**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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 ***Kids2College* Program Teaches Students to Plan for Their Future***5th & 6th Grade Students Encouraged to Make Choices Today for Success Tomorrow*

FAIRBANKS – April 23, 2014, 415 5th and 6th grade students from Fairbanks North Star Borough and Alaska Gateway School Districts will join nearly 2,000 Alaskan 5th and 6th grade students from communities across Alaska to take what for many will be first steps toward exploring their college and career interests.

The Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education and UA College Savings Plan have again partnered to take *Kids2College* across Alaska – offering students a six-lesson curriculum, professions/career panels, and, for some students, a visit to University of Alaska Fairbanks. Participating schools this year include: Anne Wien, Denali, and Hunter elementary schools, Eagle, Mentasta, Northway, Tanacross, Tetlin, Tok, and Immaculate Conception schools, and REACH Academy.

*Kids2College* students visiting college campuses will experience a day in the life of a college student, with fun, hands-on classes and age-appropriate lessons. Dissecting a squid or heart, learning Spanish, operating a fire hose, and playing college prep bingo are all ways *Kids2College* classes engage and stimulate career exploration and college preparation concepts.

To prepare for the visit, students explore various career pathways and present the information to their classmates. *Kids2College* also brings to the classroom volunteers from various professions to talk about their own college and career experiences. Along the way, students learn about academic options and the steps they can take today to prepare for college. *Kids2College* teaches students about high school graduation and test requirements, college admissions, and how to qualify for financial aid opportunities like the Alaska Performance Scholarship.

Now in 28 states, *Kids2College* encourages students to aspire to education and training beyond high school – whether it’s an apprenticeship, a certificate, a one-year technical program. A four-year degree, or a seven-year professional degree sequence, through its message that postsecondary training is important *and* attainable.

*Kids2College* alumni are more likely to discuss college preparation with parents and teachers, and to understand college is possible for them. For those children whose families may not have a college-going history, it’s an opportunity to learn first-hand about the career avenues and life experiences college offers.

To schedule a media visit to your local *Kids2College* event, please contact the local coordinator.

For more information on the statewide program, please contact Shelly Morgan, K-12 Specialist with the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education at 907-269-7972 or shelly.morgan@alaska.gov

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