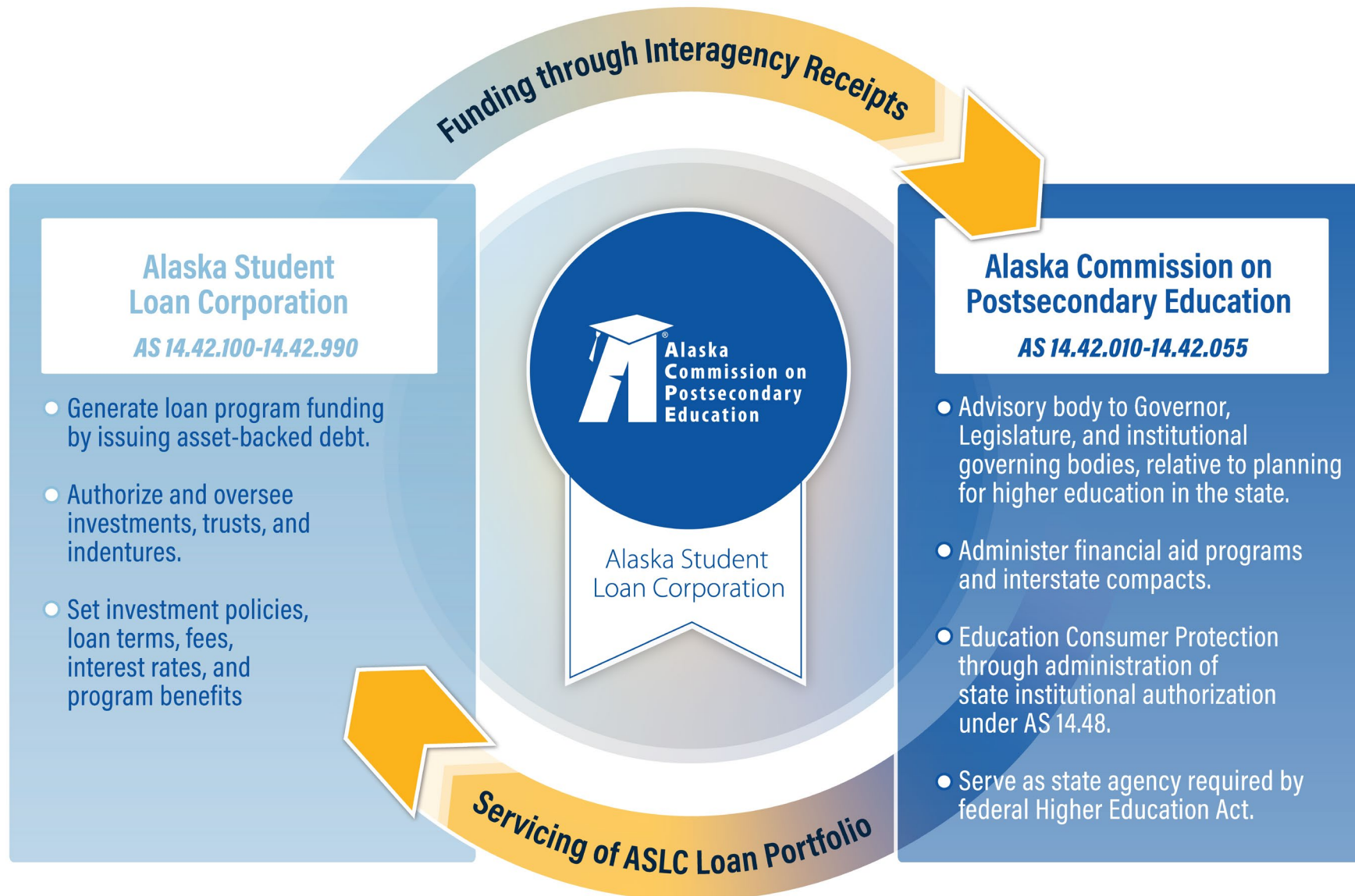
The Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education provides student financial aid and promotes access to and supports success in education and career training beyond high school.

