

Alaska Commission on
Postsecondary Education

Fall Quarterly Meeting
October 20, 2021

ALASKA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

[Zoom link](#)

Meeting #: 949 7685 9815

Password: ACPE

Teleconference: (888) 788-0099; Code: 949 7685 9815 #

AGENDA

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

1. 10:00 a.m. Convene/Roll Call
- 2.* Adoption of Agenda
 - *Suggested Motion: Move to adopt the agenda of the October 20, 2021 Commission meeting.*
3. Ethics Disclosure Relative to Adopted Agenda
- 4.* Approval of Meeting Minutes from July 22, 2021
 - *Suggested Motion: Move approval of the meeting minutes from the July 22, 2021 Commission meeting.*
- 5.* Determine October 2022 Meeting Date
 - Thursday, October 20, 2022
 - *Suggested Motion: Move the Commission hold its fall 2022 quarterly meeting on October 20, 2022.*
6. 10:15 a.m. Public Testimony: Individuals 3-minute limit
Group Representative 5-minute limit
7. 10:30 a.m. University of Alaska Update – Pat Pitney, Interim President
- 8.* 10:45 a.m. Compliance Activities Report & Institutional Standards and Evaluation
– Tyler Eggen Institutional Authorization Program Coordinator
- 8a.* Adoption of Proposed Regulations Changes
 - *Suggested Motion: Move to adopt regulations changes to Alaska Administrative Code Title 20, Chapter 17.*
9. 12:15 p.m. Break – Lunch
10. 1:00 p.m. Reconvene/Roll Call
11. 1:05 p.m. Accreditation Process Overview – Sonny Ramaswamy, President of NWCCU, and Selena Grace, Vice-President of NWCCU
12. 1:45 p.m. Executive Director Report – Sana Efird

***Action Required – motion, second, and roll call vote**

13. 1:55 p.m. Management Team Reports:
- a. Finance – Julie Pierce
 - b. Program Operations – Kerry Thomas
 - c. Communications and Outreach – Kate Hillenbrand
 - d. Information Support Services – Jamie Oliphant
14. 2:15 p.m. Commissioner and Department Reports:
- a. Alaska Student Loan Corporation – Barbara Adams & Donn Liston
 - b. Board of Education and Early Development – Keith Hamilton
 - c. Board of Regents – Dale Anderson & Lisa Parker
 - d. Student Representative – Rodolfo Garcia
 - e. Alaska Workforce Investment Board – Cheryl Edenshaw
 - f. Alaska Access and Completion Network – Written Report
15. 2:30 p.m. Commissioner Closing Comments
16. Miscellaneous:
- a. Administrative Action Log
 - b. Commission Members’ Affiliations
 - c. Commission Acronyms
 - d. Future Scheduled Meeting Dates
 - January 12, 2022
 - April 6, 2022
 - July 21, 2022
- 17.* 2:45 p.m. Executive Session
- *Suggested Motion: Move that the Commission recess the Regular Meeting and reconvene in executive session to deliberate and discuss the Governor’s FY23 Budget Proposal, in accordance with AS 44.62.310(c). The matters to be discussed are limited to confidential documents under AS 37.07.020(a) and confidential and deliberative discussion of budget matters.*
18. 3:15 p.m. Reconvene/Roll Call
- 19.* 3:30 p.m. Adjournment
- *Suggested Motion: Move the Commission adjourn the October 20, 2021 meeting.*

***Action Required – motion, second, and roll call vote**

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE
ALASKA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
July 22, 2021**

A meeting of the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE), conducted in-person and via distance delivery, originated from the Borealis Meeting room of the Crowne Plaza Hotel at 109 W. International Airport Rd, Anchorage, Alaska on Thursday, July 22, 2021. Acting Chair Lisa Parker called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

ATTENDEES

Chair Bicchinella was unable to be present. Vice Chair Parker presided over the meeting as Acting Chair in his stead.

Commission members present for all or portions of the meeting: Vice Chair Lisa Parker, Barbara Adams, Dale Anderson, Pearl Brower, John Brown, Rodolfo Garcia, Senator Mia Costello, Keith Hamilton, Donald Handeland, Donn Liston, Cheryl Edenshaw, and Representative Andi Story.

Commission members absent: Chair Josh Bicchinella, Lindsay Hallam.

Commission staff present for all or portions of the meeting: Sana Efird, Executive Director; Julie Pierce, CPA, Chief Finance Officer; Kerry Thomas, Director of Program Operations; Kate Hillenbrand, Director of Communications and Outreach; Jamie Oliphant, Director of Information Support Services; Tyler Eggen, Institutional Authorization Program Coordinator; Susan Sonneborn, Assistant Attorney General; Joe Felkl, outgoing Executive Secretary; and Kordel Thompson, new Executive Secretary.

Presenters in attendance: University of Alaska Interim President Pat Pitney and Dr. Paul Layer, Vice President of Academics, Students, and Research.

Institutional representatives in attendance: Ashley Bacher, owner and Administrator for Academy of Hair Design; Alex Douthit, Owner and Sarah Douthit, Administration & Student Enrollment for Kenai Peninsula Driving Instruction (KPDI); Bryden Sweeny-Taylor, Executive Director and Frank Eccher, Programs and Operations Manager for Outer Coast; and Sarah Dybdahl, Director and Krista Staveland, Coordinator for Vocational Training Resource Center (VTRC).

Guests in attendance: Dr. Demi Michelau, President of WICHE.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Commissioner Anderson moved to adopt the agenda of the July 22, 2021, Commission meeting. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all members present voted aye. The motion carried.

ETHICS DISCLOSURE

No ethics conflicts were disclosed.

NEW MEMBERSHIP

Representative Andi Story, Senator Mia Costello, and Rodolfo Garcia were welcomed as the new respective House of Representatives, State Senate, and Student representatives to the Commission. Acting Chair Parker relayed a message of welcome from absent Chair Bicchinella.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Hamilton moved to approve the minutes from the April 8, 2021 commission meeting as written. Commissioner Edenshaw seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all members present voted aye. The motion carried.

MEETING DATE

Commissioner Brown moved to schedule the summer 2022 commission meeting on July 21, 2022. Commissioner Liston seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all members present voted aye. The motion carried.

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

- Resolutions for former members Representative Harriet Drummond and Senator Gary Stevens.

Commissioner Brower moved to approve the Resolution of Appreciation as written for Representative Drummond. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all members present voted aye. The motion carried.

Commissioner Hamilton moved to approve the Resolution of Appreciation as written for Representative Drummond. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all members present voted aye. The motion carried.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Commissioner Anderson moved to confirm Chair Bicchinella's appointments to the Executive Committee of Commissioners John Brown and Pearl Brower. Commissioner Story seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all members present voted aye. The motion carried.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Acting Chair Parker opened the public testimony period. Malan Paquette provided public testimony. There being no other testifiers, Acting Chair Parker closed the public testimony period.

INSTITUTIONAL STANDARDS AND EVALUATION

Institutional Authorization Program Coordinator Tyler Eggen referenced his written report on recent compliance activities starting on page 20 of the meeting packet. Information in the report included:

- A status update on institutional monitoring.
 - No formal complaints were submitted for the quarter.
- Information on U.S. Department of Education's decision to end federal recognition of the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) in June 2021.
- An update on regulations changes to Alaska Administrative Code Title 20 Chapter 17, to comply with National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (NC-SARA) policy requirements.
 - The adopted changes went into effect on May 21, 2021.
- Project update on the \$15,000 SHEEO Learning Community Grant.

Renewal of Authorization:

- Academy of Hair Design, LLC (Anchorage)

Commissioner Anderson moved to approve renewal of authorization for three years, through July 31, 2024. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all members present voted aye. The motion carried.

- Kenai Peninsula Driving Instruction (Kenai)

Commissioner Brown moved to approve renewal of authorization for three years, through July 31, 2024. Commissioner Costello seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all members present voted aye. The motion carried.

- Outer Coast (Sitka)

Commissioner Story moved to approve renewal of authorization for three years, through July 31, 2024. Commissioner Edenshaw seconded the motion. After questions and discussion, Commissioner Anderson motioned to table the renewal of authorization until the Fall quarter meeting in November 2021. Commissioner Hamilton seconded this motion. By roll call vote, there was a split vote of six for and six against. The motion to table failed. Commissioner Anderson motioned to amend the renewal of authorization from three years to one year. Commissioner Liston seconded this motion. By roll call vote, all members present voted aye. The motion to amend the renewal period carried. The members were

then called to vote to approve the amended renewal of authorization for one year, through July 31, 2022. By roll call vote, ten members voted aye, with Commissioners Anderson and Costello dissenting. The amended motion to approve carried.

Discussion: Commissioner Anderson objected to the renewal, due to not having enough information on their curriculum, their syllabus, and how students are benefiting from their program. He does not see how their courses are moving students ahead in their own lives or society, and wants to know what is actually being taught before they are reauthorized. Tyler replied that Outer Coast is currently going through the accreditation process, and that they are following the Statutes and Regulations and submitting the required documentation for review. Commissioner Costello asked whether they could seek authorization after accreditation. Tyler explained that they were granted initial authorization to be able to seek accreditation, as they must be authorized in order to become accredited. Commissioner Hamilton inquired what step they are at in the accreditation process. Mr. Sweeney-Taylor responded that they will be in applicant status for Fall 2021, and that college credits are currently earned through their partnership with Alaska Pacific University (APU). He also explained their students do not use public funds, e.g. loans, towards their tuition in order to attend. Commissioner Hamilton followed up by asking which organization they are seeking accreditation with, and if they are following a timeline to affirm their applicant status. Mr. Sweeney-Taylor responded they are following a two-year timeline, and looking at both the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) & WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC). He also noted they are looking at various partner institutions to pursue branch campus relationships with as they pursue applicant status. Mr. Eccher added that they are seeking an incubation partnership, with WSCUC having a formal incubation pathway for new and innovative institutions whereas NWCCU does not. However, a partnership in the NWCCU region would look similar, with them being under the umbrella of an established institution until they finish the independent accreditation process and break away. Mr. Eccher also responded to Commissioner Anderson, asserting that the reason their curriculum is not included in their current application is that it is waiting for approval by the APU curriculum committee, which has been delayed because of the ongoing leadership transition at APU. Once approved, it will go straight to ACPE for review. Commissioner Brower asked if it was standard process to authorize unaccredited institutions for three-year periods. Tyler indicated he would need to do some research into the IA records to provide an accurate response. Commissioner Brower followed up asking whether Outer Coast offered only two classes through APU, and if students were subsequently only considered part time. Mr. Sweeney-Taylor answered that two 7-week courses are offered at any given time, with four courses able to be completed within a semester; subsequently, both part-time and full-time options are available for students to decide what is best for them. Commissioner Hamilton asked whether they could vote to change the number of years Outer Coast would be authorized for; AAG Sonneborn indicated they could vote to amend the motion then vote on the motion, or vote down the motion and introduce a new motion. Commissioner Handeland asked for clarification on how tuition works, and what percentage of the budget is covered by students. Mr. Sweeney-Taylor explained that students and their families pay what they are able, with about 75% of students receiving financial aid through their development

office via scholarships & grants. He also indicated that about 40% of operating costs come from tuition revenues, with the remaining 60% coming from philanthropic sources. Commissioner Anderson asked about faculty, as well as what are the “Big Questions” that students can hope to answer through Outer Coast’s courses. Mr. Sweeney-Taylor relayed that they had 40 faculty members teaching courses in the last year. He further stated that their program helps students learn how to think critically and communicate clearly, providing them with the tools to form opinions through analysis and assessment, and to clearly and concisely communicate their points to others. Commissioner Story inquired whether they had something like a board of trustees that oversees the program to ensure program quality. Mr. Sweeney-Taylor replied that they do, and it includes people such as Joseph Nelson, CEO of Sealaska & former UAS Provost; Alexandra McKay, Vice President of Programs at the Rasmuson Foundation; and Richard Shaw, Dean of Undergraduate Admissions at Stanford University. Commissioner Costello noted that she would like to know more about the accreditation & authorization process, and commented that she would be more comfortable authorizing renewal if the Commission waited until after APU approved the curriculum first. She also sought clarification about whether faculty was compensated. Mr. Sweeney-Taylor stated their operating budget for the current fiscal year was approx. \$1 million for expenses, including the compensation of staff and faculty, the majority of which came from philanthropic sources through their status as a non-profit.

- Vocational Training & Resource Center (Juneau)

Commissioner Anderson moved to approve renewal of authorization for two years, through July 31, 2023. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all members present voted aye. The motion carried.

PRESENTATION

- University of Alaska (UA)

University of Alaska Interim President Pat Pitney began her presentation by addressing UA’s stance concerning the status of the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) and Alaska Education Grant (AEG). The University is focused on creating stability for its students, who need to be able to trust the institution. As such, they will be honoring the APS and AEG in the fall semester for those that would have qualified for them. However, President Pitney stipulated that the university is only delaying the collection of funds, and that they still expect that the reverse sweep will happen and funding to materialize from the State. There is no expectation that UA will ultimately be covering these costs. If the sweep is not reversed, she proposed petitioning the Governor to overturn the decision to include the HEIF in the funds involved in the yearly sweep. The university has had some initial discussion with ACPE about how to ensure this situation is not repeated in the future.

She also provided a brief legislative and budget update for the university system. While the Governor’s budget saw an additional \$20 million reduction, the legislature reduced the

amount of the reduction down to \$4.3 million, which the Governor upheld. The university also estimates that the impacts of COVID have cost them about \$16 million above and beyond the relief funding they have received. Combined, these result in a net loss of approximately \$20 million, though it could have been closer to \$40 million. She also spoke to their continued operating efficiency efforts. The savings from the program reductions enacted summer 2020 are coming into effect for FY22. They have also reduced facility costs through leasing, demolishing, and selling off-campus facilities. As far as capital projects, the Governor vetoed both the General Obligation bond package that included many high priority UA projects, as well as all funding for the deferred maintenance put forward by the legislature.

President Pitney concluded her presentation by stating UA's focus on student enrollment, continuing to foster new students as well as working with continuing students to encourage re-enrollment.

Discussion: Commissioner Costello inquired if UA was expecting to get any ARPA funding. President Pitney indicated they are looking into it as it is something many of their deferred maintenance projects could be eligible for, specifically workforce programs and industry partnership that would have a positive impact on economic recovery. However, they have not seen a high commitment with discussion mostly happening at the administrative level as opposed to with the Co-Chairs of the Finance Committees. Commissioner Anderson asked about enrollment numbers. While enrollment is still down, new enrollment is up 5-10% at all three universities. Numbers of returning students are down, with many indicating they were taking a break after the hardships they faced in 2020. Total enrollment is down about 3% from last year. Commissioner Story thanked President Pitney for her part in UA's decision to honor the APS/AEG funds, and asked if there had been any talks with industry partners about using COVID funds to set up grants/incentives for non-traditional students to offset the worker shortage. UA has worked with Juneau and Anchorage, the latter of which put up a \$3-\$5 million grant for people impacted by COVID to enter into UAA FastTrack programs. Kenai and Fairbanks both offered support for their respective local campuses, as well. President Pitney posed to Commissioner Story that she was interested in the perspective of the legislature on the sweep-ability of the HEIF fund, to which Commissioner Story responded that they would be having those discussions.

Vice-President Paul Layer then came on to give a brief update on the issue of transferring credits to UA from other institutions in Alaska. He indicated he had spoken with members of ACPE about this after the spring Commission meeting, which was followed by a meeting with the provost and representatives for all three universities in June. At this time they have been primarily working with Alaska Christian College (ACC) as their first case, and have been doing internal coordination between the three UA campuses to look at courses and general education requirements to determine how best to transfer credits. He indicated conversations are still ongoing, but expects to have more to report at the Fall Commission meeting.

Discussion: Commissioner Hamilton thanked Vice-President Layer and Sana for spearheading the efforts to resolve the issue of transferring credits. He conveyed that their first test case student had six courses successfully transfer over to the university, though there are many more students in line. He expressed that ACC was thrilled that this issue came up in April and with

how quickly it has moved forward. Vice-President Layer commented that the plan is to establish a set option for students going forward, instead of continuing to treat each student looking to transfer as a one-off situation. Acting Chair Parker then asked the Vice-President to touch upon the plan for reopening campuses. He responded that they were moving forward with in-person classes for the Fall semester, looking at doing around 75% of courses in-person and 25% via distance learning online. He indicated residence halls would also be reopened for the Fall, and that students would be encouraged, but not required, to be vaccinated. The university is hopeful that getting back to in-person learning will result in an increase in enrollment verses last year's distance only options. Commissioner Story asked about whether UA would or even could reconsider its stance on not recommending ACPE as a preferred lender, and how complex it would be to do so. The Vice-President stated he would have to do more research into the federal guidelines and requirements when it comes to vendors in order to give an accurate answer, but that the university has worked with ACPE over the years to try to promote opportunities for students where they can.

