



Hello from Juneau!

Solstice has come and gone, but many of us throughout the state are still enjoying the long days of summer – including an abundance of berries!

This summer issue will:

- review the exciting changes to Alaska's education loan programs that became effective in the 2015 - 2016 academic year;
- discuss the changes brought about by the passage of House Bill 131 (HB 131);
- introduce an upcoming training opportunity;
- share highlights from the most recent Commission meeting; and
- shine our institution spotlight on Seattle University School of Law.



Juneau "cloudberry"  
(aka low-bush salmonberries)

We truly enjoy hearing from you, our customers and partners. If you have feedback regarding this newsletter or would like to offer suggestions for future articles, give us a call!

Two handwritten signatures in black ink, one reading "Joan" and the other "Kisha".

## SPOTLIGHT ON...

### Seattle University School of Law Alaska Satellite Law Campus

This fall, a one-of-its-kind opportunity is available to students attending an accredited law school, seeking to practice law in Alaska. In partnership with Alaska Pacific University, and with the approval of the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE), the Seattle University (SU) School of Law will open the doors to its Alaska Satellite Law Campus in September 2015!

SU School of Law has had a summer program in Anchorage for 13 years, with nearly 200 program participants. The School states the summer program not only provided a natural foundation upon which the Satellite Law Campus was established, but illustrated SU School of Law's continued commitment to Alaska.

After spending their first two years studying at SU School of Law, or another accredited law school, law students will have the option to complete their third and final year of study in Alaska, learning about Alaska's unique legal environment. Students also have the option to spend the summer prior to and after the third year of study in Alaska, gaining substantive work experience through Anchorage internships. Classes will be taught primarily by members of Alaska's bench and bar, as well as by career faculty from the Seattle campus.

Stephanie Nichols, J.D., Executive Director of the Alaska Satellite Law Campus, spearheaded this exciting endeavor. Having grown up in Fairbanks, Professor



Stephanie Nichols, J.D.  
Executive Director  
Adjunct Professor  
Alaska Satellite Law Campus

Nichols says "I am thrilled to be a part of something of such great historical significance in my home state. It is a privilege to be working in Alaska alongside my fellow Alaskans and to be creating opportunities for the people and state of Alaska." Goals include offering a quality program that will not only attract students to the Seattle University School of Law, but to provide those students with connections to the strong employment market in Alaska. This year-long program brings legal education to Alaska, the only state without a law school.

Alaska Pacific University is providing administrative and classroom space to Seattle University School of Law. In addition, the Alaska Court System is making their law library and courtroom space available to students enrolled in the Alaska program.

## Welcome to Alaska, Seattle University School of Law!

### Save the Date! Upcoming Workshop

Your valued responses to the recent Institutional Authorization (IA) Support and Service Survey helped to identify areas in which we, your IA team, can inform and better support Alaska's postsecondary institution staff. To that end, we're pleased to announce the first of a series of institutional authorization / regulatory compliance webinars. The initial session, a review of 20 AAC 17.110, Records, will answer questions such as:

- What kind of record-keeping does the State require from postsecondary institutions?
- Are there specific requirements for student records?
- How long must these records be retained?
- Is my institution in compliance with 20 AAC 17.110?

This one-hour webinar will take place Wednesday, September 30, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. An invitation and presentation materials will be issued no later than August 30th, but in the meantime, save the date!

### Recent Commission Actions

#### July 23, 2015 Meeting

##### Initial Authorization

- Thomas Edison State College (Eielson AFB)

##### Renewal of Authorization

- Alaska Christian College (Soldotna)

##### Program Amendments

- New campus president (Alaska Bible College)
- New campus president (Charter College)
- New program (Glenda's Training Center)

### Upcoming Events

#### September 17, 2015

Alaska Postsecondary Access & Completion Network Executive Committee Meeting. For more information, visit <http://acpe.alaska.gov/access>.

#### September 30, 2015

Authorized Institutions Webinar: Records

#### October 22, 2015

Quarterly Commission Meeting (Anchorage)

#### **IMPORTANT DATE: October 15, 2015**

**Deadline for receipt of materials for items to be presented at the January 7, 2016 Commission meeting**

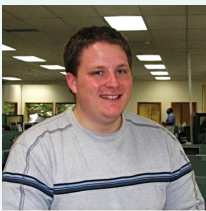
# ALASKA EDUCATION LOAN PROGRAM CHANGES

Effective Academic Year 2015-2016

As a reminder, the changes to ACPE's loan programs (the Alaska Supplemental Education and Family Education Loans, or ASEL and FEL, respectively) are now in effect. The changes –

- incent undergraduate degree-seeking students to complete their education timely through the "on-time" enrollment status;
- increase the annual and aggregate borrowing amounts for degree and career/technical education certificate programs; and
- through the postsecondary institution certification process, ensures students do not borrow more than necessary.

ACPE's Financial Aid Servicing Team (FAST) has been hard at work over the past several weeks, updating application forms and procedures. We hope the changes prove beneficial not only to students, but to all postsecondary institution financial aid advisors and staff!



