



## GREETINGS!



In this issue, we'll introduce ACPE's newest Commissioner; shine our authorized institution spotlight on Mane Place Academy, and inform of an upcoming change in leadership. As always, I invite you to send me your feedback or suggestions for future topics.

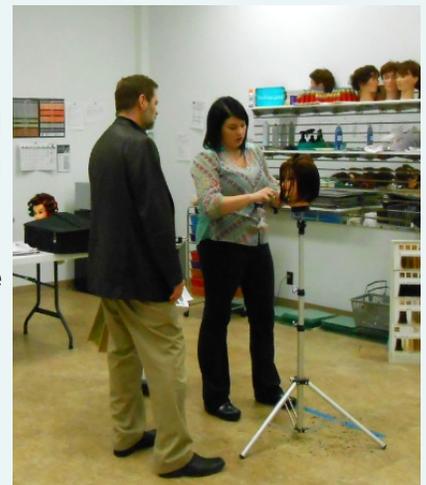
A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Kurt Kuhne'.

## SPOTLIGHT ON...

### Mane Place Academy

Mane Place Academy is the sole authorized cosmetology school in Fairbanks, an area which is home to more than 30 salons. Owner Randy Reynolds has been a licensed hairdresser in Alaska since 1981 and a licensed instructor since 2001. His objective is to provide training focused on a sound foundation in basic hair design, customer service and self-management skills. He stresses the importance of continuing education, both on-the-job and in the classroom, to be successful in the hairdressing field. Mane Place opened its doors to hairdressing students in November 2014.

At the January 7th meeting, the Commission re-authorized Mane Place Academy, through January 2019. Congratulations!



Mane Place classroom  
photo: K. Kussart

## New Commissioner

At the January 7, 2016 meeting, ACPE welcomed a new Commissioner. In November 2015, **Kurt Kuhne** was selected by the members of the Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB) to fill their designated seat on the Commission. Governor Walker appointed Mr. Kuhne to AWIB in October 2015 as a private sector representative. Mr. Kuhne is the executive director of Yuut Elitnaurviat - People's Learning Center, a non-profit corporation dedicated to providing training and education

opportunities in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region.

To read more about the Commissioners visit the 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).

## Executive Director of ACPE announces retirement

After 34 years of public service, 21 of which has been as the Executive Director of the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, Diane Barrans announced in October that she will be retiring effective June 1, 2016. The Commission's Search Committee, comprised of members of the Commission and ACPE's senior management team, has been formed and will begin recruitment activities in February.



We wish Ms. Barrans the best of luck in her future endeavors and thank her for her years of service to the State of Alaska and her leadership of commission staff.

## Recent Commission Actions

### January 7, 2016 Meeting

#### Initial Authorization

- Anchorage Yoga

#### Renewal of Authorization

- Alaska Pacific University (Anchorage)
- Charter College (Anchorage and Wasilla)
- Mane Place Academy (Fairbanks)
- Spirit Path Yoga and Wellness (Anchorage)

## Upcoming Events

### March 22 & 23, 2016

Alaska Postsecondary Access and Completion Network Conference (Anchorage)

### April 5, 2016

Quarterly Commission Meeting (Juneau)

### **IMPORTANT DATE: April 15, 2016**

**Deadline for receipt of materials for items to be presented at the July 28, 2016 Commission meeting**

## Alaska Pacific University identified as very effective by MHEC

In August 2015, a regional education organization, the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC), released a research brief on **The Effectiveness and Efficiency of Postsecondary Institutions in the United States: 2010-2012 Baseline Results**. Institutional effectiveness is defined as the difference between an institution's actual graduation rate and the rate that would be expected given the institution's structural attributes, the types of students served, financial resources, and the geographical context. Institutional efficiency is estimated as the difference between actual educational expenditures and the expenditures that would be predicted from degree production levels, faculty attributes, and location.

In the brief, Alaska Pacific University (APU) was identified as a having a very high effectiveness rating. For the full results of the study see: <http://www.mhec.org/sites/mhec.org/files/201507EENational.pdf>

At the January 7th meeting, the Commission re-authorized Alaska Pacific University, through January 2021. Congratulations to APU on being determined to be highly effective and on reauthorization!

## Second Alaska Network Conference will be held in March 65 by 2025 - Learn, Connect, Develop!

The second Alaska Postsecondary Access & Completion Network Conference is taking place March 22- 23, 2016, at the Downtown Marriot, in Anchorage, AK. The Network was formed to address Alaska's postsecondary crisis and brings together organizations and individuals invested in postsecondary access and completion. The Network is committed to "65 by 2025," which is to increase the percentage of Alaska's working-age adult population 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 conference is a time for Alaskans - professionals in education, business, public service - to unite and work effectively together to increase the number of Alaskans enrolling and succeeding in postsecondary education. By participating in this conference, attendees will:

### Learn...

- The important message behind the Network's postsecondary attainment goal of 65% by 2025
- What programs & best practices in Alaska currently advance the attainment goal
- Specific ways to impact the attainment goal with practical information & current resources

### Connect...

- And build relationships with others engaged in advancing the goal
- To link Alaska's support programs for students & working-age individuals on the path to a postsecondary credential

### Develop...

- Partnerships & networks that will allow you to collaborate & reach your organization's goals
- New resources that can be shared across the state

Conference sessions will focus on the following Network themes: Expectations, Preparation, Affordability and Support Services. Participants may be eligible for Professional Development Credit through the UAS Professional Education Center.

Visit the conference event page [here](#) for complete conference information. We hope to see you there!



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

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