PROPOSED REGULATION CHANGES FOR INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORIZATION

Institutional Authorization Program Coordinator Tyler Eggen provided a presentation on proposed changes to Alaska Administrative Code (AAC) involving the Commission's institutional authorization processes and related fees. The presentation provided an overview of institutional authorization law and history and the proposed changes, including streamlining the authorization processes, aligning fees with services, and establishing annual financial and student outcomes data reporting requirements. The next step of the regulation change process would be to request that the Commission open the formal public comment period for 30 days, to allow the public to provide feedback on the proposed changes. The Commission would then vote on whether to adopt the changes at the Fall quarter meeting on October 20, 2021.

Commissioner Costello moved to open the public comment period for the proposed regulation changes. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all members present voted aye. The motion carried.

Discussion: Commissioner Costello requested to include public comments at the October Commission meeting, to which Tyler responded that this would be included. Commissioner Anderson took issue with using an internally prepared financial report as a measurement tool for financial soundness. Tyler explained that the purpose is to keep abreast of each institution's financials in-between renewals, and that ACPE will be working with external auditor to interpret reports. Commissioner expressed that it seemed unnecessary to charge a fee on tuition fee changes, since the amount we receive will already increase along with the fee change. Tyler responded that it is reflective of the time required of ACPE staff to review the changes, and that such status change fees could be administratively approved instead of charging for a full program amendment. Commissioner Anderson recommended that staff relook at charging a fee for the admin approval of institutions' fee changes. Commissioner Brown recommended including specific examples of changes to clarify for the public comment purposes what triggers a program amendment fee versus an administrative approval fee, with relation to length of program of study. Commissioner Story requested the addition of a fee chart in the presentation comparing

what different states charge for comparable changes. Commissioner Costello asked whether the proposed annual determination of the fee schedule by the commission would mean fee changes would bypass public comment if the regulation changes were approved. She asserted that statute justifies regulation, and the regulation process requires public comment; however, under the proposed changes the only avenue for public response would be during the scheduled public comment portion of our commission meetings. Joe responded that the commission could decide to take public comment annually at the time they are reviewing the fee schedule, in addition to the public comment time afforded during our public meetings. Commissioner Costello followed by stating that it is implied when an organization put something forth for public comment that they support the change in question; Acting Chair Parker later agreed with this comment, adding that the appearance would be the Commission is 100% behind it. Commissioner Hamilton commented on how financially stressful the authorization processed can be, and how giving institutions 5-year renewals would lessen the fee impact and staff time on site visits. Commissioner Anderson suggested reviewing the fee schedule every three years instead of annually, providing some measure of consistency to institutions' financial planning. Commissioner Hamilton commented that it is incumbent upon an authorizing body not to hinder the success of our state institutions, and the streamlining of authorization with attainable fees and less paperwork would go a long ways towards helping local institutions. He expressed confidence that the process could be fixed and added that he is looking forward to opening it for public comment. Acting Chair Parker asked if the proposed regulations would be sent out to all relevant parties ACPE engages with when the public notice goes out. Joe replied that it would be emailed to all institutions the Commission authorizes, and any other bodies that may have interest in the changes, like Department of Education and Early Development (DEED). After the roll call vote was taken and the motion to open the public comment period carried, Commissioner Anderson asked if staff would have time to make any changes based on recommendations from the commission before being submitted for public comment. Assistant Attorney General Susan Sonneborn explained that the proposed changes were approved for public viewing and comment as is, with any potential recommendations or edits being incorporated after public comment closes and included in the updated changes put before the Commission at the Fall quarter meeting. Acting Chair Parker requested that Commissioners receive copies of all public comments that come in, to review and discuss at the next meeting. She also directed that staff schedule sufficient time for the Commission to look over the proposed regulations in October.

PRESENTATION

- Trends in Higher Education

Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education Director of Program Operations Kerry Thomas presented on current trends in Higher Education amongst Alaskan students. The presentation provided information to commission members on trends in loan volume, postsecondary enrollments, and FAFSA submissions. The research and analysis discussed in the presentation resulted in the following key findings:

- The Number of Alaskan students graduating high school remains unchanged.

- However, fewer students are electing to enroll in postsecondary education immediately following graduation.
- This has resulted in a smaller pool of potential borrowers for ACPE loans.
- Alaska high school students are tending to apply earlier in the FAFSA application period than in other areas.
- The proportion of FAFSA applications that belong to Alaska high school students has remained unchanged.
- A smaller proportion of the FAFSA applications listing at least one Alaska postsecondary institution belong to Alaska high school students.
- Conclusion: The number of Alaskan students intending to attend in-state postsecondary institutions has dropped by 10% over the last 4-5 years.

Discussion: Commissioner Liston put forward that perhaps this is connected to Alaska's population decline, in that maybe parents are sending their kids out of state for school and then moving to be near them. Acting Chair Parker attributed the decrease to the uncertainty created in students and their parents by the instability brought about by the compact the university had to sign with the Governor. She is hopeful these numbers will increase as stability and faith are restored within the university. Executive Director Efirid pointed commissioners to the ten-year program review of the APS, which also showed an increase in the number of students choosing to go out of state and included additional details and recommendations. Commissioner Adams commented that postsecondary education in Alaska includes more options than just the UA system, and wondered if we could explore how students are engaging with these other options in order to get a better idea of the overall picture. Commissioner Story stated that guidance counselors and parents she has spoken with are uncertain about whether UA can deliver on its programs under the compact. She believes this supports Acting Chair Parker's assertions, in that this lack of confidence is leading students to choose to either attend other schools or simply not apply. For this reason, she appreciated President Pitney's statements on focusing on and stabilizing the programs UA still has. She also agreed with Commissioner Adams that it is important to look at the data coming out of other, alternative programs, especially considering Alaska's workforce shortage. Commissioner Anderson asked if we have looked at whether the technical schools are seeing the same numbers. Director Kerry explained they have not since there is not a central database of readily available enrollment data for vocational schools equivalent to the National Clearinghouse. She indicated they've been able to compile and analyze enrollment and outcomes data for vocational programs in the past as a joint effort between DOLWD, DEED, UA, and ACPE, but as such it is a complex and extensive process. Commissioner Anderson asked if this data included certificate-seeking students; Director Kerry stated that she would need to double check with the university, but that she believes they only report the enrollment data of 2-year, 4-year, and graduate degree seeking students. Commissioner Story asked when this data is shared with the Governor and other parties to showcase the importance of building stability in the university and instilling confidence among students in choosing Alaskan schools. Acting Chair Parker answered that President Pitney and the Chair of the Board of Regents are in regular communication with the Governor's office regarding the status and trends of enrollment at UA.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Efirm referenced her written report included in the meeting packet on page 98. Due to the meeting running behind, at the behest of Acting Chair Parker the Commissioners consented to extend the meeting until 3pm. The Executive Director subsequently highlighted just a few key points instead of giving her full report, to be able to get through the remaining agenda items in the time left.

- Exec. Director Efirm worked with Chief Finance Office Julie Pierce and Hilltop Securities to finalize the consent for solicitation of ACPE's bonds.
- She traveled to Anchorage and was finally able to meet ACPE's staff there face-to-face.
- She was also able to meet with and tour the campuses of some of the Anchorage institutions ACPE authorizes.
- Before the legislature approved an operating budget, she worked with the Office of Management and Budget concerning how to deal with a possible shutdown.
- Internal Strategic Planning sessions have continued, including two recently held stakeholder focus groups that provided valuable feedback on ACPE's Financial Aid offerings and Outreach Resources & Programs.
- ACPE's operating budget was passed and approved as the Governor proposed, which included a reduction of \$1 million in Alaska Student Loan Corporation receipts.
- This equates to the deletion of seven positions, in addition to two others identified for deletion for a total reduction of nine vacant positions for FY2022.
- Executive Director Efirm pointed out that, while she applauds UA for honoring the APS and AEG, this only covers 85% of students dependent upon those funds, with 15% attending other institutions.
- She also highlighted how this does not cover WWAMI students, who are still in limbo and uncertain about what is going to happen for the Fall semester.
- She is hopeful the HEIF issue will be resolved during the next special session.
- On the legislative side, Commissioners approved a resolution for SB 94 and HB 114. These bills were introduced and went from Senate Education to the Senate Finance committee, but were not passed during this session. They will carry over to the next session.
- The Executive Director closed her report by expressing her gratitude and appreciation for all ACPE staff and the hard work they have done and continue to do for Alaskan students.

MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORTS

Each Senior Manager highlighted one item from their respective division reports, due to the limited meeting time remaining.

Finance – Julie Pierce, CPA, Chief Finance Officer, referred to the summary of the FY21 operating budget on page 138 of the meeting packet. She highlighted how when compared to approximate actual expenditures/obligations for the year, there is an unobligated balance of about \$2.1 million. Her team is now focused on closing out the year-end and preparing for the audit as well as for outsourcing and other projects.

Program Operations – Kerry Thomas, Director of Program Operations, spoke about the ongoing Alternative Loan Outsourcing project. Campus Door will be taking over originations before the next Commission meeting in October, at which time Director Thomas will have a report on the outcome of the switch. Campus door will have an application portal for borrowers to apply for loans, as well as handling school certifications and disbursements. ACPE will complete any outstanding loan applications on our system for the current academic year that come in before October 1st. However, since our Refinance loans go into immediate repayment, things will also need to be in place by that time with our new servicing vendor, American Education Services (AES). There is a huge focus and work effort across both the senior management team and the agency as a whole to ensure everything lines up and falls into place.

Information Support Services – Jamie Oliphant, Director of Information Support Services (ISS), drew attention to the Network Activities and Projects section of her report on page 161 of the meeting packet. The State of Alaska has seen many recent malware attacks, and while ACPE is as yet unaffected, the ISS team is actively monitoring and taking a proactive approach to the issue. They are also working to virtualize and modernize the infrastructure at ACPE to meet current needs. Director Oliphant also briefly mentioned the impending Loan Outsourcing and that ISS is heavily involved with that project as well.

Outreach and Early Awareness – Kate Hillenbrand, Director of Communications and Outreach, highlighted her division's work on the recent stakeholder focus groups held as part of the ongoing strategic planning process (meeting packet, page 151). She reported that the feedback they received from these groups coincides with much of the feedback garnered from the Commission itself at the July 21st work session, in regards to how to innovate and improve access and awareness of postsecondary education. The primary focuses include:

- Financial aid and scholarship availability, e.g. the APS, and the continuation of funding for those resources;
- Increased support and visibility of ACPE staff in high schools and involvement in the transition process from high school to postsecondary life and what that looks like; and
- Ensuring ACPE's resources and platforms, such as AKCIS, are readily available for all students across all districts.

Discussion: Commissioner Costello asked how the impact of COVID on in-person schooling affected outreach efforts to those students that could benefit from our programs. Director Hillenbrand responded that, with help from Director Oliphant and the ISS team, Outreach was able to move everything to a virtual platform. They are able to connect with students via Zoom and through the virtual appointment system on the website, and have been scheduling weekly online virtual sessions to help students with FAFSA completion. They also made all marketing materials for high school counselors available online, as well as ensuring easy document access for stakeholder groups and organizing periodic virtual information sessions to keep our stakeholders up-to-date. Commissioner Costello inquired about how involved the FAFSA application process is. Director Hillenbrand explained that it can take anywhere from an hour to a week to complete depending on the applicants access to documents and required information, and that it can be particularly challenging for first generation college students. Commissioner

Story commented that WICHE is working on developing an expedited FAFSA form to make it easier for students to complete. She went on to ask about the unobligated balance for FY21, and if it was possible to reinstate the Alaska College and Career Guides based on the continued interest in seeing that program return, and/or if Executive Director Efird had the authority to do so. Executive Director Efird explained that ACPE collaborated with WICHE to receive a federal grant to fund that program, and unfortunately, that grant is no longer available. As part of the strategic planning process, ACPE is looking at how we could possibly reintroduce and fund that program while ensuring Alaska Student Loan Corporation funds are being utilized appropriately under statute. Commissioner Story commented that grants are often used to test whether an initiative or project is effective, with the goal becoming to try to incorporate it into your program if it is successful. Commissioner Anderson broached the subject of updating ACPE public website, advocating that a superior interface and improved customer experience would better market our offerings to students and potential borrowers. Director Hillenbrand replied that we are actively working on website improvements and that new updates are forthcoming. Commissioner Brown commented regarding the Early College & Career Exploration Programs, stating that 1 out of 6 Alaskan students are being homeschooled (pre-pandemic), and that he thinks there is an opportunity to reach more students by making our resources and programs equally conducive to working in a home-based setting as in a classroom. Commissioner Liston commended CFO Pierce on the record for her work behind the scenes to help reduce the costs of loans to students.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Alaska Student Loan Corporation – Commissioner Liston relayed that the ASLC is reviewing its investment policies, having pulled a significant amount of assets in order to purchase the outstanding bonds. The pending investment policy changes will save money over the life of the fund, increase cash flow, and decrease operating expenses.

Board of Education and Early Development – Commissioner Hamilton reported on Board of Education activities, including:

- The adoption of regulation changes concerning the assessment of English language learners, specifically exit criteria and updated standards for English language proficiency;
- New appointees to the Mt. Edgecumbe High School advisory board – Dorothy Chase, Lydia Agnus, and Mary Huntington; and
- The reelection of James Fields as Board Chair, Dr. Keith Hamilton as First Vice-Chair, and Sandy Kowalski as Second Vice-Chair.

UA Board of Regents – Commissioner Anderson talked on how UA has faced 5-6 years of cutbacks, and now that the compact with the Governor is complete, they are coming out on the other side a more focused institution. They are meeting the needs of students, focusing on their mission, and trying to be the best Alaska University.

Student Representative – Commissioner Garcia reported that many students at UAF are feeling conflicted about campus reopening. He is working on surveying students and gathering opinions

regarding how the student body as a whole is feeling about whether vaccines should be required or not. His conversations with other Commissioners on the subject have indicated it to be a complicated issue.

Alaska Workforce Investment Board – no report with Commissioner Edenshaw having left after lunch to make her return flight.

Network Report – written report provided in the meeting packet.

Additional Closing Comments:

- Commissioner Adams expressed her apologies for not being able to attend in-person, noted her appreciation for all the improvements being implemented, and extended her thanks to Executive Director Efir and ACPE's staff for all their hard work.
- Commissioner Story appreciated all the information that came out of the meeting and the work done by staff. She commented that it would be helpful to have data on enrollment trends over a five-year period included with the information on the institutions up for reauthorization. Additionally, she would like to see socio-economic data in addition to that concerning race and gender regarding the diversity of an institution, as well as demographical information when it comes to post-grad placement data.
- Commissioner Garcia expressed that he learned a lot at the meeting and work session, and he looks forward to disseminating what he has learned with students and other people involved with the university. He feels honored and privileged to be involved with the Commission, and believes that it is important to help the stakeholders and constituents feel involved in the process and that their input matters, as well.
- Commissioner Hamilton is excited by the efforts to overhaul ACPE's Institutional Authorization process and appreciates the input given by the other Commissioners on this issue. He hopes to see both the community and the Commission itself provide valuable help and support to the staff working on the proposed changes before they go before the Commission for adoption in October. He also relayed that he will be going on sabbatical and will subsequently miss all ACPE meetings scheduled for the Fall.
- Commissioner Liston was grateful for the opportunity to be a part of an in-person meeting for the first time, allowing for increased engagement and enthusiasm on his part.
- Commissioner Brown thanked Acting Chair Parker for leading the meeting in Chair Bicchinella's absence. He expressed his thanks and admiration for Executive Director Efir and the ACPE staff, and thinks there is a lot of good things in the works. He advocated for prioritizing efforts to ensure students and borrowers are secure in their education and finances, specifically in working towards stabilizing the APS and HEIF and making every effort to protect these from the sweep going forward.
- Commissioner Brower was glad for the opportunity to meet in person, and hopes to be able to have more work sessions in the future. She appreciated the ability to have more time for questions, commentary, and debate.
- Commissioner Costello was thankful to get know the Commissioners and staff a little better and see that everyone has a passion for education that matches her own. She was appreciative of what everyone at ACPE is doing to help Alaska's youth and grateful to be a part of it. She spoke about the current struggles with the legislature and the budget,

assuring everyone that the WWAMI and APS have many fans among decision makers and that they are making every effort to try to get things resolved as soon as possible.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, Vice Chair Parker moved to adjourn. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, all members present voted aye. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Approved by:

Chair

Date



Pat Pitney, Interim President

The University of Alaska Board of Regents selected Pat Pitney to serve as the university's interim president beginning on Aug. 1, 2020.