We meet this mission by providing Alaska's citizens with:

1. Low-cost education loans
2. State grant and scholarship programs
3. Consumer protection for Alaska postsecondary students
4. College and career planning services

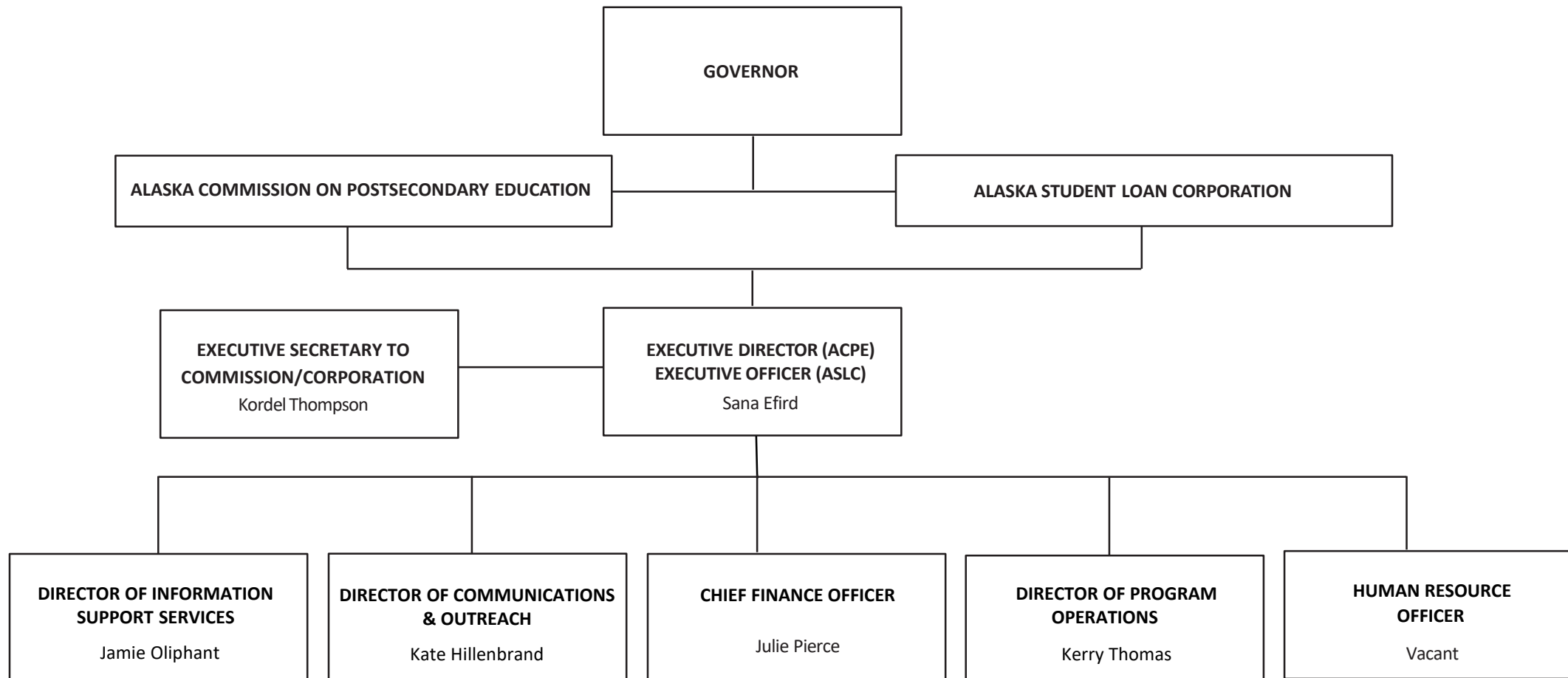


ACPE's Relationship to ASLC





Agency Organizational Chart





ACPE Operational Structure

Executive Office

Strategic planning, program and policy development, institutional authorization, human resource management, legislative liaison, and Commission and Corporation board support

Program Operations

Scholarship and grant administration, loan origination and servicing, exchange program administration, quality assurance and compliance oversight, outcomes reporting, and records management

Finance

Procurement, payment processing, budget management, bond trust administration and compliance, financial reporting and compliance

