



INstitution INsight

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GREETINGS!



Blueberry blossoms photo: J. Rieselbach

In this issue, we'll provide information on Commissioner appointments, spotlight Alaska Bible College, provide a legislative update and more! As always, I invite you to send me your feedback or suggestions for future topics.

Kierke

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Alaska Bible College

Alaska Bible College prepares students for Christian ministry with theological education, Biblical studies and practical ministry training. According to the mission statement "The purpose of Alaska Bible College is to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ and extend His Church by biblically training believers to be servant-leaders with Christ-like character." It is the only accredited, four-year school dedicated to ministry training in the state. The College was founded in Glennallen in 1966 and achieved initial accreditation from the Association of Biblical Higher Education in 1982. In 2013 the main campus was relocated from Glennallen to a facility in downtown Palmer. The College offers a one-year Bible Certificate, a two-year Bible and Ministry Certificate, a two-year AA degree in Biblical Studies and a four-year BA degree in Biblical Studies and Christian Ministry.



photo: K. Kussart

At the April 5th meeting, the Commission re-authorized Alaska Bible College, through April 2019. Congratulations!

Two Commissioner Appointments and a new Chair

On April 2, 2016 Governor Walker appointed Patricia Jacobson and re-appointed Randy Weaver to Commission seats that are designated for members of the general public. Ms. Jacobson has previously served on the Commission while a member of University of Alaska Board of Regents. She is a retired teacher and former school board member from Kodiak. Mr. Weaver, a CPA and the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer at Denali State Bank in Fairbanks, was first appointed by Governor Parnell in 2012.

At the April 2016 meeting, Rebecca Huggins was elected Chair of the Commission. Ms. Huggins is the longest-serving member of the commission as she was first appointed to a general public seat in 2003 by Governor Murkowski. Ms. Huggins is the principal of the American Charter Academy in Wasilla.

Congratulations to Mr. Weaver, Ms. Jacobson and Ms. Huggins!

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

https://acpe.alaska.gov/ABOUT_US/About_ACPE_ASLC/Leadership.

Director of Operations to serve as Acting Executive Director of ACPE

As the Search Committee, comprised of members of the Commission and ACPE's senior management team, continues recruitment efforts for the Executive Director position, Director of Operations Stephanie Butler will serve in the interim effective June 1st. Ms. Butler first joined the Commission in 1997 as the institutional authorization program coordinator and was promoted to Director of Operations in 2001.



We wish Ms. Butler success as Acting Executive Director!

Recent Commission Actions

April 5, 2016 Meeting

Initial Authorization

- Yuut Elitnaurviat - People's Learning Center (Bethel)

Renewal of Authorization

- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (JBER)
- Alaska Bible College (Palmer)

Authorization Extension

- Alaska Institute of Oriental Medicine, Acupuncture & Massage Therapy (Anchorage)

Upcoming Events

July 28, 2016

- Quarterly Commission Meeting (Anchorage)

IMPORTANT DATE: July 15, 2016

Deadline for receipt of materials for items to be presented at the October 27, 2016 Commission meeting

Charter College AAS in Nursing granted initial accreditation by ACEN

In March 2016 the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), a specialty accreditor recognized by the US Dept. of Education, granted initial accreditation to Charter College's AAS in Nursing program, located in Anchorage. Attainment of this status is the culmination of years of effort by the College's Nursing staff and administration. In March 2013, Charter was deemed eligible to apply for candidacy through ACEN. The Nursing program enrolled its inaugural class in late 2013 after first receiving approval from ACPE, the Alaska Board of Nursing and the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS), the College's national accrediting body. In June 2015, Charter was granted candidacy status by ACEN and within nine months thereafter received initial accreditation. It is noteworthy that the entire graduating inaugural class passed the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) on their first try! Congratulations to Charter College!

Legislative Recap

House and Senate pass HB 305 and SJR2 while SB 208 is withdrawn and HB 264 fails to move out of committee

HB 305 creates a new exemption from authorization for training for "primarily recreational purposes" that prepares graduates to teach or instruct in fields that do not require licensure under AS 08. It also defines the terms "avocational", "vocational" and "recreational" as used in AS 14.48. The full text of the bill can be found [here](#). The bill has now been transmitted to the Governor. Any affected institutions will be contacted.



SJR 2 places a constitutional amendment before the voters during the fall 2016 general election to amend Article IX, sec. 8, of the Alaska Constitution so as to permit the issuance of state General Obligation (GO) debt for the purpose of funding state education loans for Alaska students. If approved by voters, the amendment provides a mechanism through which the Alaska Student Loan Corporation may issue GO bonds and, by leveraging the State's outstanding GO credit rating, offer lower interest rates for student loans. The full text of the bill can be found [here](#).

For more information about SJR 2 please contact commission secretary Meg Buck at margaret.buck@alaska.gov or at 907-465-6718.

SB 208 proposed to phase out the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) and the Alaska Education Grant. Sponsoring Senate Finance Committee members withdrew the bill following testimony from ACPE Executive Director Diane Barrans on the measurable positive outcomes of the Scholarship. The Alaska Dispatch News Story on the bill can be found [here](#). For more information about APS outcomes click [here](#).

HB 264 proposed to transition the Alaska Performance Scholarship and the Alaska Education Grant into loans for students who did not complete a qualified postsecondary education program within six years after the date of the first payment of funds. It had one hearing in House Education and did not progress.



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