Previously Pitney served as the state's Director of the Division of Legislative Finance. She was the former Vice Chancellor of Administration, University of Alaska Fairbanks and worked at UA Statewide for 17 years. In all, Pitney spent 23 years with the University of Alaska before leaving to serve as the State Budget Director in the administration of former Governor Bill Walker.

Pitney is expected to serve as interim president for a minimum of a year or up to 18 months or until the appointment of a president, whichever comes first.

Pitney moved to Fairbanks in 1987 from Billings, Montana. She earned her MBA from UAF and an engineering physics degree from Murray State University (Kentucky). She has three adult children and two grandchildren. All three of her children are UA graduates, with degrees from UAF, UAA and UAS.

Before moving to Alaska, she was a member of the 1984 U.S. Olympic Team and won gold medal in women's air rifle.



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Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education Members
THROUGH: Sana Efird, Executive Director
FROM: Tyler Eggen, Institutional Authorization Program Coordinator
DATE: October 1, 2021
RE: **Compliance Activities Report for October 20, 2021**

Third Quarter Applications

- Renewal of Authorization

Alaska Driving Academy- Truck Driving Division

Hair Science

A Head of Time Design Academy

Wayland Baptist University

- Institutions qualifying for exemption from authorization in the second quarter.

Location	Initial Certification	Recertification
Alaska	3	6
Out-of-State	6	12

Institutional Monitoring

On February 7th, 2022, the new Entry-Level Driver Training (ELDT) mandate set by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) will be in effect. The ELDT regulation sets the baseline for training requirements for entry level drivers. All Commercial Driving License (CDL) training providers will have to apply and be approved

by the FMCSA for students seeking to obtain their CDL, upgrading from Class B to Class A CDL, and HAZMAT, Passenger, and School Bus endorsements for the first time. If a person possesses a CDL or endorsements prior to February 7, 2022, these new requirements will not affect them.

State of Alaska, Department of Administration, Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has in its regulation that driving schools in Alaska must be certified by a nationally recognized professional truck driver training program for commercial motor vehicles (2 AAC 91.080(2)(B.)). Historically, driving schools in Alaska were certified by the Professional Truck Driving Institute (PTDI) to meet this requirement. On August 30, 2021, PTDI announced that *“with mandated requirements for CDL training, the need for PTDI certification is no longer necessary. To that end, the PTDI Board of Directors have unanimously decided to cease providing and recognizing PTDI certification after February 7, 2022.”*

When ACPE became aware of the notification from PTDI, it reached out to all of its currently authorized institutions who were offering CDL and certified with PTDI. Additionally, ACPE has been in regular communication with the DMV regarding this matter.

Complaints

There are no Formal Complaints this quarter.

Learning Community Grant – Regulations and Outcomes

In February 2020, a \$15,000 grant was awarded to the Commission from the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO), with an 18-month window to complete work in two areas, the modernization of institutional authorization regulations and the development of standardized outcome metrics. The project is on schedule to meet the goal of adoption by the Commission in 2021. The proposed changes were submitted to the Department of Law for a legal review, and their review is now complete. The proposed regulations are substantial, including approximately forty pages of regulatory changes. In June 2021, ACPE Staff met with the Institutional Standards and Evaluations Committee, along with members from our authorized institutions to present and discuss the proposed changes. The proposed changes went before the Commission at the July 2021, where the Commission approved the motion to open the public comment period, which has since ended. The adoption of the proposed regulation changes are to be considered at the October 2021 meeting.



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Staff Report Alaska Driving Academy- Truck Driving Division Renewal of Authorization

Summary

Alaska Driving Academy Truck Driving Division (ADATDD) has been in operation for three and a half years offering authorized instruction in professional truck driving. ADATDD was founded by Ed Martin III in November 2017. The 160-hour course, Entry Level Truck Driving (ELDT), is certified by the Professional Truck Driver Institute (PTDI), a national organization that sets standards for the industry. Driver training is also overseen by the Alaska Department of Administration, Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV). ADATDD was approved in March 2018 by the DMV as a commercial driving school and a road skills test facility, which allows their licensed staff to conduct road skills exams. Chris Lisenby serves as the Director of Operations and Misty Lisenby as the Operations Manager.

Mr. Martin is also part owner of Kee Construction LLC, a family business founded in 2008. Through that business he owns the needed equipment (dump truck and tractor trailer), and has access to a private range where student drivers can practice skills before driving on public roads, and a large shop that allows students to conduct vehicle inspections inside.

Owner & Administrator	Ed Martin- Owner Chris Lisenby- Director of Operations Misty Lisenby- Operations Manager	Financial Statements	Financially Sound
Address	44332 Sterling Hwy Ste 16B Soldotna, AK 99669	FY20 Tuition Revenues	\$454,929
Year Founded	2017	FY 2020 Enrollment	86
Authorized Since	2018	FY 2020 Complaints	0
Surety Amount/Type	\$30,000 / Bond*	FY 2020 Completion Rate	100%
Fee Paid	\$2500	FY 2020 Placement Rate	100%

*Increase in bond due to anticipated revenue from exempt programming

Review

ADATDD offers ELDT at 160 hours, including 104 hours of classroom instruction and 56 hours of behind the wheel training. In the summer of 2021, ADATDD began offering a 120 hour Basic Civil Construction

(BCC) course for those needing more complete training in the operation of Heavy Equipment. The program is recognized by the National Center for Construction Education & Research (NCCER). Housing is included as a part of both programs for those who need it at no additional charge.

Related Business

The Alaska Driving Academy LLC (ADA) is a DMV-approved driver education school owned by Chris and Misty Lisenby. They opened in March of 2017 offering class D (non-commercial) driver training and road test exams. ADA and ADATTD share an office / classroom space, managers, website and logo but are under separate ownership.

Program name	Program length	Tuition and Fees
Entry Level Driver Training CDL Program	160 hours	\$5895.00
Basic Civil Construction*	120 hours	\$7000.00

*Exempt Programming

Site Visit

A virtual review of student records was conducted during the renewal of authorization application process with no issues identified. A physical site inspection will take place when staff are authorized to travel.

Staff finds the application is in compliance with applicable statutes and regulations.

Evaluation

Minimum Standards Component - AS 14.48.060	Staff Evaluation/Comments
1. Program and courses meet stated objectives	Industry-recognized and approved curriculum preparatory for licensing exams.
2. Adequacy of space, equipment, and resources	Approved by DMV and PTDI
3. Appropriateness of staff/faculty credentials	Compliant licenses
4. Catalog/brochure compliance	Compliant
5. Credential compliance	Certificate awarded
6. Adequacy of records	Reviewed at remote site visit
7. Compliance with applicable laws	Fire inspection received; no observations of non-compliance with other applicable laws
8. Financial soundness	Compliant
9. Advertising and sales	Compliant
10. Administrators are of good reputation	Background check - no adverse findings
11. Student housing, if any	Appear appropriate, safe, and adequate
12. Refund policy compliance	Reviewed and documented
13. Costs and charges compliance	Compliant

Staff Recommendation Action

Staff recommends a three year authorization of Alaska Driving Academy- Truck Driving Division, through October 31, 2024.



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Staff Report Hair Science Renewal of Authorization

Summary

Hair Science is a barbering and instructor school located in Anchorage. The owner, Vershawn Idom, is a member of the Board of Barbers and Hairdressers and has been a licensed instructor since 2010. The Commission first authorized the school in 2014. Hair Science is an open enrollment institution, offering classes in the evening and on weekends to accommodate working students, with a maximum enrollment of eight students.

Owner & Administrator	Vershawn Idom	Financial Statements	Compiled; do not meet regulatory soundness requirements
Address	203 W. 15 th Ave Unit 108 Anchorage, AK 99501	FY20 Tuition Revenues(including short programs)	\$32,322
Year Founded	2008	FY 2020 Enrollment	5
Authorized Since	2014	FY 2020 Complaints	0
Surety Amount/Type	\$30,000 Bond	FY 2020 Completion Rate	40% ¹
Fee Paid	\$1059.66	FY 2020 Placement Rate	100%

¹ Explanation of low Completion Rate: *"Last year as we all know was a very trying year for us all, and that is very true for me as a business owner as well. Covid 19 negatively affected my business. Many students had difficulty focusing and staying committed to complete our program due to the various difficulties that we all faced during the pandemic. Although we have been able to keep our doors open we cannot deny the effects that Covid 19 had on our completion rate being lower than what we would like."*

Review

Hair Science offers programs regulated by the Board of Barbers & Hairdressers. In April 2021, Hair Science added the Instructor program to its already existing Barber program, to increase student opportunities for continued growth and new skill acquisition. Vershawn Idom has been a member of the Board of Barbers & Hairdressers since March 2018, with a seat expiration of March 2022, and he plans on applying for reappointment.

Hair Science was renewed by the Commission in July 2020 for a renewal through October 30, 2021. The approval was contingent upon maintaining a teach-out plan, providing disclosure notice of financial status with Commission for student signature, and maintaining full bonding, due to financial unsoundness (negative cash flows from operations and no cash on hand for expenses). Hair Science was able to follow and complete those contingencies.

Program name	Program length	Tuition and Fees
Barber	1650 hours	\$9,275.00
Instructor	600 hours	\$6,650.00

Site Visit

A virtual review of student records was conducted during the renewal of authorization application process with no issues identified. A physical site inspection will take place when staff are authorized to travel.

Staff finds the application is in compliance with applicable statutes and regulations.

Evaluation

Minimum Standards Component - AS 14.48.060	Staff Evaluation/Comments
1. Program and courses meet stated objectives	Industry-recognized and approved curriculum preparatory for licensing exams.
2. Adequacy of space, equipment, and resources	Approved by Board of Barbers and Hairdressers
3. Appropriateness of staff/faculty credentials	Compliant licenses
4. Catalog/brochure compliance	Compliant
5. Credential compliance	Certificate awarded
6. Adequacy of records	Reviewed at remote site visit
7. Compliance with applicable laws	Fire inspection received; no observations of non-compliance with other applicable laws
8. Financial soundness	Compiled; do not meet regulatory soundness requirements ²
9. Advertising and sales	Compliant
10. Administrators are of good reputation	Background check - no adverse findings
11. Student housing, if any	N/A
12. Refund policy compliance	Reviewed and documented
13. Costs and charges compliance	Compliant

2 20 AAC 17.045(i)(1) A postsecondary educational institution is not financially sound if its financial statement submitted...shows (B) recurring negative cash flows from operations; (C) adverse financial

ratios. 20 AAC 17.045 (h) ...a postsecondary educational institution that is not financially sound, the amount of the required surety bond, cash deposit, or commission-approved negotiable securities is...the highest amount of revenue received by the institution...; (j) An institution considered not to be financially sound must maintain a commission approved, detailed teach-out plan...must annually update...plan and...surety. 20 AAC 17.117(g)...clearly and conspicuously disclose...finding to all students and applicants and provide...contact [for] the commission

Financial Soundness for FY 2020

As part of the Renewal of Authorization application process, Elgee Rehfeld, CPAs reviewed FY 2020 compiled financials. Their report found that the financial statements showed 14.29 days of cash on hand, but due to having negative equity, there are no months of expenses in reserve. This indicates sufficient liquidity, but insufficient capitalization and financial soundness.

In accordance with 20 AAC 17.045 (i) (1), this is an indicator of an institution being financially unsound. Therefore, regulation requires annual reporting, increased surety, a detailed teach-out plan and notification to students. The applicant provided a teach-out plan; disclosure notice to current and prospective students, to be signed and included in the student record; and increased bonding to the highest annual revenue reported. The staff has determined that these items meet the requirements of the statute and regulation.

Financial Soundness Comparison from FY 2019 to FY2020

In 2020, the financial statements reflect a net income of \$51,073 on operating revenues, the prior year (2019) had a net income of \$10,207.

In 2020, net cash provided by operating activities were \$63,973, which is a total increase in cash and cash equivalencies of \$6,379 from the previous year.

Staff Recommendation Action

Staff recommends a one year authorization of Hair Science, through October 31, 2022, based upon improved finances between FY19 and FY20, and COVID-19 related hardships to both Hair Science as a business and school. The approval is contingent upon maintaining a teach-out plan, providing disclosure notice of financial status with Commission for student signature, and maintaining full bonding.



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Staff Report A Head of Time Design Academy Renewal of Authorization

Summary

A Head of Time Design Academy has continuously operated as an authorized cosmetology school since 1985. The owner, Rosalyn Wyche, is a licensed instructor in Hairdressing, Esthetics, Barbering and Advanced Manicuring. Ms. Wyche also owns a beauty supply store adjacent to the salon/school that is a significant source of revenue for her business.

Owner & Administrator	Rosalyn Wyche	Financial Statements	Financially Sound
Address	360 Boniface Pkwy Ste A28 Anchorage, AK 99504	FY20 Tuition Revenues(including short programs)	\$24,200
Year Founded	1985	FY 2020 Enrollment	6
Authorized Since	1985	FY 2020 Complaints	0
Surety Amount/Type	\$5,000 / Bond	FY 2020 Completion Rate	100%
Fee Paid	\$587.25	FY 2020 Placement Rate	100%

Review

A Head of Time Design Academy (Academy) offers programs regulated by the Board of Barbers & Hairdressers, and programs are both authorized and exempt from authorization by ACPE. The most popular programs are barbering and manicuring (12 hours). The Academy is looking to add Hair Braiding (35 hours) and Non Chemical Barber (1350 hours) during this renewal application for students who want to enhance their current skills.

Program name	Program length	Tuition and Fees
Hairdresser	1650 hours	\$8,475
Barber	1650 hours	\$8,475

Hairdresser and Barber	1650 hours	\$11,225
Esthetician	350 hours	\$6,950
Instructor	600 hours	\$5,350
Hairdresser and Barber Refresher	320 hours	\$2,625
Advanced Manicuring	250 hours	\$3,050
Manicuring	12 hours	\$599
Hair Braiding	35 hours	\$1,000
Non-Chemical Barber	1350 hours	\$7,975

Site Visit

A virtual review of student records was conducted during the renewal of authorization application process with no issues identified. A physical site inspection will take place when staff are authorized to travel.

Staff finds the application is in compliance with applicable statutes and regulations.

Evaluation

Minimum Standards Component - AS 14.48.060	Staff Evaluation/Comments
1. Program and courses meet stated objectives	Industry-recognized and approved curriculum preparatory for licensing exams.
2. Adequacy of space, equipment, and resources	Approved by Board of Barbers and Hairdressers
3. Appropriateness of staff/faculty credentials	Compliant licenses
4. Catalog/brochure compliance	Compliant
5. Credential compliance	Certificate awarded
6. Adequacy of records	Reviewed at remote site visit
7. Compliance with applicable laws	Fire inspection received; no observations of non-compliance with other applicable laws
8. Financial soundness	Compliant
9. Advertising and sales	Compliant
10. Administrators are of good reputation	Background check - no adverse findings
11. Student housing, if any	N/A
12. Refund policy compliance	Reviewed and documented
13. Costs and charges compliance	Compliant

Staff Recommendation Action

Staff recommends a three year authorization of A Head of Time Design Academy, through October 31, 2024.



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Staff Report Wayland Baptist University Renewal of Authorization

Summary

Wayland Baptist University (WBU) is a private, non-profit university chartered in 1908, with a main campus in Plainview, TX, and thirteen external locations worldwide, including Anchorage and Fairbanks. In addition, WBU has five auxiliary locations in Alaska, with four located on military bases and the fifth in Wasilla. All campuses are regionally accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). The primary Anchorage location, which opened in 1985, was authorized from the mid-90s until 2000, when it qualified for exemption. Due to amended federal requirements for Title IV eligibility and the resulting changes to Alaska regulations, WBU was required to be authorized.

Administrator	Dr. Eric Ash, Executive Director	Financial Statements	Financially Sound
Addresses	Anchorage Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anchorage • JBER Elmendorf • JBER Ft. Richardson • Wasilla Fairbanks Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eielson AFB • Ft. Wainwright • North Pole 	FY20 Tuition Revenues(including short programs)	\$36,823,648
Year Founded	1908	FY 2020 Enrollment(Full Time)	Fall-290 Winter-263 Spring-256 Summer-194
AK Branch Authorized Since	1985	FY 2020 Complaints	0
Surety Amount/Type	\$250,000 / Bond	FY 2020 Completion Rate ¹	92%
Fee Paid	\$2,500	FY 2020 Retention Rate	43%

¹ Calculations based on full time, non-transfer students.

Review

The campuses offer students courses taught by an in-class instructor, as well as courses taught by an off-site instructor who broadcasts into the classroom in real time, with teacher/student interaction via video and teleconferencing. Students can also take completely online classes outside of the classroom setting. Classes are offered primarily in the evenings to accommodate working students. The most popular bachelors program is the Bachelor of Applied Science and its most popular graduate program is the Master of Arts in Management. Though the Master of Christian Ministry is currently being taught out, it is being replaced by the Master of Arts, Christian Ministry.

