



## GREETINGS!



photo J. Rieselbach

In this issue, we'll provide information on five new Commissioner appointments, spotlight Vocational Training & Resource Center, inform of our new interest rates and more! As always, I invite you to send me your feedback or suggestions for future topics.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kerche', enclosed in a simple rectangular box.

## SPOTLIGHT ON...

### Vocational Training & Resource Center (VTRC)

VTRC is a component of and operated by the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. They offer Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Class "A" Training in Juneau and Ketchikan that is authorized by the Department of Administration, Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and certified by the by the Professional Truck Driver Institute (PTDI), a national organization that sets standards for the industry.

In July 2013, VTRC was approved to deliver online training with local support using the programs of Penn Foster. Penn Foster is a Pennsylvania-based postsecondary institution, nationally accredited by the Accrediting Commission of the Distance Education Training Council (DETC) and authorized by the Pennsylvania Dept. of Education, Bureau of Postsecondary and Adult Education. VTRC is approved to offer forty-five Penn Foster programs. Additionally, VTRC offers short courses of study in computer skills (Outlook, Word, Excel) and in vocational certifications (Flagger, HAZWOPER).



VTRC

At the April 6th meeting, the Commission re-authorized VTRC, through April 2020. Congratulations!

## New Commissioners and New Chair and Vice-Chair

This spring, ACPE welcomed 5 Commission members and elected new Commission leadership.

**Representative Harriet Drummond** was appointed to the Commission by the Speaker of the House. Rep. Drummond was first elected to the Alaska House of Representatives in 2012 from District 18 in Anchorage and is the Chair of the House Education Committee. She is a graphic designer and former Anchorage School Board and Anchorage Assembly member. Rep. Drummond holds a Bachelor's Degree from Cornell University.

**Lisa Parker** joined the Commission as a designee from the University of Alaska Board of Regents. She was appointed to the Board in 2015 by Governor Walker. Regent Parker was formerly the External Affairs & Government Relations Manager for Apache Corporation. Prior to her work at Apache, she spent eight years as the Government and Community Relations Manager for Agrium USA, one of the world's largest fertilizer manufacturers. She is also the former Planning Director for the Kenai Peninsula Borough, and served six years on the College Council for the University of Alaska, Kenai River Campus. Regent Parker holds a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from The American University.

**Senator Shelley Hughes** was appointed to the Commission by the President of the Senate. Sen. Hughes was elected to the Alaska House of Representatives in 2012 from District 11 in the rural Palmer area. She was elected to represent Senate District F in 2016 and serves on several Senate Committees, including the Education and Finance Committees. Sen. Hughes was formerly the Policy Affairs Director for the Alaska Primary Care Association and holds a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Alaska.

**Les Morse** was appointed to the Commission by Governor Walker as a member of the public. Mr. Morse previously served as the Deputy Commissioner of the Alaska Dept. of Education & Early Development from 2008 until early 2016. He also worked for many years in the Juneau School District as both a teacher and principal. He holds a Master's in Education from the University of Alaska Southeast.

**Dr. Pearl Brower** was appointed by Governor Walker to the Community Colleges seat on the Commission. Dr. Brower is the President of Ilisagvik College in Utqiagvik, Alaska's only Tribal College. Prior to her appointment as President in 2012, she worked at the College in External Relations, Institutional Advancement, Student Services, and Marketing. She holds a Ph.D. in Indigenous Studies, with an emphasis in Indigenous Leadership, a Master's in Alaska Native and Rural Development and a Bachelor's Degree, all from the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

At the April 6th meeting, Mr. Joey Crum was elected Chair and Ms. Pat Jacobson was elected Vice-Chair of the Commission. Commissioner Crum is the CEO of Northern Industrial Training and serves in the seat designated for an administrator of an authorized proprietary institution. Commissioner Jacobson is a retired educator and serves in a seat designated for a member of the public.

Congratulations to the new Commissioners and to the new Chair and Vice-Chair!

To read more about the Commissioners visit ACPE's About Us page at:

[https://acpe.alaska.gov/ABOUT\\_US/About\\_ACPE\\_AS LC/Leadership](https://acpe.alaska.gov/ABOUT_US/About_ACPE_AS LC/Leadership).

## Alaska Student Loan Corporation Sets 2017 / 2018 Interest Rates

The Alaska Student Loan Corporation (ASLC) met on May 3rd and set the interest rates for the upcoming 2017 / 2018 academic year. The rates for both the Alaska Supplemental Education Loan and the Family Education Loan were set at 5.75% and the rate for the Alaska Refinance Loan was set at 4.95%. The federal PLUS loan interest rate for 2017 / 2018 is 7%.

