

Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education and the Alaska Student Loan Corporation

History Timeline

In 1968, the Alaska Legislature established the first state education loan program as financial assistance to its citizenry and to incent to them to utilize that education and training in Alaska. The program was administered by the Department of Education (EED) until 1974, when the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE) was established to coordinate and regulate postsecondary institutions in the State for the wellbeing of all Alaskans. In 1987, as oil prices and state oil revenues declined, state funding could no longer be assured, and the legislature created the Alaska Student Loan Corporation (ASLC) to raise alternative financing in the financial markets. Together – ACPE and ASLC continue their efforts to provide educational benefits to all Alaskans.

1960 1970 1980 1990 2000

1968 • Alaska legislature establishes loan program, administered by EED, for undergraduates attending accredited Alaska institutions. Program provides up to \$500 for four years, interest-free, with \$500 forgiveness for each six months the borrower remains an Alaska resident.

1971 • Legislature approves loans for career and graduate education programs, extends availability to six years, and raises annual loan limits to \$2,500 for undergraduates and \$5,000 for graduates. Borrowers to pay 5% interest in repayment; may receive 40% forgiveness if employed in Alaska for four years. Loans are financed from the general fund.

1974 • Legislature creates ACPE as state higher education agency to administer student aid, and authorize and regulate postsecondary education institutions in Alaska.

1981 • Annual loan limit set at \$6,000 for undergraduates and \$7,000 for graduates; forgiveness increases to 50% for five years of residency in the state.

1987 • Oil prices decline, drastically reducing state revenues. Legislature creates the ASLC to raise alternative financing through tax-exempt bonds, and eliminates forgiveness benefits and interest subsidies. Long-range plans call for reduced subsidy of loan programs from general funds.

1992 • State continues to face annual budget shortfalls and ends further general fund appropriations to ACPE.

1998 • ASLC has a modest net income for the first time in its history.

2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015

2001 • ASLC begins to pay an annual financial return to the State of Alaska, its original investor. Legislature charges the Corporation to leverage its financial health and develop new programs for Alaskans.

2002 • ACPE implements **AlaskAdvantage Loans** and **Outreach services**, offering both federal and supplemental loans. ASLC approves the lowest-cost education loan package in the nation.

2003 • ASLC authorizes low-interest consolidation loans for borrowers repaying higher-cost Alaska Student Loans.

2003 • The first **I'm Going to College** event brings 150 5th and 6th-grade students to Alaska campuses.

2004 • ASLC offers federal consolidation loans.

2005 • The first **Alaska College Goal Sunday** helps students and families complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

2005 • Pursuant to legislative authorization in 2004, ACPE develops and implements **AlaskAdvantage Education Grants (AEG)**. ASLC provides program start-up funding.

2007 • The first **I Know I Can** event encourages 430 2nd-graders to see college in their future.

2009 • ACPE receives the federal College Access Challenge Grant (CACG) to increase the number of students prepared for postsecondary education.

2009 • The **Alaska College & Career Advising Corps (ACAC)**, funded through the CACG, launches to assist students with career and college planning. The first **near-peer mentors** are placed in Anchorage high schools.

2010 • Federal government eliminates the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP); ACPE continues to service its existing FFELP loan portfolio.

2010 • Alaska Legislature enacts the Alaska Merit Scholarship, administered by ACPE, the first statewide scholarship.

2012 • Legislature renames the scholarship the **Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS)** and capitalizes the Higher Education Investment Fund, a self-sustaining source of long-term funding for both the APS & AEG.

2012 • Alaska receives a federal grant to create a **P-20W Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS)** to include pre-kindergarten, K-12, postsecondary education and workforce data. The SLDS' purpose is to deliver outcomes information to Alaska stakeholders to assess, evaluate and improve the State's education and career development continuum.

2012 • The ACAC continues to expand with near-peer mentors offering services in eight high schools in three state regions.