With WBU's main campus located in Texas, WBU is a NC-SARA participant through that state, allowing students to enroll in additional courses via distance education that may not be offered at the branch campuses located in Alaska.

Program name	Program length	Tuition and Fees
Associate of Applied Science (AAS)	65 hours	\$20,540
AAS Business Administration*	65 hours	\$20,540
AAS Christian Ministry*	65 hours	\$20,540
AAS Criminal Justice Administration*	65 hours	\$20,540
AAS Human Services*	65 hours	\$20,540
Bachelor of Arts	124 hours	\$39,184
Bachelor of Business Administration	124 hours	\$39,184
Bachelor of Christian Ministry (BCM)	124 hours	\$39,184
Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS)	124 hours	\$39,184
BAS Applied Science*	124 hours	\$39,184
BAS Banking and Finance*	124 hours	\$39,184
BAS Business Administration*	124 hours	\$39,184
BAS Computer Information Systems*	124 hours	\$39,184
BAS Computer Science*	124 hours	\$39,184
BAS Criminal Justice Administration*	124 hours	\$39,184
BAS Early Childhood Development*	124 hours	\$39,184
BAS Environmental Studies*	124 hours	\$39,184
BAS Human Services*	124 hours	\$39,184
BAS Management*	124 hours	\$39,184
Accelerated BCM Theological Studies & MA Theological Studies*	148 or 154 (Thesis) hours	\$49,974/ \$52,671
Accelerated BCM & Master of Divinity/MBA*	179 hours	\$63,910
Accelerated BCM & Master of Divinity*	161 hours	\$60,618
Master of Arts	39 hours	\$17,541
Master of Arts, Christian Ministry	42 hours	\$18,882
Master of Arts, Management	39 hours	\$17,541
Master of Arts, Organizational Leadership*	39 hours	\$17,541
Master of Arts, Theological Studies*	42 Hours	\$18,882
Master of Business Administration	48 hours	\$21,648

Master of Christian Ministry (teach-out)	43 hours	\$19,393
Master of Divinity	72/78 (language)	\$32,472/\$35,178

*New program offered or program previously authorized but included for clarity on degree programs being offered.

**Does not cover online programs by WBU, which are covered by NC-SARA. Texas is the home state for WBU for SARA purposes.

Site Visit

A virtual review of student records was conducted during the renewal of authorization application process with no issues identified. A physical site inspection will take place when staff are authorized to travel.

Staff finds the application is in compliance with applicable statutes and regulations.

Evaluation

Minimum Standards Component - AS 14.48.060	Staff Evaluation/Comments
1. Program and courses meet stated objectives	Institution is accredited by the SACSCOC and compliant
2. Adequacy of space, equipment, and resources	Verified
3. Appropriateness of staff/faculty credentials	Compliant licenses
4. Catalog/brochure compliance	Compliant
5. Credential compliance	Certificate and diploma
6. Adequacy of records	Reviewed at remote site visit
7. Compliance with applicable laws	Fire inspection received; no observations of non-compliance with other applicable laws
8. Financial soundness	Compliant
9. Advertising and sales	Compliant
10. Administrators are of good reputation	Background check - no adverse findings
11. Student housing, if any	N/A
12. Refund policy compliance	Reviewed and documented
13. Costs and charges compliance	Compliant

Staff Recommendation Action

Staff recommends a five year authorization of Wayland Baptist University, through October 31, 2026.



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Regulations Change Institutional Authorization Fees and Processes Staff Report

Issue

In 2018, ACPE began identifying areas of focus for improvement regarding Institutional Authorization processes and fees after receiving results from a survey from eleven of the authorized institutions. In that survey, several areas were highlighted needing improvements including the requirements for renewal of authorization, amendment of authorization, fees, financial soundness, surety bonds, and many others. However, this project was stalled when regulation drafting resources were unavailable.

Institutional Authorization Background

Alaska Statute 14.48 establishes the state's Institutional Authorization program. It requires entities offering any education credentials or postsecondary education beyond high school to meet minimum academic, administrative, and financial standards, as well as other conditions. The primary purpose of Institutional Authorization is education consumer protection, to protect postsecondary students from false or misleading practices, and to ensure institutions and entities offering postsecondary education in Alaska have the ability to deliver the advertised education or training. Alaska Administrative Code 20 AAC 17 implements these statutes by setting out the documentation required to demonstrate meeting these statutory requirements.

Learning Community Grant

ACPE applied for and was awarded a \$15,000 State Authorization Learning Community grant from the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO), together with eleven other states. Over the last year, ACPE received professional development, technical assistance, and peer learning opportunities that supported and informed state authorization improvement efforts in Alaska.

The focus of this project was on Institutional Authorization regulation changes, which were well developed from prior years' work. The project team revisited and revised those draft regulations, with the goal for adoption by the Commission in early 2021. Another area of focus was the development of standardized outcome metrics. This area of technical assistance was the most valuable from the learning community, as several state teams were also implementing outcome measures. The goal is to develop standardized metrics regarding education program quality, then collect and publish the data on the commission's existing Alaska Career Information System (AKCIS).

Proposed Final Draft of Changes to Alaska Administrative Code

Attached are the proposed regulation changes.

Changes to Proposed Changes to Alaska Administrative Code since July 2021 Commission Meeting

Attached is the summary of changes from the previously proposed changes that were presented at the July 2021 Commission meeting.

Program Amendment Fees from Other State Regulating Agencies

Attached are the program amendment fees from other state regulating agencies.

Public Comments

Attached are the public comments received during the Institutional Standards and Evaluations Committee meeting and from the public comment period.

Summary of Process to Adoption

This proposal, when adopted, will streamline authorization processes, align fees with services, and provide greater oversight of institutional financial health, student consumer protections, and monitoring of changes. Notice of the proposed changes to the Alaska Administrative Code will be published on the Commission's website and comply with notification requirements seeking public comment. At the October 2021 Commission meeting, staff will provide a final draft for adoption, along with a list of any public comments received and any staff recommended changes, as a result of that comment.

Staff Recommended Action

Staff recommends approval of the amendments to Alaska Administrative Code, Title 20, Chapter 17.

Register _____, _____ 20__ MISCELLANEOUS BOARDS

20 AAC 17.015 is repealed and readopted to read:

20 AAC 17.015. Exemptions. (a) Except as provided in (e) of this section, the commission staff will exempt from the authorization provisions of AS 14.48 and this chapter the following educational programs, and institutions providing only the following educational programs:

(1) a program sponsored by and conducted solely for the members of a bona fide trade, business, professional, labor, or fraternal organization that is maintained in good faith for purposes other than operating an educational institution;

(2) a program that does not offer educational credentials;

(3) a program that is continuing professional education offered solely as preparation for tests leading to certification in specific disciplines, but not purporting to provide occupational competencies;

(4) a program or institution that is operated by another state agency or political subdivision of the state;

(5) a program that is regulated by another agency or political subdivision of the state that sets and enforces standards equivalent to AS 14.48.060;

(6) a short course of study that is not more than 15 days or 120 hours in duration, including all required class, laboratory, externship, and independent study hours;

(7) a program that is provided without charging tuition or fees, except for the actual cost of materials and supplies needed to successfully meet the learning objectives of the program;

(8) a program that does not result in the awarding of a degree, and that is sponsored by and conducted solely for the membership of a bona fide religious organization;

(9) a flight-training course that maintains current certification under 14 C.F.R. Part 141 or Part 142;

(10) an apprenticeship or other on-the-job training program through which the trainee is a paid employee and does not pay tuition, and which is offered by an entity that is not a postsecondary educational institution under AS 14.48.210(9);

(11) an online or distance delivered program that does not have a physical presence within the state.

(b) An institution that qualifies for exemption from authorization under (a) 1-10 of this section and that requires a certificate of exemption shall submit an application provided by the commission and pay the fee described in 20 AAC 17.055(a). The requested certification shall expire five years from the exemption certification date or when programs change from that which was described in the application for exemption. An application that qualifies for exemption from authorization under (a)(11) of this section shall submit an application provided by the commission and pay the fee described in 20 AAC 17.055(a). Institutions that qualify under (a)(11) must reapply biennially and certify that the educational programs and institution continue to meet requirements for exempt status under this section.

(c) Repealed 12/29/2010.

(d) For the purposes of (a) of this section,

(1) a fraternal organization is a civic, service, or charitable organization in the state, not for pecuniary profit, that is a branch, lodge, or chapter of a national or state

organization and exists for the common business, fellowship, or other interest of its members; the term does not include a college or high school fraternity;

(2) a labor organization is one, not for pecuniary profit, that is constituted to bargain collectively or deal with employers, including the state and its political subdivisions, concerning grievances, terms or conditions of employment or other mutual aid or protection in connection with employees;

(3) a trade, business, or professional organization is one, not for pecuniary profit, that is composed of persons all of whom are or were actively engaged in the same trade, business, or profession;

(4) a religious organization is one that is tax exempt under 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3) as a religious organization and that offers and provides postsecondary education solely in the form of religious training to persons who hold or seek to learn the particular religious faith or beliefs of that religious organization;

(5) a short course of study is one that

(A) results in its own certificate or credential and is not part of a sequence of classes for which the institution of enrollment awards any program credential or certificate;

(B) does not include a requirement that students register for or make a financial commitment to a longer program in addition to the individual class;

(C) has documented vocational or academic transfer value as a stand-alone unit; and

(D) is not advertised or described as leading to any professional credential or certification for which the certifying entity publishes a curriculum that exceeds 120 hours;

(e) An institution exempted under this section from some of the requirements of AS 14.48 and this chapter is not exempted from the requirements of AS 14.48.060(b), 14.48.130, 14.48.150, 14.48.170, and 14.48.180 – 14.48.210 and the regulations in this chapter that implement, interpret, or make specific those sections. An institution exempted from authorization requirements under (a)(1) or (8) of this section must include a conspicuous statement on marketing, admissions, enrollment materials, and certificates or diplomas setting out verbatim (a)(1) or (8) of this section, whichever is applicable, and informing that the institution is exempt from authorization requirements under AS 14.48 and this chapter. An institution exempt from authorization requirements under (a)(11) of this section must include a conspicuous statement on the institution's marketing in the state, indicating that the program is exempt from authorization under AS 14.48 and this chapter, because the program is online or distance delivered and the institution does not have a physical presence in the state.

(f) An institution exempted from authorization provisions of AS 14.48 and this chapter must retain the document required under AS 14.48.165(b) for a period of at least one year after the student's last date of attendance.

(g) Upon written application to the commission documenting that the applicant qualifies under this subsection, the commission staff shall exempt from 20 AAC 17.205 - 20 AAC 17.250 an institution that

(1) is regionally or nationally accredited; and

(2) is a branch campus of an out-of-state institution that is authorized to operate in its home state.

(h) The commission may request documentation of an institution's qualification for exemption from authorization under this chapter at any time. A person who, with intent to defraud, falsely makes, completes, or alters a written instrument may be subject to criminal penalty. (Eff. 12/30/77, Register 64; am 8/20/86, Register 99; am 1/30/87, Register 101; am 9/15/88, Register 107; am 3/25/90, Register 113; am 5/4/90, Register 114; am 10/11/95, Register 136; am 4/24/98, Register 146; am 4/20/2000, Register 154; am 4/27/2001, Register 158; am 3/1/2002, Register 161; am 12/31/2005, Register 176; am 10/18/2007, Register 184; am 12/29/2010, Register 196; am 10/3/2011, Register 200; am 2/21/2014, Register 209; am 2/22/2015, Register 213; am __/__/__, Register ____)

Authority:	AS 11.46.510	AS 14.42.030	AS 14.48.020
	AS 14.48.030	AS 14.48.050	AS 14.48.210

20 AAC 17.020 is repealed and readopted to read:

20 AAC 17.020. Application for authorization to operate. (a) Repealed 10/11/95.

(b) A person or entity that wishes to operate a postsecondary institution in the state, that does not meet the exemption criteria set out in 20 AAC 17.015(a), must apply to the commission for authorization, using an application provided by the commission.

(c) The complete application, including the fee required by 20 AAC 17.055(a), evidence of bonding or other security required by 20 AAC 17.045 and all required forms and documents, must be received by the commission at least 90 days prior to the next scheduled commission meeting.

(d) Upon receipt of the required application, materials and fees, commission staff shall review submittal for compliance with AS 14.48 and this chapter. Commission staff shall notify the applicant of any deficiencies and will establish a deadline for receipt of any additional materials.

(e) Commission staff may assess a late fee, in accordance with 20 AAC 17.055(a), if an institution fails to provide the information necessary to complete an application by the deadline set by commission staff. An incomplete application may be deferred to the next regularly scheduled commission meeting.

(f) Commission staff will establish a date for on-site evaluation during the application period.

(g) The commission will approve, approve with conditions, deny, or grant a continuation period to provide additional supporting documentation for an incomplete application. The initial authorization period shall not exceed eighteen months.

(h) Commission review of the content of education programs and curricula of a religious nature will not involve the merits of the religious teachings.

(i) In order to determine academic soundness, the commission may engage a third-party expert or experts in the field(s) the applicant is applying to instruct. The cost of the expert review is borne by the applicant and must be paid before the commission considers the application. (Eff. 12/30/77, Register 64; am 8/20/86, Register 99; am 3/16/91, Register 117; am 10/11/95, Register 136; am 8/26/98, Register 147; am 4/20/2000, Register 154; am 12/31/2005, Register 176; am 12/29/2010, Register 196; am __/__/__, Register ____)

Authority: AS 14.48.050 AS 14.48.070 AS 14.48.090

20 AAC 17.025 repealed and readopted to read:

20 AAC 17.025. Renewal of authorization to operate. (a) A request for renewal of an authorization to operate, including a completed application and accompanying documents, must be submitted, on forms provided by the commission, at least 90 days before the date on which the institution's current authorization is scheduled to expire. A late fee may be assessed, in accordance with 20 AAC 17.055(a), if an institution fails to provide the information by the deadline.

(b) An institution must have enrolled students during its current authorization period or document pending enrollments for the upcoming period in order to be considered for renewal of an authorization to operate.

(c) The commission staff will review the application for completeness. Upon review, if the application is not complete; commission staff shall inform the applicant of any deficiencies and a will establish a deadline for receipt of any additional materials.

(d) The commission staff may assess a late fee, in accordance with 20 AAC 17.055(a), if an institution fails to provide the information necessary to complete an application by the deadline set by commission staff.

(e) An incomplete application may be deferred to the next regularly scheduled commission meeting. During this period, institutions may not operate other than under an approved teach-out plan until the renewal is authorized by the commission.

(f) Commission staff will establish a date for on-site evaluation during the authorization period.

(g) The commission will approve, approve with conditions, deny, or grant a continuation period to provide additional supporting documentation for an incomplete application. Renewal

of authorization may be for a period of up to five years. (Eff. 12/30/77, Register 64; am 8/20/86, Register 99; am 4/27/2001, Register 158; am 3/1/2002, Register 161; am 12/31/2005, Register 176; am 12/29/2010, Register 196; am __/__/__, Register ____)

Authority: AS 14.42.030 AS 14.48.050 AS 14.48.070
AS 14.48.090

20 AAC 17.030(a) is repealed and readopted to read:

(a) A person or entity desiring to function as a postsecondary education agent or independent recruiter shall apply to the commission for an agent's permit. The complete application as required under AS 14.48.080(a), including the fee required by 20 AAC 17.055(b), evidence of bonding or other security required under 20 AAC 17.045, and all forms and documents required by the application instructions, must be received by the commission at least 90 days prior to the next scheduled commission meeting.

20 AAC 17.030(b) is amended to read:

(b) Upon receipt of the completed application, accompanying documents, appropriate fees, and evidence of bonding, the **commission staff shall place the application on the commission's agenda for review and action** [COMMISSION WILL REVIEW THE MATERIALS AND GRANT OR DENY AN AGENT'S PERMIT TO THE APPLICANT]. The commission will notify the applicant in writing of its decision.

