



INstitution ***IN***sight

Winter, 2015
Issue No. 1

GREETINGS!

Welcome to the first issue of ACPE's ***IN***stitution ***IN***sight, a quarterly newsletter provided by your Institutional Authorization and Compliance team: Kierke Kussart, Program Coordinator, and Joann Rieselbach, School Relations Manager. We hope this communiqué will not only provide you and your staff with useful information, but be a springboard for questions, generate training opportunities, and enhance future conversations.



Kierke



Joann

We hope you'll take a moment and provide us with feedback on this initial issue, or offer suggestions on topics you'd like to see in the future. You can reach us at:

kierke.kussart@alaska.gov, 907.465.6741, or
joann.rieselbach@alaska.gov, 907.465.6678

SPOTLIGHT ON... Central Texas College

Join ACPE in congratulating Alaska's newest authorized institution, Central Texas College (CTC)! CTC is a public community college founded in Killeen, TX, in 1965. In 1970, CTC began offering courses at nearby Ft. Hood, commencing a relationship with the military that led to the establishment of campuses on bases around the world, including Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson (JBER) and Ft. Wainwright. All campuses are regionally accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

The campuses offer students courses taught by an in-class instructor or by an off-site instructor who broadcasts into the classroom in real time, with teacher/student interaction via video and teleconferencing. Students can also take completely online classes outside of the classroom setting. CTC offers both Associate of Arts (A.A.) and Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) programs.



L to R: Leigh Ann Cullman (Site Clerk), Margaret Pylant (Area Director, Alaska) and Matilda Toro (Site Registrar)

SAVE THE DATE!

The first Alaska Postsecondary Access & Completion Network Conference is taking place March 17-18, 2015, at the Downtown Marriot, in Anchorage, AK. The Network was formed to address Alaska's postsecondary crisis and brings together organizations invested in postsecondary access and completion. The Network is committed to "65 by 2025," which is to increase the percentage of working-age adults holding a high-value certificate, college degree, or other industry-recognized credential to 65% by the year 2025. We invite you to join in this effort.

The 2015 Postsecondary Access and Success Conference is a time for Alaskans - professionals in education, business, public service - to unite and work together to increase the number of Alaskans enrolling and succeeding in postsecondary education. By participating in this conference, attendees will:

- Develop a common understanding of and sense of urgency about Alaska's serious postsecondary access & completions challenge, and related workforce implications
- Learn about the Network, including how they can be part of the 65% by 2025 goal
- Engage in active discussions to help bridge cross-sector gaps
- Develop a deeper and shared knowledge of current existing Alaska initiatives, service coverages and gaps, and existing best practices

Conference sessions will focus on the following Network themes: Expectations, Preparation, Affordability, Network Activities, Support Services, and Data. A limited number of travel scholarships (airfare and hotel) will be available.

Visit the [conference event page](http://events.SignUp4.com/APAN15) at <http://events.SignUp4.com/APAN15> for complete conference information. We hope to see you there!

Recent Commission Actions

January 8, 2015 Meeting

Initial Authorization

- Central Texas College

Renewal of Authorization

- Charter College Anchorage
- MetrOasis Advanced Training Center

New Programs

- Alaska Career College: A.A.S. in Business Administration and Human Resource Management
- Spirit Path Ayurveda: 200-hour and 300-hour Yoga Teacher Training certificates

WANT MORE ACPE NEWS? For information on agency-wide activities, initiatives, and staff spotlights, read **ACPE Update**, a twice-yearly publication provided by ACPE's Executive Office. Read the [most recent issue](#) today!

Upcoming Events

February 2-6, 2015

- Roll-out of ACPE's new, mobile-friendly website
- Support/Service Survey sent to Institutions

March 17-18, 2015

- **SAVE THE DATE!** AK Postsecondary Access & Completion Network Conference, Anchorage (see related article in this issue)

March 31, 2015

- Deadline for Renewal of Institution APS Program Participation Agreement

April 3, 2015

- Quarterly Commission meeting (in Juneau)

IMPORTANT DATE: April 15, 2015

- **Deadline for receipt of materials for items to be presented at July 2015 Commission meeting**

FOCUS ON REGULATIONS

Changes to 20 AAC 17.045. Bonding Requirements

As part of ACPE's consumer protection role, Alaska regulations require authorized institutions to secure a surety bond, to be accessed by the Commission to provide students with refunds should the school encounter financial difficulties or suddenly close. The current bonding maximum of \$100,000 has not been modified in over 15 years, while student tuition has risen significantly during that time. To ensure adequate consumer protection, it was necessary to adjust the bonding amounts. At its October 2014 meeting, the Commission approved proposed changes to 20 AAC 17.045, raising the maximum bonding amount to \$250,000; the minimum amount will remain unchanged.

The new regulations will be effective February 22, 2015. ACPE will work with institutions affected by the change throughout the coming months to ensure a seamless transition.

TIMELY TIP!

Does your institution participate in the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) program? If so, it's time to renew your Program Participation Agreement! The renewal deadline is March 31, 2015. For more information, call Joann at 907.465.6678.



Infographic: Alaska's Postsecondary Completion Crisis

Alaska's students encounter many drop-off points across our education spectrum. Currently, Alaska's postsecondary education completion rate not only lags well behind the U.S. average but is among the lowest in the nation. Only **26%** of students who enroll in postsecondary education earn a postsecondary credential within six years of starting.

The infographic "[Alaska's Postsecondary Completion Crisis](#)," reflects sobering statistics. Developed by the College Access & Success Planning Group of the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education and the University of Alaska, this document is intended to draw attention to the negative impacts of this inadequate completion rate - illustrating consequences for our citizens and our state. At the same time, the infographic highlights recent initiatives to address these statistics in a positive fashion and shows that change is possible.

*Please take a moment to read the infographic, and together - **Let's Do More.***

STAY CONNECTED

