September 29, 2018

Dear friends and volunteers,

***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. This program helps open children’s minds to a multitude of options available to them.

Volunteers who have successfully obtained a postsecondary education (including apprenticeships, specialized occupational training from military service, as well as vocational or collegiate programs) visit second-grade classrooms in participating schools 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. The postcard will be mailed back to the children when they complete elementary school to remind them of their goals and the role of higher education. Upon completing their postcard, each student will receive their own copyof 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.

***I Know I Can*** is part of a continuum of early outreach efforts to K-12 students in the state of Alaska. Recent participating school districts include: Anchorage, Alaska Gateway, Annette Isalnd, Bering Strait, Copper River, Craig City, Delta-Greely, Dillingham, Fairbanks, Iditarod, Juneau, Kashunamiut, Kenai Peninsula Borough, Ketchikan Gateway, Kodiak Island Borough, Lower Kuskokwim, Lower Yukon, Mat-Su, Nome, North Slope Borough, Northwest Arctic Borough, Petersburg City, Sitka Borough, Southeast Island, Southwest Region, Unalaska City, Valdez City, Wrangell Public, Yukon-Koyukuk, and Yupiit school districts.

This year, we have **opportunities for 100 volunteers** **in Anchorage** and we would love to have your help!

We hope that you and your colleagues will take part in this important and exciting opportunity, and contribute to the success of Alaska’s youth. College is possible – help us continue delivering this important message to Alaska’s children.

**To volunteer, contact Shelly Morgan, K-12 Specialist at 907-269-7972 or** [**shelly.morgan@alaska.gov**](mailto:shelly.morgan@alaska.gov)**.**

We look forward to your positive response and participation in the **I Know I Can** program.

Sincerely,

Shelly Morgan, K-12 Specialist  
Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education