(Eff. 12/30/77, Register 64; am 10/11/95, Register 136; am 8/26/98, Register 147; am 12/29/2010, Register 196; am __/__/__, Register ____)

Authority: AS 14.48.050 AS 14.48.080

20 AAC 17.040(a) is amended to read:

(a) In the event of a change in **an institution's** [SENIOR MANAGEMENT OF AN INSTITUTION, A CHANGE IN THE] mission, educational program, [OR] program delivery methods **or tuition and fees charged** [OF AN INSTITUTION], or a change of **physical location** [ADDRESS] of the school or any of its facilities, the institution and its agents shall notify the commission in writing of the change at least **90 days** [ONE CALENDAR QUARTER] before the effective date of the change or as soon as plans for change are known. **Institutions shall provide copies of communication from accrediting agencies or oversight bodies that document changes in status that depart from the information provided with the most recent authorization application.**

20 AAC 17.040(b) is amended to read:

(b) A change described in (a) of this section, or any departure from program information specified in the institution's most recent authorization application must be approved by the commission before implementation, with the exception of a change in curriculum, [OR] instructional delivery method **or a change in senior management, which commission staff may administratively approve** [THAT IS SOLELY TO CONFORM WITH UPDATES TO PREVIOUSLY APPROVED INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGIES OR MATERIALS]. **The institution shall notify commission staff prior to the change.**

20 AAC 17.040(c) is amended to read:

(c) An institution with an authorization to operate shall notify the commission upon entering into contracts or negotiations related to sale of the institution. At least 30 days before the effective date of a change of ownership of an institution, the new owner shall submit **an application for initial authorization and application fee** [A NEW APPLICATION FOR AUTHORIZATION TO OPERATE]. The completed application must include the required fee under **20 AAC 17.055(a)** [20 AAC 17.055, EVIDENCE OF BONDING OR OTHER SECURITY ISSUED IN THE NAME OF THE NEW OWNER, FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE NEW OWNER, THE DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR A REQUEST FOR RENEWAL OF AUTHORIZATION], description of any changes to be made at the institution as a result of the change in ownership, the effective date of the change [IN OWNERSHIP], and a statement of the assets and obligations that will be transferred. Upon determination that the application is complete, the commission staff shall place the application on the agenda for the next commission meeting. An institution that administers financial aid on behalf of the commission must have a change in ownership approved in order to be eligible to continue to administer that aid. Upon approval by the commission, the commission will issue to the institution an authorization to operate.

20 AAC 17.040(e) is repealed and readopted to read:

(e) An authorization to operate an institution is restricted to the fields or courses specifically indicated in the application for authorization. The holder of an authorization shall present a program amendment application and the fee required by 20 AAC 17.055(a) for

approval of additional fields or courses in which it seeks to offer instruction. An institution may offer courses of study only at locations for which it has been approved.

20 AAC 17.040 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(f) For the purposes of this section, "ownership" means a controlling interest held by a person, including a partnership or corporation, in an educational institution. (Eff. 12/30/77, Register 64; am 3/15/85, Register 93; am 6/27/87, Register 102; am 10/11/95, Register 136; am 3/13/96, Register 137; am 8/26/98, Register 147; am 4/20/2000, Register 154; am 1/30/2003, Register 165; am 12/31/2005, Register 176; am 11/24/2007, Register 184; am 12/29/2010, Register 196; am __/__/____, Register _____)

Authority: AS 14.48.050 AS 14.48.060 AS 14.48.070

20 AAC 17.045(a) is amended to read:

(a) Except as provided in (e) of this section, a postsecondary educational institution and an agent shall post a surety bond, [A CASH DEPOSIT,] or commission-approved negotiable securities as required by AS 14.48.100 and in an amount determined under this section. The surety bond [, CASH DEPOSIT,] or negotiable securities must be executed solely in favor of and filed with the commission. The commission may increase or decrease the bonding requirement to conform to the level set in (b) or (h) of this section based on updated financial or other information [RECEIVED DURING A RENEWAL PERIOD].

20 AAC 17.045(b) is amended to read

(b) Except as provided in **20 AAC 17.102** [H OF THIS SECTION], the amount of the required surety bond, [CASH DEPOSIT,] or commission-approved negotiable securities is based, for an existing institution, upon the highest amount of revenue received by the institution for all students enrolled in all programs during an academic or a vocational program period, **in the most recent calendar, or fiscal, 12 month period** [TERM, OR SEMESTER IN THE PREVIOUS ACADEMIC YEAR]; or for new institutions or institutions that have added or deleted programs, the highest amount of revenue the commission staff projects will be earned by the institution for all students enrolled in all programs during an academic or a vocational program period, [TERM, OR SEMESTER] in the upcoming academic year. The amount of the bond is determined as follows:

POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Institution Revenue	[BOND AMOUNT (PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCHOOL)]	Bond Amount (Other)
Up to \$25,000	[\$ 3,750]	\$ 5,000
\$ 25,001 - \$ 50,000	[\$ 7,500]	\$ 10,000
\$ 50,001 - \$100,000	[\$15,000]	\$ 20,000
\$100,001 - \$150,000	[\$22,500]	\$ 30,000
\$150,001 - \$200,000	[\$30,000]	\$ 40,000
\$200,001 - \$250,000	[\$37,500]	\$ 50,000
\$250,001 - \$300,000	[\$45,000]	\$ 60,000
\$300,001 - \$400,000	[\$60,000]	\$ 80,000
\$400,001 - \$500,000	[\$75,000]	\$100,000
\$500,001 - \$750,000	[\$112,500]	\$150,000
\$750,001 - \$1,000,000	[\$150,000]	\$200,000
\$1,000,001 and above	[\$200,000]	\$250,000

20 AAC 17.045(h) is repealed:

(h) Repealed ___/___/____.

20 AAC 17.045(i) is repealed:

(i) Repealed ___/___/____.

20 AAC 17.045(j) is repealed:

(j) Repealed ___/___/____. Eff. 3/6/86, Register 97; am 5/8/88, Register 106; am 9/15/88, Register 107; am 12/8/88, Register 108; am 5/4/90, Register 114; am 8/18/91, Register 117; am 4/24/98, Register 146; am 8/26/98, Register 147; am 4/20/2000, Register 154; am 12/31/2005, Register 176; am 12/29/2010, Register 196; am 2/22/2015, Register 213; am ___/___/____, Register _____)

Authority: AS 14.48.050 AS 14.48.100

20 AAC 17.055(a) is amended to read:

(a) An institution or agent shall pay **fees required under 20 AAC 17.015-17.040 and 17.062 by check or other approved electronic method as follows** [THE FOLLOWING FEES]:

(1) application fee for **initial** [NEW] authorization, **or change in ownership** **under 20 AAC 17.040(c), \$2,750 for up to 3 programs, plus \$750 for each additional program, but no more than \$5,000** [\$2,500];

(2) **annual reporting fee to retain** [FEE FOR RENEWAL OF] **authorization,** **one point two** [THREE] percent of [AVERAGE OF] the total annual tuition and fee receipts in the most recent **annual reporting** [AUTHORIZATION] period, in an amount of at least **\$400** [\$500], but no more than **\$1,000** [\$2500];

(3) [APPLICATION] fee **to amend an authorization to change an institution's mission, to add a site inspection, or to add a new program, \$750 each** [FOR APPROVAL REQUIRED UNDER 20 AAC 17.040(b)];

(4) fee **to amend an authorization** for a change of **the school** site or **any of its facilities** [AN ADDITIONAL SITE INSPECTION], \$500; [AND]

(5) application fee **for an exemption** under **20 AAC 17.015** [20 AAC 17.015(h)], **\$250** [\$100];

(6) late fees under 20 AAC 17.020(e), 20 AAC 17.025(a) and (d) and 20 AAC 17.062, \$500; and

(7) fee for an administrative determination as to curriculum, instructional delivery method, or change in senior management necessary to maintain authorization, and not requiring action by the commission, \$200.

20 AAC 17.055(b) is amended to read:

(b) **A postsecondary education** [AN] agent **or an independent recruiter** shall pay the following fees:

(1) application fee for an initial agent's permit, \$500; and

(2) application fee for renewal of an agent's permit, \$250.

20 AAC 17.055(c) is repealed:

(c) Repealed ___/___/____. (Eff. 12/30/77, Register 64; am 8/20/86, Register 99; am 4/24/98, Register 146; am 12/31/2005, Register 176; am 2/24/2011, Register 197; am ___/___/____, Register _____)

Authority: AS 14.48.030 AS 14.48.050 AS 14.48.090
AS 14.48.100

20 AAC 17.060(b) is repealed:

(b) Repealed ___/___/____.

20 AAC 17.060(e) is amended to read:

(e) An institution shall establish and maintain minimum admission standards to determine that a prospective student is qualified to study in a course or program with a reasonable likelihood of success. If the field for which the student is to train requires the individual to meet specific requirements for occupational licensing under AS 08 or for employment, an institution shall assess the prospective student's ability to obtain qualifications in those areas. **If the generally accepted employment standards of the field of study or AS 08 do not allow individuals to practice or obtain employment based on particular qualifications, such as criminal background and health history, an institution shall require documentation of the prospective student's qualifications in these areas prior to enrollment.** An institution must demonstrate to the commission that its admission requirements establish a standard of competency, knowledge, and aptitude allowing a prospective student to complete the program of study and obtain employment in the field for which the training is preparatory. An institution providing instruction in an occupation for which licensure under AS

08 is required must document that the instruction offered by the institution meets the requirements of AS 08 applicable to that occupation, or must clearly indicate that the instruction is avocational.

20 AAC 17.060(i) is repealed:

(i) Repealed ___/___/____.

20 AAC 17.060(j) is repealed:

(j) Repealed ___/___/____.

20 AAC 17.060(k) is repealed:

(k) Repealed ___/___/____.

20 AAC 17.060(l) is repealed:

(l) Repealed ___/___/____. (Eff. 12/30/77, Register 64; am 5/10/78, Register 66; am 3/15/85, Register 93; am 8/20/86, Register 99; am 1/30/87, Register 101; am 3/25/90, Register 113; am 5/4/90, Register 114; am 10/11/95, Register 136; am 6/13/97, Register 142; am 4/24/98, Register 146; am 4/20/2000, Register 154; am 4/27/2001, Register 158; am 12/29/2010, Register 196; am 6/24/2012, Register 202; am 2/21/2014, Register 209; am ___/___/____, Register _____)

Authority: AS 14.48.050 AS 14.48.060 AS 14.48.070

20 AAC 17.062 is repealed and readopted to read:

20 AAC 17.062. Annual reporting standards. (a) An authorized institution shall annually submit, with the fee described in 20 AAC 17.055(a), in a format provided by the commission, a report for each education program offered. The report shall include annual performance indicators in accordance with this section, documentation of financial soundness in accordance with 20 AAC 17.102, surety in compliance with 20 AAC 17.045, and documentation of life-safety requirements in conformance with 20 AAC 17.060. Institutions that report to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) are not required to provide annual performance reports unless there has been a change from what was reported to IPEDS. Annual reporting is due by December 1. A late fee, in accordance with 20 AAC 17.055(a), may be assessed if an institution fails to provide the information by the required date.

(b) A career, technical, or vocational institution authorized by the commission shall provide, on an annual basis and on a form provided by the commission, the following information by institution and program:

- (1) Number of students enrolled;
- (2) Demographic statistics such as race, gender, and age;
- (3) Number of students who withdrew;
- (4) Number of students who were unable to complete due to circumstances beyond their control, such as death or military mobilization
- (5) Number of students who completed;
- (6) Type and number of credentials awarded such as degrees, certificates and other diplomas;
- (7) Number of students who completed their program within 150% of the normal or expected time for completion;

(8) Number of graduates placed for employment, if placement service is offered by institution; and

(9) Number of graduates taking professional licensure exams, and pass rate for those graduates.

(c) Data shall include all students enrolled at the institution during the 12 months beginning July 1 and ending June 30 of the year prior to the report.

(d) An institution that offers an employment placement service shall maintain in the student's file written evidence of placement that includes date of employment, employer name, contact information, and graduate's job title.

(e) An institution with average annual institutional or individual program withdrawal rates exceeding twenty-five percent (25%) or annual average institutional or individual program placement rates less than seventy percent (70%) shall provide a written explanation of the circumstances contributing to these rates and describe what actions the institution will take to lower the withdrawal rates or increase the placement rates.

(f) An institution shall request graduates to complete a commission-approved exit survey, developed by the institution, to assess satisfaction with the program and the institution. The institution shall maintain the completed exit surveys for review by the commission upon request.

(g) A career, technical, or vocational institution authorized by the commission shall maintain substantiating documentation for reports prepared under (b) of this section, and, upon request, provide the documentation to the commission.

(h) An institution shall provide reports prepared under this section to prospective students upon request.

(i) Commission staff will use the information collected under this section to calculate statistics. The Commission may make data collected under this section or results of Commission calculations publically available. (Eff. 6/13/97, Register 142; am 4/24/98, Register 146; am 4/20/2000, Register 154; am 4/27/2001, Register 158; am 11/24/2007, Register 184; am 12/29/2010, Register 196; am __/__/____, Register _____)

Authority: AS 14.48.050 AS 14.48.060 AS 14.48.070
AS 14.48.090

20 AAC 17.070(d) is repealed and readopted to read:

(d) Institutions must clearly describe the delivery method of the courses offered: on-line, on-ground or a combination. If a combination, or blended delivery, the institution must include the maximum percentage of coursework that is delivered online, or clearly indicate which courses are delivered on-line.

20 AAC 17.070 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(n) An institution may not advertise that a program prepares a student for employment in a profession unless that program meets any applicable state licensure requirements for that profession. (Eff. 12/30/77, Register 64; am 3/25/90, Register 113; am 5/4/90, Register 114; am 10/11/95, Register 136; am 4/24/98, Register 146; am 3/1/2002, Register 161; am 12/29/2010, Register 196; am 10/3/2011, Register 200; am 2/21/2014, Register 209; am __/__/____, Register _____)

Authority: AS 14.42.030 AS 14.48.050 AS 14.48.060

The introductory language of 20 AAC 17.075 is amended to read:

20 AAC 17.075. Catalog [OR BROCHURE]. An institution shall provide prospective students with a copy of its catalog [OR BROCHURE]. The catalog [OR BROCHURE] must contain the following information:

• • •

20 AAC 17.075(7) is amended to read:

(7) a schedule of tuition and fees, books, supplies, equipment, services, rentals, deposits, housing, and any other student costs, as appropriate, **including costs for testing or licensure that are required for entry into the field or profession;**

20 AAC 17.075(10) is amended to read:

(10) a description of the school's **facility or campus** [PHYSICAL PLANT]; (Eff. 3/15/85, Register 93; am 10/17/87, Register 104; am 5/4/90, Register 114; am 3/13/91, Register 117; am 4/20/2000, Register 154; am 12/31/2005, Register 176; am 12/29/2010, Register 196; am __/__/____, Register _____)

Authority: AS 14.48.050 AS 14.48.060

20 AAC 17.090 is amended to read:

20 AAC 17.090. Supervisors and instructors. (a) An institution must have a designated supervisor who is directly responsible for the content and method of instruction, the selection, supervision, and evaluation of instructors, the organization of classes, maintenance of facilities

and equipment, the maintenance of proper scholastic records **and, if applicable, the operation of the online education learning management system.**

20 AAC 17.090 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(d) An institution that offers distance-delivered education shall ensure that all instructors that use the online education learning management system demonstrate competency in the use of that system. (Eff. 3/15/85, Register 93; am 5/4/90, Register 114; am 10/11/95, Register 136; am __/__/__, Register ____)

Authority: AS 14.48.050 AS 14.48.060

20 AAC 17.095 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(g) The institution must have appropriate and adequate technology systems and infrastructure to support its management and operational functions, academic programs, and support services, wherever offered and however delivered. Demonstrations of these systems may be requested, as the commission considers necessary. (Eff. 3/15/85, Register 93; am 3/1/2002, Register 161; am __/__/__, Register ____)

Authority: AS 14.42.030 AS 14.48.050 AS 14.48.060

20 AAC 17 is amended by adding a new section to read:

20 AAC 17.102. Financial Soundness. (a) An institution shall provide evidence to the commission that the institution is financially sound and can reasonably fulfill its commitments to students and creditors. An institution applying for an authorization to operate, applying for renewal of authorization to operate, an authorization to operate under a change of ownership, or

as the commission determines is needed, shall submit financial statements audited by an independent, licensed certified public accountant, and supporting documentation as requested by the commission, unless the institution qualifies to submit unaudited financial statements under (e) of this section. The commission may require additional documentation, as the commission considers necessary.

(b) If an applicant for initial authorization has not yet begun operations the commission may allow the applicant to submit alternative documents to those required in subsection (a). Alternative documents include a business plan with market analysis, a budget, and documentation of working capital sufficient for a minimum of one year of operation, as supported by budget projections and other documentation, as required by the commission, as evidence of financial soundness.

(c) For the purposes of this chapter, a postsecondary educational institution is financially sound if audited financial statements or financial statements submitted in accordance with section (e) indicate that the institution meets its debt obligations and obligations to students. A postsecondary education institution is not financially sound if

- (1) its financial statements or the commission staff's investigation shows
 - (A) operating losses;
 - (B) negative cash flows from operations;
 - (C) adverse financial ratios; or
 - (D) conditions or events similar to those described in (A)-(C) of this paragraph that raise substantial doubts the institution will be able to continue to fulfill its commitments to students and creditors;
- (2) its accrediting agency, if any, has found it not to be financially sound; or

(3) the United States Department of Education has

(A) made a final determination that the institution is not financially sound;

or

(B) placed the institution on reimbursement status.