Adam Weed

If your students have questions about the changes and how it may impact their 2015/2016 loans, please encourage them to contact our Customer Service Center at 800.441.2962 or [ACPE@alaska.gov](mailto:ACPE@alaska.gov). If you or any other institution staff have questions, feel free to call or email Adam Weed, School Liaison, at 907.465.6781 or [adam.weed@alaska.gov](mailto:adam.weed@alaska.gov).

## And More Changes!

### Alaska Student Aid Portal (ASAP)

ACPE has implemented the new platform for the administration of the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) and Alaska Education Grant (AEG) programs. Still known as the Alaska Student Aid Portal (ASAP), the new platform includes modifications to some of the functionalities of its predecessor. For example, participating institutions now have the ability to manage their own ASAP users.

One important change is that users must create a new account in the new system; profiles in the old system are no longer active. Students can access the registration page by going to <https://acpestudentaidportal.alaska.gov/ASAP/StudentRegisterForLogin.aspx>. Once they have registered, they can access their AEG or APS information. ACPE's Customer Service staff are on hand to provide assistance, so please don't hesitate to pass along the call center's toll free number: 800.441.2962.

As of the date of this newsletter, all institutions participating in the AEG and/or APS programs have received training on the new system. If you or your staff have not received this training, or would like to know who has been designated as your institution's ASAP Site Administrator, please contact Maureen Danberg, ACPE Senior Financial Aid Specialist and ASAP training coordinator. Maureen can be reached at 907.465.6695 or [maureen.danberg@alaska.gov](mailto:maureen.danberg@alaska.gov).



Maureen Danberg

## APS Student Survey Results

Earlier this year, and on behalf of ACPE, the McDowell Group conducted a survey of over 2,100 students who received, or were eligible to receive, the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS). The responses demonstrated the program, first available to high school graduates from the Class of 2011, is

positively influencing students to become better prepared for postsecondary education and career success.

As reported in ACPE's [June 16, 2015 press release](#), Diane Barrans, Executive Director, stated "It is extremely gratifying to hear directly from these young Alaskans that the APS is working as intended with Alaska high school graduates who are more likely to pursue Alaska's college and career education options, and are better prepared to succeed in postsecondary education."

The fully survey report is available on ACPE's website, <https://acpe.alaska.gov>, under [Reports > APS Survey Report](#). We invite you to take a look at the results!

Does your institution participate in the Alaska Education Loan, Alaska Performance Scholarship, or Alaska Education Grant program? If so, how is your institution communicating the availability of these financial aid options to current or prospective students?

Take a look at the financial aid page(s) of your website and catalog through the eyes of a current or prospective student. Is it apparent to individuals who may be unfamiliar with the world of financial aid that an APS-eligible student can use their award to attend programs offered at your institution - including career and technical education certificate programs? Do they know the State offers loan programs that supplement federal Direct Loans, at rates that are among the lowest in the nation?

*Timely Tip*

Determining how to pay for college or career education training is one of the most significant hindrances to the decision to pursue education beyond high school. Ensuring your institution's financial aid information easy to find and easy to understand will help Alaskans become better informed about paying for their education!

## FOCUS ON REGULATIONS

### House Bill 131 (HB 131)

On May 26th, Governor Walker signed into law HB 131, "An Act relating to the licensure of nail technicians and hairdressers..." amending AS 08.13. Under the new law, the length of a manicuring program required for licensure will increase from 12 to 250 hours, effective January 1, 2016. To ensure everyone is fully aware of the new law and its impacts, ACPE pro-actively reached out to owners of manicuring schools currently offering the 12-hour program, informed them of the change in law, and provided information relative to the requirements needed to offer the 250-hour program. Currently-authorized cosmetology schools were also contacted and provided guidance on submitting a program amendment to have the 250-hour program approved, should they intend to offer it.

As this bill demonstrates, other state agency regulations may affect an institution's postsecondary education programs. Institutions are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the agencies that oversee their programs, particularly those leading to licensure. Should ACPE's IA team become aware of legislation that may impact your programs, we will make every effort to communicate such changes to you!

Did you know Alaska has:

- 25 postsecondary institutions authorized to offer collegiate education and vocational training?
- 76 schools, businesses or other organizations offering short programs (less than 120 hours or 15 days in duration) for career training?

## Fun Facts!

- 25 trade, business, professional, labor, or fraternal organizations sponsoring educational training, such as apprenticeship programs?
- 3 flight schools offering courses and programs that have Federal Aviation Administration certification (under 14 C.F.R. Part 141 or 142)?
- 6 religious organizations offering religious programs of study?
- 11 training providers offering continuing education or test preparation?
- 16 institutions or organizations offering postsecondary educational programs, which are regulated by another agency or political subdivision of the state?

Alaskans truly have many and diverse education and career training opportunities!



Kierke

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## Tell Us How We're Doing!

[ACPE.alaska.gov](http://ACPE.alaska.gov)

STAY CONNECTED



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