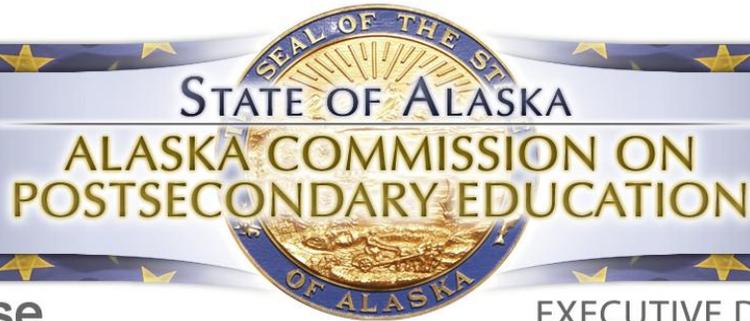


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Press Release

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Alaska Receives Federal Grant to Build Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS)

JUNEAU, ALASKA – The Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education announced this week that Alaska has received a \$4 million federal grant from the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) to build capacity in a statewide longitudinal data system (SLDS). By linking de-identified K-12, higher education, and workforce data, the SLDS will facilitate production of critical outcomes information for Alaska's policymakers, educators, and general public about Alaska's education pipeline, including student transitions and performance in postsecondary education and the workforce.

"Alaska's SLDS will enable us to identify initiatives and strategies that result in long-term economic benefits for our student citizens," said Diane Barrans, Executive Director of the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE). "By examining outcomes and interventions that are most successful and cost-efficient, we can ensure maximum return on investment for our students and successfully grow our own highly skilled Alaska workforce."

The \$4 million grant extends over a three-year implementation period. By administrative order, Governor Parnell established a SLDS leadership team, with responsibilities shared among ACPE, the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development, and the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, in partnership with the University of Alaska.

ACPE will host and manage the SLDS upon full implementation, at which time the SLDS will be operated as a de-identified system that accurately and securely links data needed to inform policy makers on the education-to-workforce cycle. The system will provide Alaska researchers, parents and the public with reports, performance dashboards, and other information products that deliver the right information to the right people in the right formats to better inform research and policy making, to improve education and workforce outcomes in Alaska, and to increase transparency around educational outcomes.

For more information, please contact ACPE at EED.ACPE-SLDSproject@Alaska.gov

The \$4 million grant is a Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) grant from the Institute of Education Sciences, a research arm of U.S. Department of Education. It is a three-year award, through June 30, 2015 with a total estimated cost of \$5.67 million, funded 70% by the federal grant and 30%(\$1.67 million) by in-kind project contributions.