



GREETINGS!



Mendenhall River in Juneau
photo: K. Kussart

In this issue, we'll provide information on the in-progress IA program review, spotlight Alaska Career College 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 'Kussart'.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Alaska Career College

Alaska Career College is a private, for-profit career college that has been in business for more than 30 years in Anchorage. Opening in 1985 as the Travel Academy, it operated as the Career Academy from 1991 to 2011 when it began using its current name after adding an AAS degree program. Throughout its history, the institution has been owned and operated by the Deitz family.

The College offers six certificates and three associate degrees that prepare graduates for immediate employment. Traditional daytime classes are offered as well as evening and weekend classes that accommodate working adults. The College is nationally accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC).

The College's philosophy states, in part: "We seek not merely to satisfy our students, but to empower them to make significant changes in their lives, changes our students desire and deserve." "We know we are succeeding when we inspire our students not simply to accept the minimum standards, but to invest in themselves and in their education."

At the January 12th meeting the Commission re-authorized Alaska Career College through January 2022. Congratulations!



Institutional Authorization program review underway

A project group has been formed and is actively meeting to evaluate institutional authorization (IA) regulations. The purpose is to determine if existing processes and requirements are meeting the goals of consumer protection and ensuring minimum standards in an efficient manner. This broad scope review of the IA program will incorporate best practices and efficiencies into the process and identify any associated regulatory changes needed. The goal is not to just make incremental improvements, but to restructure components of the program to best meet current needs in Alaska.

The project is being conducted in phases corresponding to the four major IA processes as follows:

1. Exemption from Authorization
2. Initial Authorization
3. Renewal of Authorization
4. Complaints

During the review there will be opportunities for stakeholders to provide feedback. Any recommended regulation changes must be distributed for public comment prior to being approved by the Commission. Due to the length and complexity of the IA regulations the review is expected to take a year or more.

Alaska Performance Scholarship - 2017 Outcomes Report

The 2017 APS Outcomes Report analyzes the characteristics of high school graduates, those who were eligible to receive the scholarship and those who went on to make use of it, during the six years of the scholarship's existence. The analysis - which includes geographic, gender, ethnic and socioeconomic characteristics - provides an in-depth examination of graduates from the class of AY11, the first class eligible to receive the award, as they progress through their postsecondary studies and into in workforce.



The infographic [2017 APS Outcomes Report Quick Stats](#) summarizes the positive impacts the APS has had since inception.

For more information, including the link to download the entire report, visit the [APS Outcomes Report](#) page of our website.

Recent Commission Actions

January 12, 2017 Meeting

Renewal of Authorization

- Alaska Career College (Anchorage)
- Central Texas College (JBER, Fort Wainwright)

Resolution of Support for the Transfer of Credits between Accredited Institutions

Upcoming Events

April 6, 2017

- Quarterly Commission Meeting (Juneau)

March 23 & 24, 2017

- Alaska Postsecondary Access and Completion Network Conference (Anchorage)

IMPORTANT DATE: April 17, 2017

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

Commission adopts resolution of support for the transfer of credits between accredited institutions

During the January meeting, the Commission voted to approve a resolution that supports the development of credit transfer pathways between the University of Alaska system and the other accredited institutions in the state.

As part of its mission to promote student access to and success in education beyond high school, the Commission is concerned that Alaska has one of the lowest rates of college completion in the United States. Alaska also experiences high rates of student transfers, and credit transfer pathways may expand a student's ability to graduate on time and to reduce or eliminate barriers to student success. In discussion of the resolution, the Commission noted their appreciation of the significant work already done within the University system to streamline the transfer credit policies. The Commission is poised to support continuation of that work and encourages the development of articulation agreements between the University of Alaska and other accredited institutions within the state.

[Read the resolution here.](#)



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