(d) A postsecondary educational institution that is not financially sound according to this section shall:

(1) Provide a surety bond, or commission-approved negotiable securities in the amount of the greater of

(A) the highest amount of revenue received by the institution for all students enrolled, including all tuition and fee revenues, in all programs during an academic or a vocational program period, in the most recent calendar, or fiscal, 12-month period, as applicable; or

(B) the highest amount of revenue for all students projected by the commission that the postsecondary educational institution would receive during an academic or vocational program period of the current year;

(2) Maintain a commission approved, detailed teach-out plan;

(3) Clearly and conspicuously disclose to all students and applicants that the institution has been deemed by the commission to be financially unsound, and provide information on how to contact the commission for more information; and

(4) Pay for an independent financial soundness review annually from a firm approved by the commission, until it is deemed financially sound; or the teach-out plan has been completed and the school has closed.

(e) The commission will accept unaudited financial statements from the institution to assess the institution's financial soundness as follows

(1) if an institution has annual tuition revenues of less than \$200,000, the institution must provide the commission with financial statements, prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles, and a compilation report with full disclosure for the most recently completed fiscal year. The report must be prepared by a licensed, independent accounting service.

(2) if an institution has annual tuition revenues of less than \$300,000 but more than \$200,000, the institution must provide the commission licensed certified public accountant's review report. The report must state that the institution's financial statements for the most recently completed fiscal year were prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

(f) Financial statements must include:

- (1) an accounting report or opinion letter;
- (2) a balance sheet;
- (3) an income statement;
- (4) a statement of cash flows; and
- (5) notes to the financial statements.

(g) To meet annual financial reporting requirements of 20 AAC 17.062, an institution shall provide one of the following to the commission:

- (1) internally prepared financial statements which shall include a balance sheet, an income statement and a statement of cashflows;
- (2) a compilation report with full disclosure; or

(3) financial statements audited by an independent licensed certified public accountant.

(h) For the purposes of this section, financial reporting should cover the most recent fiscal year, defined as the most recent 12-month period that ends before October 1, of the year in which the report is submitted.

(Eff. __/__/____, Register _____)

Authority: AS 14.42.030 AS 14.48.050 AS 14.48.060
AS 14.48.070 AS 14.48.100

20 AAC 17.110(b) is repealed and readopted to read:

(b) Student records must include

(1) Demographic records including:

(A) name, address, and date of birth;

(B) veteran status, if any; and

(C) legible copy of the government-issued photographic identification

presented by the student for identity verification before enrollment.

(2) Academic records including:

(A) entrance tests and other data used to determine the student's qualification for admission;

(B) name of course or program taken;

(C) final grade and date of completion or discontinuance of each course;

(D) date that the certificate or diploma was issued, and a copy of the certificate or diploma; and

(E) evidence that the student has been informed regularly of grades and rate of progress in each course;

(3) Attendance records including:

(A) schedule of classes and required hours of attendance;

(B) date of enrollment, leaves of absence, withdrawals, and return dates, as applicable; and

(C) actual attendance with dates and hours present, excused absences, unexcused absences with hours made up, and leave of absence forms as approved by the commission and signed by the student and school official, as applicable to course or program;

(4) Financial records including:

(A) an account ledger that reflects the student's balance, including debits, payments made, financial aid received, and refunds received, as applicable;

(5) Other records including:

(A) placement efforts to employ the student, including place of employment or reemployment, as applicable;

(B) student licensure activities or achievement if the program is in a field that requires licensure;

(6) documentation of compliance with AS 14.48.165.

20 AAC 17.110(c) is amended to read:

(c) If an institution closes, the institution shall **provide transcripts in an electronic format accepted by the commission** [DEPOSIT ALL SCHOLASTIC RECORDS WITH THE COMMISSION] within 30 days after closing.

(Eff. 3/15/85, Register 93; am 3/13/91, Register 117; am 4/20/2000, Register 154; am 3/1/2002, Register 161; am 12/31/2005, Register 176; am 12/29/2010, Register 196; am __/__/____, Register _____)

Authority: AS 14.42.030 AS 14.48.050 AS 14.48.060
 AS 14.48.150 **AS 14.48.165**

20 AAC 17.115(a) is amended to read:

(a) An applicant who is not accepted by an institution shall be given a refund of all tuition and fees paid. The student may be charged a non-refundable application fee. The application fee may not exceed **\$100** [75].

(Eff. 3/15/85, Register 93; am 4/2/86, Register 97; am 7/11/87, Register 103; am 5/4/90, Register 114; am 10/11/95, Register 136; am 6/13/97, Register 142; am 4/24/98, Register 146; am 4/20/2000, Register 154; am 4/27/2001, Register 158; am 1/30/2003, Register 165; am 12/31/2005, Register 176; am 6/7/2007, Register 182; am 12/29/2010, Register 196; am 5/26/2011, Register 198; am __/__/____, Register _____)

Authority: AS 14.48.050 AS 14.48.060

20 AAC 17.205 is amended to read:

20 AAC 17.205. Use of the terms university or college. (a) An institution seeking to operate as a university, or college, or career college, must be accredited, must meet requirements

for authorization under 20 AAC 17.010 - 20 AAC 17.145, and must meet the requirements of 20 AAC 17.205 - **20 AAC 17.255** [20 AAC 17.250].

(b) An institution may use the terms “university,” or “college,” as specified in 20 AAC 17.065, only if the institution meets the standards required to offer the approved and appropriate degree programs as set out in 20 AAC 17.205 - **20 AAC 17.255** [20 AAC 17.250]. Eff. 4/19/90, Register 114; am 11/5/92, Register 124; am 3/1/2002, Register 161; am 12/29/2010, Register 196; am __/__/____, Register _____)

Authority:	AS 14.42.030	AS 14.48.010	AS 14.48.020
	AS 14.48.050	AS 14.48.060	AS 14.48.070

20 AAC 17.210 is repealed and readopted to read:

20 AAC 17.210. General guidance for degree program criteria. The commission will seek general guidance for the establishment of minimum criteria for degree programs from the following associations charged with developing standards for higher education:

(1) guidance for degree program criteria will be developed from the most recent policy statements of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers;

(2) further guidance for all degree programs will be obtained from the most recent criteria of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities or the accrediting body of the institution. (Eff. 4/19/90, Register 114; am 11/5/92, Register 124; am 12/31/2005, Register 176; am 12/29/2010, Register 196; am __/__/____, Register _____)

Authority:	AS 14.48.050	AS 14.48.060
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20 AAC 17.225(a) is amended to read:

(a) A degree program must **meet accreditation** [BE WITHIN THE SCOPE OF AN ACCREDITED INSTITUTION'S ACCREDITATION, AND SHALL ADHERE TO THE] standards **of its accreditor** [UNDER (B) OF THIS SECTION]. If a postsecondary institution wishes to establish a new degree program or degree program title, the institution must present the following information to the commission:

(1) a rationale that the program or degree title could not reasonably be included in a program or degree title already approved by the commission;

(2) evidence that the new program or degree title is needed, based upon student interest; state, regional, national or international need; or contributions that the new program or degree title will provide to existing institutional programs or departments;

(3) evidence that a plan for review of the new program or degree title is in place;
and

(4) evidence that commission requirements for initiation of a new program or degree title have been satisfied.

20 AAC 17.225(b) is repealed:

(b) Repealed ___/___/____.

20 AAC 17.225(c) is repealed:

(c) Repealed ___/___/____.

20 AAC 17.225(e) is amended to read:

(e) Non-traditional external or off-campus programs, **and online or distance delivered programs**, must meet all applicable requirements for campus-based programs, including comparability and quality of course content, faculty qualifications, criteria for evaluation, and accessibility to appropriate library and academic support resources.

(Eff. 4/19/90, Register 114; am 11/5/92, Register 124; am 4/24/98, Register 146; am 8/26/98, Register 147; am 4/20/2000, Register 154; am 3/1/2002, Register 161; am 1/30/2003, Register 165; am 12/31/2005, Register 176; am 12/29/2010, Register 196; am 2/22/2015, Register 213; am __/__/____, Register _____)

Authority: AS 14.42.030 AS 14.48.050 AS 14.48.060
AS 14.48.070

20 AAC 17.230 is amended to read:

20 AAC 17.230. Financial and record keeping standards. (a) An institution offering a degree program shall meet the financial and record-keeping requirements **of their accreditor** [OF STANDARD SEVEN - FINANCE IN THE ACCREDITATION HANDBOOK OF THE NORTHWEST COMMISSION ON COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES 2013 EDITION, ADOPTED BY REFERENCE, OR AN EQUIVALENT FINANCIAL REPORTING SYSTEM APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION. AN EQUIVALENT FINANCIAL REPORTING SYSTEM MUST INCLUDE AN ANNUAL AUDIT OF THE SCHOOL'S FINANCIAL RECORDS CONDUCTED BY AN EXTERNAL CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT, PRESENTATION OF ADEQUACY AND STABILITY OF INCOME AS MEASURED BY AT LEAST THREE YEARS' HISTORY, AND AN ACCOUNTING SYSTEM THAT FOLLOWS

THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES FOR POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS].

(b) An institution's plans for student scholastic and financial record retention and disposal must meet the requirements of 20 AAC 17.110, and must either meet the recommended standards of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers (AACRAO) in Student Records Management: Retention, Disposal, and Archive of Student Records, [2014] **2019** edition, and Academic Record and Transcript Guide, [2016] **2020** edition, adopted by reference, or provide for an equivalent record retention and disposal system approved by the commission. Requirements for an approved system include

(1) compliance with state and federal law regarding record establishment, maintenance, retention, disposal, access, and security;

(2) protocols for transfer of record custody;

(3) procedures for notification of changes in the location of, or means of access to, retained records, and identification of the responsible records manager. (Eff. 4/19/90, Register 114; am 11/5/92, Register 124; am 4/24/98, Register 146; am 8/26/98, Register 147; am 1/30/2003, Register 165; am 12/31/2005, Register 176; am 12/29/2010, Register 196; am 11/16/2012, Register 204; am 2/22/2015, Register 213; am __/__/____, Register ____)

Authority: AS 14.48.050 AS 14.48.060 AS 14.48.070

20 AAC 17.235 is amended to read:

20 AAC 17.235. Learning resource program. (a) [EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN (b) OF THIS SECTION,] An institution that offers a degree program must have a library, [A SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAM,] and academic support services **that conform to the most**

recent requirements and standards of its accreditor [AT ITS FACILITY THAT ARE CONVENIENTLY ACCESSIBLE TO STUDENTS AND FACULTY, AND THAT INCLUDE SUFFICIENT FACILITIES, MATERIALS, AND EQUIPMENT TO SUPPORT AND ENHANCE THE EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY, MISSION, AND OBJECTIVES OF THE INSTITUTION. THE STANDARDS FOR LIBRARIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION, 2011, REVISED 2018, OF THE ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE AND RESEARCH LIBRARIES/AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, IS ADOPTED BY REFERENCE, AND PROVIDES GUIDANCE TO MEET STANDARDS RELATING TO LIBRARY STAFFING, BUDGET, COLLECTION SIZE, ANNUAL ACCESSIONS, SPACE REQUIREMENTS, AND EQUIPMENT FOR DISTRIBUTION AND PRODUCTION].

20 AAC 17.235(b) is repealed:

(b) Repealed ___/___/___.

20 AAC 17.235(c) is repealed:

(c) Repealed ___/___/___.

20 AAC 17.235(d) is repealed:

(d) Repealed ___/___/___.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: THE STANDARDS FOR LIBRARIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION, ADOPTED BY REFERENCE IN 20 AAC 17.235 CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE INTERNET AT [HTTP://WWW.ALA.ORG/ACRL/STANDARDS/STANDARDSLIBRARIES](http://www.ala.org/acrl/standards/standardslibraries)

OR FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE AND RESEARCH LIBRARIES, A
DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, 50 EAST HURON STREET,
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611. THE ASSOCIATION'S TELEPHONE NUMBER IS (800) 545-
2433.]

(Eff. 4/19/90, Register 114; am 11/5/92, Register 124; am 8/26/98, Register 147; am 1/30/2003,
Register 165; am 12/31/2005, Register 176; am 11/16/2012, Register 204; am __/__/____,
Register _____)

Authority: AS 14.48.050 AS 14.48.060 AS 14.48.070

20 AAC 17.245 is repealed and readopted to read;

20 AAC 17.245. Faculty standards. Institutions shall meet the requirements for faculty
standards established by their accreditor. (Eff. 4/19/90, Register 114; am 11/5/92, Register 124;
am 4/24/98, Register 146; am 8/26/98, Register 147; am 1/30/2003, Register 165; am
12/31/2005, Register 176; am 12/29/2010, Register 196; am 2/22/2015, Register 213; am
__/__/____, Register _____)

Authority: AS 14.48.050 AS 14.48.060 AS 14.48.070

20 AAC 17 is amended by adding a new section to read:

20 AAC 17.255. Reporting. The institution shall report to the commission any
determinations, decisions, or actions from the institution's accreditor that impact the institution,
within 30 days of the accreditor notifying the institution.

Authority: AS 14.48.050 AS 14.48.060 AS 14.48.070

20 AAC 17.900 is repealed and readopted to read:

20 AAC 17.900. Definitions. (a) In this chapter, unless the context requires otherwise

(1) "accredited" means accredited by a national accreditation association, or the regional accreditation association for the area where the school is located, that is recognized by the Secretary of Education of the United States Department of Education;

(2) "annual tuition revenues" include all tuition and fee revenues received from all funding sources.

(3) "any purpose," as used in AS 14.48.210 (1), means any purpose which is subject to regulation under the provisions of AS 14.48;

(4) "business day" means a day other than Saturday, Sunday, or a state holiday.

(5) "collegiate level" means programs of study for which credit hours are awarded which are applicable toward an associate, baccalaureate, or higher degree;

(6) "commission" means the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education;

(7) "course" means a sequence of studies with prescribed objectives, successful completion of which may result in awarding of credit or the equivalent;

(8) "course of study" means an interrelated sequence of courses for which, upon successful completion, a certificate or degree is awarded;

(9) "Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)" means a system of interrelated surveys conducted annually by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics. IPEDS collects information from every college, university, and technical and vocational institution that participates in the federal student financial aid programs.

Institutions report data on enrollments, program completions, graduation rates, faculty and staff, finances, institutional prices, and student financial aid.

(10) “licensed certified public accountant” means a person who holds a valid certificate and permit to practice under AS 08.04 and 12 AAC 04; or is validly licensed as a certified public accountant under the applicable occupational licensing statutes and regulations of another state;

(11) “on-ground” means instruction delivered with the instructor and student in the same room at the same time.

(12) “physical presence” means the presence of paid staff or faculty, or facility or address within the state; In this paragraph, “faculty” and “staff” do not include site supervisors or mentors for local internships or practica, or adjunct personnel; staff or faculty residing within the state but working from a location other than the facility of a postsecondary educational institution does not constitute a physical presence.

(13) “refund” means any amount due to a funding source as a result of a change in financial aid, student enrollment, or attendance status relative to eligibility for and determination of the amount of the financial aid award;

(14) “teach-out plan” means a written plan developed by an institution that provides for the equitable treatment of students, without additional costs, if it ceases to offer a program or ceases to operate before all students have completed their program of study. It may include an agreement between institutions for the transfer of credit.

(15) "withdrawal" means written notification of a student's intent to cease attending the institution. (Eff. 12/30/77, Register 64; am 5/10/78, Register 66; am 3/15/85, Register 93; am 5/8/88, Register 106; am 9/30/90, Register 115; am 11/5/92, Register 124; am

4/24/98, Register 146; am 4/20/2000, Register 154; am 4/27/2001, Register 158; am 12/31/2005, Register 176; am 12/29/2010, Register 196; am 10/3/2011, Register 200; am 2/21/2014, Register 209; am __/__/____, Register _____)

Authority: AS 14.48.050

20 AAC 17.910(a) is amended to read:

20 AAC 17.910. Access to institutional authorization files. (a) The commission will make available its public records of institutional authorization activities, including institutional and agent application files, for inspection in the commission's offices. The records may be inspected by appointment only. Records may not be removed from the commission's offices. The commission staff shall provide requested photocopies of records at a charge of \$.20 per page. **The commission staff will waive, in whole or in part, the charge if the commission staff determines it is in the public interest.**

(Eff. 4/24/98, Register 146; am 12/29/2010, Register 196; am __/__/____, Register _____)

Authority: AS 14.48.050 AS 40.25.110 AS 40.25.120

Summary of Changes from July 2021 Commission meeting to October 2021 Commission Meeting

July 2021:

20 AAC 17.040(b) is amended to read:

(b) A change described in (a) of this section, or any departure from program information specified in the institution's most recent authorization application must be approved by the commission before implementation, with the exception of a change in curriculum or instructional delivery method that is solely to conform with updates to [PREVIOUSLY APPROVED] instructional technologies or materials. **In such a case, the institution shall notify the commission prior to the change.**

October 2021:

20 AAC 17.040(b) is amended to read:

(b) A change described in (a) of this section, or any departure from program information specified in the institution's most recent authorization application must be approved by the commission before implementation, with the exception of a change in curriculum, [OR] instructional delivery method **or a change in senior management, which commission staff may administratively approve** [THAT IS SOLELY TO CONFORM WITH UPDATES TO PREVIOUSLY APPROVED INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGIES OR MATERIALS]. **The institution shall notify commission staff prior to the change.**

Rationale:

Allowing a change in senior management to be administratively approved rather than obtaining Commission action, as requested by the Commission.