Information Support Services

Financial aid systems management, internet-based services, database management, business analysis, network support, information security compliance, and website development and maintenance

Communications and Outreach

Alaska Career Information System (AKCIS), Alaska College and Career Advising Corps (ACAC), early awareness programs, higher education planning resources, and support services for school districts and postsecondary institutions



ACPE Higher Education Services and Resources

- › Operation of state loan programs
- › Institutional Authorization and education consumer protection
- › Operation of Alaska Performance Scholarship, Alaska Education Grant, and WWAMI programs
- › Operation of WICHE student exchange programs
- › Alaska Higher Education Almanac annual publication
- › Research briefs and policy analyses publication
- › Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) Report and program evaluation; ten year program review
- › Success Center financial literacy and mentoring services
- › Alaska College and Career Advising Corps including support of FAFSA completion
- › Alaska Career Information System (AKCIS)



Commission Structure

14-member Commission:

- University of Alaska Board of Regents (2)
 - Private higher education (1)
 - Proprietary postsecondary education (1)
 - State Senate (1)
 - State House of Representatives (1)
 - General Public (4)
 - Student (1)
 - Alaska Workforce Investment Board (1)
 - Community College (1)
 - Board of Education and Early Development (1)
-
- › Composition set in statute
 - › Members appointed by the Governor or organizational body



Commission History

1968: Alaska Legislature establishes the State's first scholarship loan program to help educate its citizenry

1974: Legislature creates the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education to manage financial aid programs, coordinate the development of educational programs, and regulate postsecondary institutions in the State for the well being of all Alaskans

1987: Declining oil prices and state revenues result in lack of funding for state programs, and the Legislature preserves citizen access to programs through creation of the Alaska Student Loan Corporation to raise alternative financing through debt issuance

Present: ACPE manages state financial aid programs, citizen education access programs, institutional regulation, and education planning programs, without support of the state General Funds. *

› *For FY2022, ACPE will receiving Higher Education Investment Funds.



Commission Roles, Authorities, and Responsibilities

- › Functions, duties and powers set out in AS 14.42.030, including:
 - › Advisory body to Governor, Legislature, and institutional governing bodies, relative to planning for higher education in the state,
 - › Administer financial aid programs and interstate compacts,
 - › Administer state institutional authorization under AS 14.48,
 - › Serve as state agency required by federal Higher Education Act.

- Meets quarterly (supplemented as needed).

- Commission guides the Executive Director and staff to develop and implement programs and policies to increase access to higher education in Alaska, including both collegiate and vocational education.

- Has broad authority to adopt regulations, set fees, and take related actions to successfully deliver programs and services.



Standing Committees

Standing Committees are appointed annually

- **Executive Committee** - Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission and two Commissioners appointed by the Chair and confirmed by the majority of the Commission. Takes action on issues that arise between regularly scheduled meetings and oversees budget.
- **Internal Audit Committee** – Chairs of the Commission and Corporation, a member of the Commission, and the Executive Director who serves ex-officio. Staff provides updates on audits and compliance reports.
- **Institutional Standards and Evaluation Committee** – five members of the Commission appointed by the Chair for action on initial authorization, renewal authorization, program changes, and matters of institutional compliance.



Summary of Roles and Responsibilities

	Executive Director/Staff	Commission/Board	Governor's Office
Agency staffing	Hires, manages, and terminates staff	Evaluates Executive Director performance; approves agency personnel bylaws	Approves additions of PCNs and significant position range changes
Agency budget	Develops and manages annual budget	Provides direction and maintains oversight; advocates for budget through legislative process, as approved by chair	Approves annual budget request
Strategic planning	Develops programs and executes Commission priorities	Provides direction and maintains oversight; ensures alignment with vision	Oversees performance measures
Legislative advocacy	Provides factual information and supports Commission's advocacy efforts	Develops formal resolutions and statements of position and performs associated advocacy as approved by chair	Approves general advocacy efforts



Challenges

Federal and state program challenges drastically curtailed loan originations, severely impacting program costs and long-term viability (loan programs fund activities):