To read the press release click [here](#).

For more information see our website at

[http://acpe.alaska.gov/FINANCIAL\\_AID/Loans/State\\_Education\\_Loans](http://acpe.alaska.gov/FINANCIAL_AID/Loans/State_Education_Loans)



## Alaska Bible College Receives Award from Accreditor

Alaska Bible College (ABC) is a small college in Palmer that offers biblically-based ministry training. They are accredited by the Association of Biblical Higher Education (ABHE), a national accreditor recognized by the US Dept. of Education. In February, ABHE announced the winners of the Jonathan N. Thigpen Enrollment Growth Awards. The Awards recognize "outstanding achievement represented by the highest unduplicated annualized headcount enrollment growth from 2015-2016..." and are presented to four institutions, categorized by the size of the student body. ABC had the largest growth for an institution in the first (smallest) group at 24.5%! As an award winner, ABC was gifted \$500 to be used in their library.



Congratulations to ABC!

### Recent Commission Actions

#### April 6, 2017 Meeting

##### Renewal of Authorization

- Vocational Training & Resource Center (Juneau)

##### Change in Leadership

- Dr. Bob Onders, Interim President, Alaska Pacific University
- Mr. Joshua Bicchinella, President, Charter College

### Upcoming Events

#### July 25, 2017

- Quarterly Commission Meeting (Anchorage and via teleconference)

#### **IMPORTANT DATE: July 17, 2017**

**Deadline for receipt of materials for items to be presented at the October 24, 2017 Commission meeting**

**Commission Adopts Resolution to Support the Alaska Performance Scholarship and Alaska Education Grants**

At its April 6, 2017 meeting, the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education voted to approve a resolution that supports the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) and Alaska Education Grant (AEG) programs.



As part of its mission to promote student access to and success in education beyond high school, the Commission is concerned that one of the key incentives for Alaska's students to excel in high school and be prepared for postsecondary and workforce success may be eliminated.

Already into its sixth year, the APS has provided Alaska's high school students an opportunity to earn a scholarship to attend college in Alaska if they push themselves to take a more rigorous curriculum and earn higher grades. With six cohorts having earned the APS, the data clearly show the program is meeting its goals and benefitting students, school districts, and the State's economy as a whole:

- APS users have a 25 percent higher rate of Alaska residency five years after graduation, and 83 percent of APS users say they were influenced by the APS to attend school in Alaska
- APS-eligible students (even those who never use the APS) report the APS made them more likely to work to achieve better grades, take placement exams, seek college or academic advising, and take challenging courses.
- Almost twice as many APS students at the University of Alaska are prepared for college work and need no remediation, as compared to non-APS students.
- 67 percent of APS students persist into their fourth year at the University of Alaska, compared to only 35 percent of non-APS students, again almost double.

To read the resolution click [here](#).

## Some Surprising Facts regarding Authorized Alaska Institutions

Q: Which authorized institution has the largest student body?

A: Alaska Pacific University (APU)

In Fall 2016, APU in Anchorage had 541 students with 243 of those in enrolled in graduate programs. Next is Wayland Baptist University (WBU) with 515 students. WBU has six locations in Alaska - Anchorage, Mat-Su, JBER, Fairbanks, Ft. Richardson and Ft. Wainwright.

Q: What profession has the most authorized training programs?

A: Cosmetology

Cosmetology is the study and application of beauty treatment. Branches of specialty include hairstyling, skin care, cosmetics, manicures / pedicures and hair removal. There are 10 schools in Alaska that offer training in one or more of the professions of hairdressing, barbering, esthetics and nail technician. They are: A Head of Time Design Academy, Academy of Hair Design, Alaska Academy of Advanced Cosmetology, Glenda's Training Center, Hair Science, Mane Place Academy of Hair Design, MetrOasis Advanced Training Center, Shear Fire Academy of Hair Design, The Esthetics District and Trend Setters School of Beauty. The majority are very small, serving 15 students or less a year. The total number of students served by these 10 schools in a year is under 200.

Q: How many authorized institutions in Alaska are branches of institutions headquartered in other states?

A: Six

Colleges and universities that have a close relationship with the military have established branches on Alaska bases. These institutions are: Central Texas College, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University (FL), Thomas Edison State University (NJ) and Wayland Baptist University (TX).

Charter College was founded in Alaska but now has multiple locations in WA, MT, CA and NM. In 2016, Charter's main campus was moved from Anchorage to Vancouver, WA.

Seattle University School of Law established a third year of law school program in Anchorage as Alaska is the only state without a law school.



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