July:

20 AAC 17.055(a) is amended to read:

(a) An institution or agent shall pay **fees required under 20 AAC 17.015-17.040 by check or other approved electronic method in accordance with the fee schedule reviewed and adopted annually by the commission** [THE FOLLOWING FEES;

(1) APPLICATION FEE FOR NEW AUTHORIZATION, \$2500;

(2) FEE FOR RENEWAL OF AUTHORIZATION, THREE PERCENT OF AVERAGE OF THE TOTAL ANNUAL TUITION AND FEE RECEIPTS IN THE MOST RECENT AUTHORIZATION PERIOD, IN AN AMOUNT OF AT LEAST \$500, BUT NO MORE THAN \$2500;

(3) APPLICATION FEE FOR APPROVAL REQUIRED UNDER 20 AAC 17.040(b), \$100;

(4) FEE FOR A CHANGE OF SITE OR AN ADDITIONAL SITE INSPECTION, \$500; AND

(5) APPLICATION FEE UNDER 20 AAC 17.015(h), \$100].

20 AAC 17.055(b) is repealed:

(b) Repealed ___/___/____.

October:

20 AAC 17.055(a) is amended to read:

(a) An institution or agent shall pay **fees required under 20 AAC 17.015-17.040 and 17.062 by check or other approved electronic method as follows** [THE FOLLOWING FEES]:

(1) application fee for **initial** [NEW] authorization, **or change in ownership under 20 AAC 17.040(c), \$2,750 for up to 3 programs, plus \$750 for each additional program, but no more than \$5,000** [\$2,500];

(2) **annual reporting fee to retain** [FEE FOR RENEWAL OF] **authorization, one point two** [THREE] percent of [AVERAGE OF] the total annual tuition and fee receipts in the most recent **annual reporting** [AUTHORIZATION] period, in an amount of at least **\$400** [\$500], but no more than **\$1,000** [\$2500];

(3) [APPLICATION] fee **to amend an authorization to change an institution's mission, to add a site inspection, or to add a new program, \$750 each** [FOR APPROVAL REQUIRED UNDER 20 AAC 17.040(b)];

(4) fee **to amend an authorization** for a change of **the school** site or **any of its facilities** [AN ADDITIONAL SITE INSPECTION], \$500; [AND]

(5) application fee **for an exemption** under **20 AAC 17.015** [20 AAC 17.015(h)], **\$250** [\$100];

(6) late fees under 20 AAC 17.020(e), 20 AAC 17.025(a) and (d) and 20 AAC 17.062, \$500; and

(7) fee for an administrative determination as to curriculum, instructional delivery method, or change in senior management necessary to maintain authorization, and not requiring action by the commission, \$200.

20 AAC 17.055(b) is amended to read:

(b) **A postsecondary education** [AN] agent **or an independent recruiter** shall pay the following fees:

(1) application fee for an initial agent's permit, \$500; and

(2) application fee for renewal of an agent's permit, \$250.

Rationale:

After a legal review, the Commission is not permitted to remove the fees from regulation. As such, the fees were reinstated into regulation with the proposed fee increases included. Additionally, under 20 AAC 17.055(a) (7), defines which actions may be approved via administrative determination.

July:

20 AAC 17.062. Annual reporting standards. (a) An authorized institution shall annually submit, with the fee described in 20 AAC 17.055(a), in a format provided by the commission, a report for each education program offered. The report shall include annual performance indicators in accordance with this section, documentation of financial soundness in accordance with 20 AAC 17.102, surety in compliance with 20 AAC 17.045, and documentation of life-safety requirements in conformance with 20 AAC 17.060. Institutions that report to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) are not required to provide annual performance reports unless there has been a change from what was reported to IPEDS.

October:

20 AAC 17.062. Annual reporting standards. (a) An authorized institution shall annually submit, with the fee described in 20 AAC 17.055(a), in a format provided by the commission, a report for each education program offered. The report shall include annual performance indicators in accordance with this section, documentation of financial soundness in accordance with 20 AAC 17.102, surety in compliance with 20 AAC 17.045, and documentation of life-safety requirements in conformance with 20 AAC 17.060. Institutions that report to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) are not required to provide annual

performance reports unless there has been a change from what was reported to IPEDS. **Annual reporting is due by December 1.** A late fee, in accordance with 20 AAC 17.055(a), may be assessed if an institution fails to provide the information by the required date.

Rationale:

Defined reporting due date for all institutions.

October:

The introductory language of 20 AAC 17.075 is amended to read:

20 AAC 17.075. Catalog [OR BROCHURE]. An institution shall provide prospective students with a copy of its catalog [OR BROCHURE]. The catalog [OR BROCHURE] must contain the following information:

Rationale:

Removing brochure as a method to provide all information under 20 AAC 17.075 as it is unrealistic to expect all information be included on a brochure.

October:

20 AAC 17 is amended by adding a new section to read:

20 AAC 17.102. Financial Soundness.

(h) For the purposes of this section, financial reporting should cover the most recent fiscal year, defined as the most recent 12-month period that ends before October 1, of the year in which the report is submitted.

Rationale:

Added for greater clarity of what the most recent fiscal year is and provided end date.

October: Removed

20 AAC 17.900. Definitions.

(10) "laboratory science" means a component of a life or physical science curriculum distinct from the lecture or seminar environment where, under controlled conditions, students acting as researchers physically test hypotheses using generally accepted methods, with the possibility of proving or disproving these sets of assumptions; the feature that distinguishes scientific laboratories from other types of educational environment is the "hands-on" employment of physical experiments to demonstrate the assertions of texts about physical laws;

Rationale:

“Laboratory Science” was defined as a result of 20 AAC 17.225 Requirements for degrees and degree programs, which is being amended to default to the accreditation standards of its accreditor and is no longer needed.

Program Amendment Fee's by Other State Authorizing Regulators

State	Fee	Funding Source for Agency- responses through NASASPS	Fee Effective Date
Colorado	\$500	“DPOS is 100% cash funded The Private Occupational School Division (POSD) under the Degree Act is partly general funded and partly cash funded.”	December 2019
District of Columbia	\$300	“staff salary is funded mostly by local funds; our other expenses are covered from special purpose funds which we generate through fees”	July 2016
Georgia	\$600 Non-degree \$800 Degree	“State funded budget along with some use of special purpose revenues”	Not listed
Kansas	\$100 Non-Degree \$250 Associate \$500 Bachelors \$750 Masters \$1,500 Ph.D.	“Fees paid by the regulated schools”	December 2019
Kentucky	\$200 Cert, Diploma, or Associate \$500 Bachelors \$1,500 Masters \$2, Ph.D.	“For the last several years, Licensure Unit costs (staff salaries, benefits, and direct costs) have been funded entirely from fee revenue. Our annual licensure fee revenue does not cover all the licensure salaries, benefits, and direct costs, but initial fees collected over time were such that we have a reserve that we draw	June 2013

State	Fee	Funding Source for Agency- responses through NASASPS	Fee Effective Date
		from that will last us for a while in conjunction with our annual fee revenue. Indirect costs, including rent, utilities, and technical and administrative support are funded with state General Fund appropriations.”	
New Mexico	\$100 Certificate \$200 Associate \$500 Bachelor and Graduate	“Administrative and application fees paid by private post-secondary institutions to obtain NM State Authorization”	April 2020
Tennessee	\$500	“We are funded entirely by fees.”	March 2017

*Alaska is the only state that is funded through a student loan corporation, and not covered by fees, general funding, or a combination of the two.

Public Comment	Commenter	Recommended Action/Revision	Rationale
<p>Not a question – This is Commissioner Hamilton - but a comment, and that is we're way overdue for this. Six years on a commission and it's been longer than that, but I do try to bring this up to at least commensurate with other State boards across our nation, as well as helping us with the bottom line as our budget has been drastically increased over the last three years or so. And that administrative help we used to get from the state from our employees, etc., so I'm just thinking everything I've read beforehand and everything I see today is definitely in the right purview of what we should be going.</p>	<p>Dr. Keith Hamilton</p>	<p>None Required</p>	<p>Statement of Support</p>
<p>I think that this sounds like a good idea. It seems to me that I've heard this already before, so, I'm on board with this. We need to streamline our processes and make it pay appropriately. Thank you.</p>	<p>Donn Liston</p>	<p>None Required</p>	<p>Statement of Support</p>
<p>It sounds like you're just getting around after, you know, 40 some years of this you're just getting around to and making the institutions pay fees. It's true that you have been using the impoverished first generation degree holders that are homeless and unemployed as your source of income to carry the burdens of ACPE, so I strongly support that you charge your institutions increased fees, and you provide that regulatory oversight that should have been in place, this system should have been in place a long time ago.</p>	<p>Malan Paquette</p>	<p>None Required</p>	<p>To the extent comment relates to proposed regulation changes, it is supportive.</p> <p>Other issues/complaints are unrelated to the regulation project and have been previously addressed through other correspondence.</p>
<p>I'm with Wayland Baptist university. I have positive complimentary remarks. I think that this whole process is very appropriate, I echo what Commissioner Hamilton had to say about that. I think procedurally your cross checking with other states is quite sound. And I appreciate that and as Alaska institution, I appreciate your careful and professional process that you've been going through to make these revisions. I think that the financial side of it in terms of the fees, is more than</p>	<p>Dr. Eric Ashe</p>	<p>None Required</p>	<p>Statement of Support</p>

<p>reasonable and, and I just appreciate that you're keeping up with this.</p>			
<p>So 20 AAC 17.070. My question is that an institution may not advertise that a program prepares a student for employment in the profession, unless that program meets applicable state licensing requirements for that profession. So, are you saying that for those occupations that there are no State licensing, then the school is able to tell the public that the program of study is designed to help students for employment in that profession?</p>	<p>Jennifer Dietz</p>	<p>No Change</p>	<p>ACPE wants to ensure students are not being misled that their program will result in professional license when it may not, or if it will require additional costs to acquire one.</p> <p>Alternately, professions that do not require professional licensing under Alaska Statutes and/or Regulations may still require a degree and/or certificate(s).</p>
<p>I have a follow up question. 20 AAC 17.235. I just want to make sure that the use of the term library doesn't mean a brick and mortar facility. You say learning resource Program, that institution offers a degree must have a library. So libraries are online these days, I just wanted to clarify that that was the intent.</p>	<p>Jennifer Dietz</p>	<p>No Change</p>	<p>ACPE does not require institutions to have a brick & mortar library, but rather some sort of catalog or database of archived documents that students can reference, whether that is through digital or physical means.</p> <p>The intent is for ACPE to work with institutions that have the proper materials needed for students to obtain their certificate(s) or degree.</p>

Sonny Ramaswamy

President



Sonny Ramaswamy is president of Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities in Redmond, WA. The Commission's mission is to accredit institutions of higher education in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and British Columbia by applying evidence-informed standards and processes to support continuous improvements and promote student achievement and success.

Sonny served for six years as President Barack Obama's appointee as the Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (<https://nifa.usda.gov>) in Washington, DC. NIFA catalyzes transformative discoveries, education, and engagement to solve societal and agricultural challenges.

Previously, Ramaswamy served as dean of Oregon State's College of Agricultural Sciences, director of Purdue's Agricultural Research Programs, university distinguished professor and head of Kansas State's Entomology Department, and professor of entomology at Mississippi State.

As a faculty member, Sonny's research was funded with grants from federal agencies, including NIFA, NSF, NIH, EPA, and USAID, and from state agencies, commodity groups, and industry. He has published over 150 journal articles, book chapters, and a book, and has a patent. Sonny is the recipient of a number of awards and honors, including *Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science*, *Fellow of the Entomological Society of America*, *Food Systems Leadership Award for Extraordinary Impacts on Food Systems*, the *Ellen Swallow Richards Public Service Award for Visionary Leadership and Exceptional Contributions to Advance the Human Sciences*, and *Hutchinson Medal from the Chicago Botanic Garden*.

Ramaswamy's BSc (Ag) in agriculture and MSc (Ag) in entomology are from the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, India. His doctorate is in entomology from Rutgers University.

Selena Grace

Senior Vice President



Selena M. Grace, PhD, Senior Vice President, recently served as Vice Provost for Academic Strategy & Institutional Effectiveness at Idaho State University. Dr. Grace brings significant experience leading transformational change in education policy and practices, as well as bringing diverse constituents together. She was a member of the inaugural cohort of the WICHE Western Academic Leadership Academy, and her previous experience includes Chief Academic

Officer at the Idaho State Board of Education where she was the primary author and manager of the Complete College Idaho Plan. Dr. Grace has supported NWCCU as an Evaluator, Evaluation Team Chair, and Accreditation Liaison Officer, and has deep knowledge of accreditation and higher education regulations.

Dr. Grace is a first generation college graduate. She has a B.A. in English with a writing emphasis and a minor in Native American Studies from Boise State University, an M.F.A. in creative writing, non-fiction from George Mason University, and a Ph.D. in public policy and administration from Boise State University. Her research focused on representation of American Indian teachers in public K-12 education and how that impacted access and performance of American Indian students.



Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
FROM: Sana Efird, Executive Director
DATE: October 9, 2021
SUBJECT: Executive Director Report

During this quarter, the Executive Director's Office has focused on issues with distribution of the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS), the Alaska Education Grant (AEG), and the WWAMI contract agreement and advocating to find a permanent solution, worked closely with Julie Pierce and Department of Revenue on investment policy updates and recommendation, worked with staff to complete the Institutional Authorization regulations project, monitored COVID mitigation, managed Juneau lease changes, met regularly with staff on outsourcing and other projects, and attended numerous meetings and conferences.

Budget Update:

On August 25, Governor Dunleavy directed ACPE to distribute the APS, AEG, and WWAMI payments for FY22. This decision came after the Department of Law and the Office of Management and Budget determined the appropriations made in the FY22 budget were enacted prior to the sweep of funds into the Constitutional Budget Reserve. (See memo from Attorney General Treg Taylor attached.) However, the Legislature has not reversed the sweep of the Higher Education Investment Funds (HEIF). Therefore, there are currently no funds designated for HEIF moving forward. A permanent solution to the uncertainty of Alaska's financial aid higher education programs must be developed.

We are in the budget preparation and proposal process for the FY23 budget. Chief Finance Officer Julie Pierce and I met with the Office of Management and Budget and the Governor's Office to present ACPE's FY23 budget proposal. This information is confidential and deliberative until the Governor releases his budget in December.

Outsourcing Projects Update:

Staff continue to be immersed in the loan servicing and loan origination outsourcing projects. After careful review and consideration of the project timelines, management determined an extension of the timelines was necessary to ensure the best outcomes for the project and to

relieve pressure on staff. The cutover date for loan originations to CampusDoor has been moved to April 1, 2022, and conversion to American Education Services (AES) for loan servicing will be October 1, 2022.

Human Resources Update:

Recruitment efforts and staff changes over the last quarter resulted in the separation of one employee, with former Executive Secretary Joe Felkl having transferred to the Department of Law on July 30. There have been no other appointments or separations as of September 30, 2021.

Currently, there are nine (9) vacant positions, including: one in the Executive Office, one in Finance, one in Outreach, and six in Operations. There are no active recruitments and no immediate plans to take action on the 9 remaining vacancies, but management retains the flexibility to do so if needed to provide support for agency initiatives. At present ACPE has 48 positions filled: 11 in Anchorage, 37 in Juneau. The breakdown of those positions by sections is as follows: ISS-11, Finance-13, Operations-16, Outreach-6, and Executive Office-2.

The Commission's Human Resources Officer position remains vacant. The Commission's management team continues to work in conjunction with its Finance Division's Administrative Operations Unit and the Department of Education and Early Development's Human Resources Officer to ensure appropriate coverage of human resource responsibilities for the agency.

COVID-19 Update:

On September 23, 2021, Governor Dunleavy issued a memorandum to the heads of state departments advising them that state workers should be allowed to telework to the full extent practical. ACPE had already been working under a hybrid working situation, with close to the maximum amount of staff teleworking that feasibly could. Of 48 total staff, 40 are engaged in telework, with 35 of those teleworking full time. Offices remain open to the public and there has been no impact to service delivery based on the telework engagement. Staff in the office continue to implement enhanced mitigation measures while on site. Prior to the uptick in COVID cases due to the Delta variant, ACPE had resumed weekly in-person team meetings. However, with the Governor's direction to maintain teleworking to the fullest extent, all ACPE in-person meetings have been suspended until November. At that time, we will re-evaluate the safety of resuming in-person meetings.