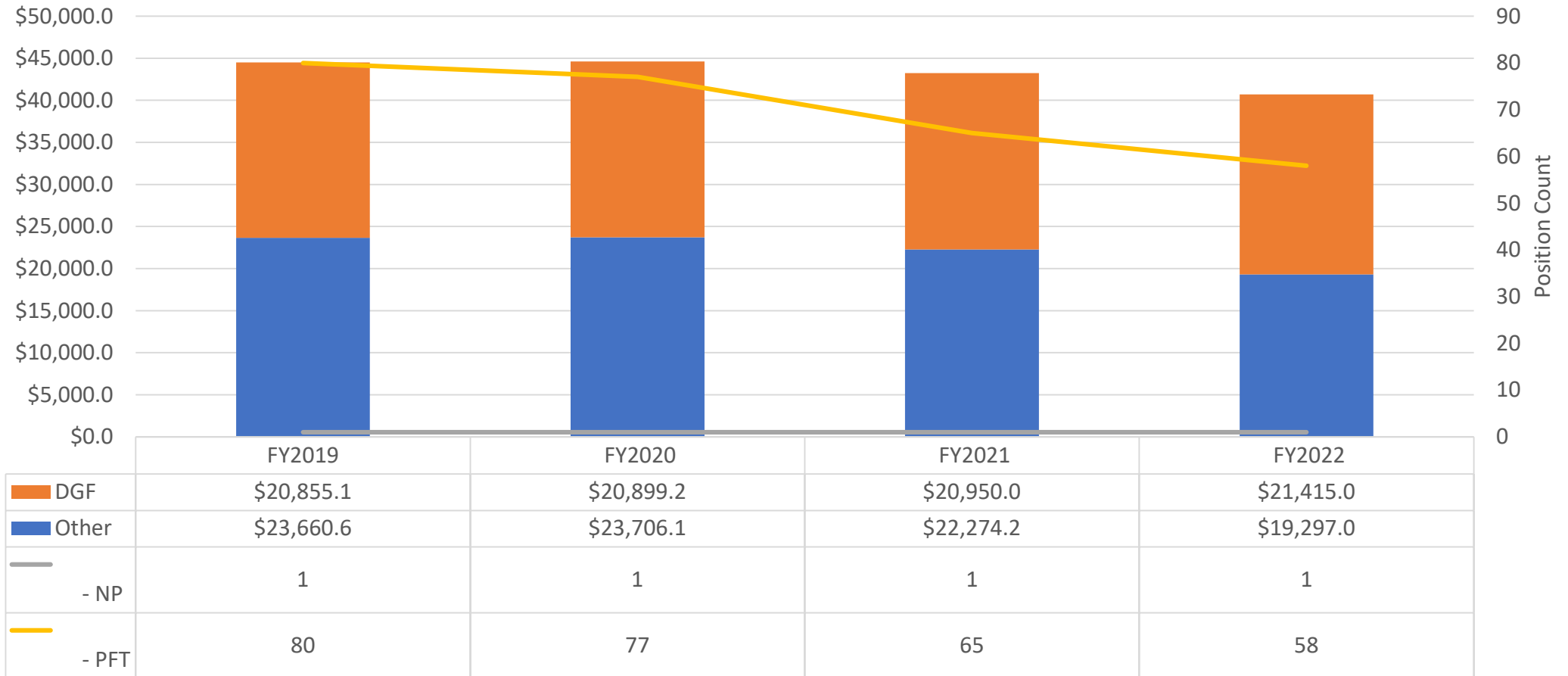
- Elimination of Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP)
- Mortgage crisis impact on investor confidence in student loan supported debt required more rigorous underwriting standards
- Federal preferred lender prohibitions impacted volume
- Growing culture of fear that student loans are inherently bad
- State fiscal climate and enrollment declines
- Alternative state programs – cost effective delivery
- Pandemic created uncertainty
- Higher Education Investment Fund

Challenge is that per-loan servicing costs are increasing as volume decreases, which will impact ASLC ability to secure cost-efficient financing in the future.



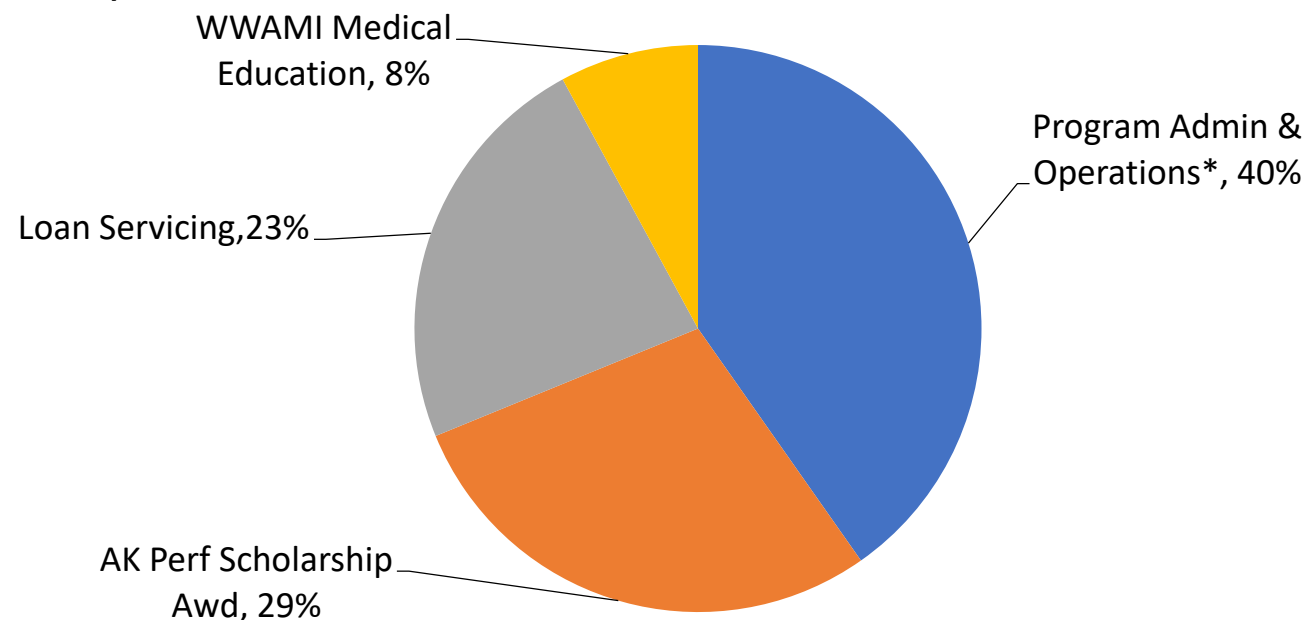
Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education – Operating Budget (\$ thousands)

Funding and Position History





FY2022 Governor’s Budget – Program Funding (\$ thousands)



	UGF	DGF	Other	Fed	Grand Total
Program Admin & Operations*	\$ -	\$ 6,408.1	\$ 10,086.5	\$ -	\$ 16,494.6
WWAMI Medical Education	\$ -	\$ 3,258.0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,258.0
Alaska Performance Scholarship Awards	\$ -	\$ 11,750.0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,750.0
Loan Servicing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,936.5	\$ -	\$ 9,936.5
Grand Total	\$ -	\$ 21,416.1	\$ 20,023.0	\$ -	\$ 41,439.1

**Includes \$5,841.8 from the Higher Education Investment Fund (HEIF) for the Alaska Education Grant (AEG)*



Strategic Planning Update

- › Meetings with Executive Committee
- › Internal Senior Managers meetings
- › Developed extensive list of priority projects
- › Major effort needed to complete outsourcing and servicing of loans
- › Changing face of ongoing operations
- › Complete strategic plan



Areas of Focus

- › Creative strategies for supporting borrowers pre and post loan acquisition
- › Increase FAFSA completion rates
- › Renewed engagement with K-12 to build meaningful pathways from high school graduation to postsecondary options
 - AKCIS
 - 7-12 Focus Program
 - Share data
 - Develop advisory capacity
- › Bring non-traditional students into or back to postsecondary opportunities
- › Improve APS and AEG
- › Strengthen stakeholder partnerships and explore opportunities to collaborate
- › Coordinated plan and use of COVID funds



Contact Information

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Thank you!