Juneau Lease/Space Update:

The current lease agreement for the Juneau Office is up as of October 31, 2021. With the reduction in staff and in an effort to reduce costs, we had planned to downsize the space in Juneau and reduce our footprint. To meet security needs, ACPE was going to incur renovation costs for this downsizing. The original estimate of cost was under \$10,000. However, as the project continued the costs ballooned to almost \$50,000. Therefore, I have decided to continue our current lease in Juneau for one more year to give senior management time to evaluate

teleworking thoroughly and to determine how many staff may continue teleworking long term to make a more informed decision on the actual footprint that will be needed for ACPE in the future.

Alaska Student Loan Corporation Meeting:

The Alaska Student Loan Corporation (ASLC) Board had a special meeting on October 12, 2021. The board reviewed the investment policy and recommendation presented to them by ACPE's Chief Financial Officer Julie Pierce and State Investment Officer Zach Hanna with the Department of Revenue. All ASLC investments have been moved to the Department of Revenue for asset management.

Professional Organization Meetings/Conference Attendance:

I attended regular monthly and semi-monthly meetings with the Education Finance Council, State Higher Education Officers Association, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), and the Alaska Business Education Compact.

Julie Pierce, Chief Finance Officer and I attended the in-person Education Finance Council Conference in Washington, DC. This was the first opportunity to meet peers from other states and discuss ways they are addressing current issues in higher education. Some of the most interesting sessions included *The Post-Pandemic U.S. Economy*, which included perspective on the current economic backdrop and future outlook; *Innovative Grassroots Efforts to Improve Student Completion and Repayment Success*, which gave examples of different initiatives to re-enroll students to finish their education/degree and collaboration efforts to bring information and resources together to develop new pathways and internships to meet states' workforce needs; and the most inspiring session, *What Comes Next: The Path Forward for Higher Education and the America that it Creates*, given by Dr. Michael Sorrell, President of Paul Quinn College an historically black college. He spoke of being a Big "L" Leader sharing his important tenants of leadership including be a visionary, be bold, and be a person of character.

During the time in Washington, I also had the opportunity to visit Senator Murkowski's office and met with her staff in person to share the current state of higher education in Alaska and some of our concerns. Due to our request, Senator Murkowski has reintroduced the [State-Based Education Loan Awareness Act](#), to exempt state-based lenders from the current preferred lender laws that essentially prohibit higher education institutions from advising their students of state loan programs. We will be monitoring this bill in hopes it will find traction and eventually be enacted.

Other Meetings:

- Continued meetings with Alaska Association of School Boards and a group of Southeast Alaska organizations to discuss partnering with ACPE to support and develop a 7-12 Grade Bridging Framework

- Coordinated a Workforce Development meeting with Commissioner Ledbetter and Interim UA President Pat Pitney
- ASLC meetings with the Department of Revenue
- Meetings with Lee Donner from Hilltop Securities
- Met with Governor’s Chief of Staff to discuss fees and Federal COVID money possibilities
- In person meeting with representatives of Western Governors University
- USDE OIG in-person meeting
- Alaska FAFSA Completion Campaign Results Presentation
- Virtual legislative meetings
- Virtual and in-person orientation presentations for new commissioners
- Virtual SPE annual Conference
- The annual Education Finance Council conference, in person in Washington, D.C.
- Marketing discussions with other states
- Virtual presentation to the Glacier Valley Rotary Club
- FAFSA meetings with Department of Education Office of Financial Student Aid
- Continued meetings with Interim UA President Pat Pitney
- Alaska Statewide Education Leaders Collaboration meeting

With the continued effort needed on our outsourcing projects, the addition of new high priority projects, reductions in staffing, additional Legislative special sessions and continued uncertainty around the budget and funding for the APS, AEG, and WWAMI, this has been another stressful and busy quarter for ACPE staff. I am continually amazed at the dedication our staff exhibits to meeting the needs of our customers and constituents. I want to acknowledge and commend their efforts.

As always, it is my pleasure and I am humbled to serve the Commission and lead this talented team of individuals to support Alaskans and their access to higher education opportunities.

Attachments:

1. Bills of Interest Chart 2021 (Updated)
2. August 25, 2021, Appropriation from funds swept June 30, 2021 into the CBR Memorandum
3. August 27, 2021, Alaska Scholarship & Grant Funding Press Release



Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

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BILLS OF INTEREST 2021

Bill	Short Title	Sponsor	Status	Last Action
HB 18	TEACHERS: NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION	KREISS-TOMKINS	(H) EDC	03/10/2021
HB 19	LIMITED TEACHER CERTIFICATES; LANGUAGES	KREISS-TOMKINS	(S) EDC	05/17/2021
HB 25	PUBLIC SCHOOLS: SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL LEARNING	HOPKINS	(H) STA	05/19/2021
HB 43	EXTEND SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICE AGENCY	STORY	(H) FIN	03/26/2021
SB 19		STEVENS	Passed	06/29/2021
HB 48	AK PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIP; ELIGIBILITY	STORY	(H) EDC	02/18/2021
HB 49	APPROP: EARLY LITERACY PROGRAMS	STORY	(H) EDC	02/18/2021
HB 60	PUBLIC SCHOOLS: MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION	CLAMAN	(H) FIN	05/19/2021
SB 80		GRAY-JACKSON	(S) FIN	04/21/2021
HB 69	APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUNDS	GOVERNOR (Rules)	Passed	07/02/2021
SB 49			(S) FIN	01/25/2021
HB 71	APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET	GOVERNOR (Rules)	Passed	07/02/2021
SB 51			(S) FIN	01/25/2021
HB 76	EXTENDING COVID 19 DISASTER EMERGENCY	GOVERNOR (Rules)	Passed	05/01/2021
SB 56			(S) FIN	02/12/2021
HB 78	FUNDING FOR CORRESPONDENCE PROGRAMS	GOVERNOR (Rules)	(H) EDC	02/18/2021
SB 58			(S) EDC	03/03/2021
HB 108	CONCURRENT SECONDARY & TRADE SCHOOL	MCCARTY	(H) EDC	04/09/2021

HB 114	EDUCATION & SUPPLEMENTAL LOAN PROGRAMS	GOVERNOR (Rules)	(H) EDC	02/24/2021
SB 94			(S) FIN	04/23/2021
HB 129	ALASKA PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT	FIELDS	(H) EDC	03/08/2021
HB 132	SCHOOL APPRENTICESHIP PROGS; TAX CREDITS	(H) L&C	Passed (S)	05/19/2021 Pending
HB 147	RURAL DEF. TEACHER EDUCATION LOAN PROGRAM	ZULKOSKY	(H) EDC	04/14/2021
HB 2001	APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUNDS	GOVERNOR (Rules)	(H) FIN	6/23/2021
SB 2001			(S) FIN	6/23/2021
HB 3003	APPROP: OPERATING; PERM FUND; EDUCATION	GOVERNOR (Rules)	Passed	10/04/2021
SB 3001			(S) FIN	8/23/2021
SB 8	PRE-K/ELEM ED PROGRAMS/FUNDING; READING	BEGICH	(S) EDC	02/03/2021
SB 10	FREE/REDUCED TUITION FOR ESSENTIAL WORKER	BEGICH	(S) EDC	05/18/2021
SB 15	OPEN MEETINGS ACT; PENALTY	COSTELLO	(S) FIN	04/21/2021
SB 20	OUT OF STATE TEACHER RECIPROCITY	STEVENS	(H) EDC	05/19/2021
SB 32	COLLEGE CREDIT FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS	STEVENS	(H) STA	05/15/2021
SB 34	STATE-TRIBAL EDUCATION COMPACT SCHOOLS	STEVENS	(S) EDC	01/25/2021
SB 42	VIRTUAL AND EARLY EDUCATION, READING	HUGHES	(S) EDC	01/25/2021
SB 72	SEC. SCHOOL CIVICS EDUCATION	STEVENS	(S) FIN	04/21/2021
SB 111	EARLY EDUCATION; READING INTERVENTION	(S) EDC	(S) FIN	04/26/2021
SJR 10	CONST. AM: IN-PERSON PUBLIC EDUCATION	COSTELLO	(S) EDC	03/10/2021

Updated 10/08/2021

MEMORANDUM**State of Alaska
Department of Law**

TO:	Honorable Mike Dunleavy Governor	DATE:	August 25, 2021
		TEL. NO.:	269-5100
FROM:	Treg Taylor Attorney General	SUBJECT:	Appropriations from funds swept June 30, 2021 into the CBR

You requested a memorandum that could be publicly disseminated addressing the following question: “Whether appropriations validly enacted prior to July 1, 2021, but with a July 1 effective date that have a funding source that was otherwise swept into the constitutional budget reserve as of June 30, 2021, can be expended without a reverse sweep?”

There is a reasonable argument these monies can be expended, but it would be an issue of first impression for the courts. Ultimately, we cannot say with certainty what the courts would decide, especially in light of the recent superior court decision regarding the Power Cost Equalization Fund.

For background, article 9, section 17 of the Alaska Constitution establishes the constitutional budget reserve fund. Subsection (d) of section 17 requires that any money taken from the fund under subsections (b) and (c) must be repaid through what has become known as the “sweep.” Subsection (d) states:

If an appropriation is made from the budget reserve fund, until the amount appropriated is repaid, the amount of money in the general fund available for appropriation at the end of each succeeding fiscal year shall be deposited in the budget reserve fund. The legislature shall implement this subsection by law.

The question presented involves an interpretation of the phrase “available for appropriation at the end of each succeeding fiscal year.” This is not an issue of whether the fund exists in the general fund or not; that was the question addressed by the superior court in the recent Power Cost Equalization Fund decision. Rather, the question is, for those funds in the general fund and otherwise swept as of June 30, should the amount that is needed to pay validly enacted appropriations that have a July 1st effective date be retained in the funds for expenditure in FY’22? In other words, are the amounts needed for the validly enacted appropriations considered “not available for appropriation” under

Honorable Mike Dunleavy, Governor
 Re: *Appropriations from funds swept June 30, 2021 into the CBR*

August 25, 2021
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subsection (d) because they have already been obligated to be expended for a purpose in the next fiscal year?

The Alaska Supreme Court has addressed how to interpret “available for appropriation” in one prior decision: *Hickel v. Cowper*, 847 P.2d 922 (Alaska 1994). Although this decision mainly addressed this phrase as it is used in subsection (b), the court said that its interpretation of “available for appropriation” for purposes of (b) also applies to (d). The court described its ruling as follows:

Instead, we consider it appropriate, as well as consistent with both the language of the amendment and the intent of the framers, to focus on the legal status of the various funds implicated in relationship to the legislative power of appropriation. The “amount available for appropriation” must include all funds over which the legislature has retained the power to appropriate and which are not available to pay expenditures without further legislative appropriation.¹

The court also explained:

It is far more reasonable to interpret “amount available for appropriation” in light of the relative consequences of and circumstances attendant in making appropriations from different sources. In this light, **monies which already have been validly committed by the legislature to some purpose should not be counted as available.**²

In the scenario presented, there is a reasonable argument that appropriations validly enacted prior to July 1, 2021, but with a July effective date, are already “validly committed by the legislature to some purpose.”³ According to *Hickel v. Cowper*, this would remove these amounts from being available for appropriation.

The countervailing argument—and practical concern—is whether an appropriation having an effective date after the sweep has already occurred means the money in the fund has already been swept, and therefore there are no actual funds to

¹ *Id.* at 927.

² *Id.* at 930-931 (emphasis added).

³ *Id.*

Honorable Mike Dunleavy, Governor
Re: *Appropriations from funds swept June 30, 2021 into the CBR*

August 25, 2021
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support what is otherwise a valid appropriation.⁴ It is unclear where the court would come down on this issue. If the monies cannot be considered validly committed until the appropriation is effective, then there would be no money available in the fund to carry out the appropriation. If, on the other hand, the monies can be considered validly committed before their effective date, then the money needed to pay those appropriations should not be swept and would be available for expenditure in FY'22 to carry out the appropriation. In light of the reasonable arguments on both sides, I believe it is legally defensible to release the funds and pay out the validly enacted appropriations for FY'22.

⁴ By operation of law, the sweep occurs at 11:59 pm on June 30th of any given fiscal year. Consequently, an appropriation that is effective July 1st may be valid, but the underlying account has no funds to support the appropriation.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

August 27, 2021

ALASKA SCHOLARSHIP & GRANT FUNDING

Alaska Education Grant (AEG)

Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS)

**Washington, Wyoming, Alaska Montana, Idaho Regional Medical Education Program
(WWAMI)**

JUNEAU- Yesterday evening the Governor [announced](#) that funding will be restored for the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS), Alaska Education Grant (AEG), and WWAMI Medical Education Program for the 2021-22 academic year.

ACPE is working diligently with the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development (DEED) and postsecondary institutions across Alaska to ensure a timely and smooth distribution of award funding to eligible recipients.

Eligible students will receive notification of their award amount and distribution through their [Alaska Student Aid Portal \(ASAP\)](#) account. If students have not yet created an ASAP account, it is important to do so as soon as possible to monitor their award(s).

“We are pleased with the decision to move forward with funding the APS, AEG, and WWAMI. Funding these awards is a critical step in providing access to postsecondary education for thousands of Alaska’s students in the 2021-22 academic year. ACPE will continue to advocate for the restoration of the Higher Education Investment Fund (HEIF) to ensure award funding for APS, AEG, and WWAMI in the years to come” said ACPE’s Executive Director Sana Efird.

ABOUT THE ALASKA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION:

Funded by the Alaska Student Loan Corporation, ACPE promotes access to and success in education and career training beyond high school.

THE COMMISSION PROVIDES:

- Education planning tools and resources
- Advocacy and support for postsecondary participation in Alaska
- Financial aid for college and career training
- Education consumer protection through institutional authorization and complaint investigation.

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THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

**Alaska Commission on
Postsecondary Education**

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
THROUGH: Sana Efird, Executive Director
FROM: Julie Pierce, Chief Finance Officer
DATE: October 20, 2021
SUBJECT: Finance Report

FY2022 Operating Budget

Following is a summary of the Commission's approved FY2022 operating budget. Adjustments from the last time it was presented include a decrease in Interagency Personal Services with an offsetting increase in Contractual and a decrease of two PCN's that were vacant.

Budget Line	Interagency (ASLC Receipts)	Designated General Fund (AHEIF)	General Fund Program Receipts	Statutory Designated Program Receipts	Total
Personal Services	\$ 6,654.0	431.5	22.8	-	\$ 7,108.3
Travel	32.4	-	-	-	32.4
Contractual	3,141.9	82.8	29.2	150.0	3,403.9
Supplies	108.2	-	-	-	108.2
WWAMI		3,258.0			3,258.0
AEG	-	5,841.8	-	-	5,841.8
APS	-	11,750.0	-	-	11,750.0
Total	\$ 9,936.5	21,364.1	52.0	150.0	\$31,502.6
Positions	56.74	-	0.26	-	57.00

FY2021 Summary Operating Budget and Actual Expenditures/Obligations

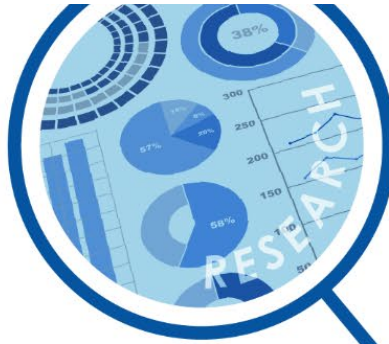
Following is a summary of the Interagency (ASLC Receipts) FY2021 operating budget and approximate actual expenditures/obligations for the period ended June 30, 2021.

Fiscal Year 2021 - for the period ended June 30, 2021			
Interagency (ASLC Receipts)			
Summary Budget and Actual Expenditures/Obligations			
Category	Budget	Total Actual Expenditures or Obligations	Unobligated Balance
Personal Services	7,644,800	6,654,700	990,100
Travel	32,400	4,200	28,200
Contractual	3,253,300	2,147,500	1,105,800
Commodities	131,600	131,600	-
Total	11,062,100	8,938,000	2,124,100

Alaska Student Loan Corporation

The next Corporation Board meeting is scheduled for October 12, 2021 to review the Investment Policy.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this report further, please do not hesitate to contact me at 907-465-6757 or at julie.pierce@alaska.gov.



PROGRAM OPERATIONS

Quarterly Report

Program Operations Report:
July 2021 – September 2021



DIVISION OF PROGRAM OPERATIONS-QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

Financial Aid Updates

In-school loan volume for the first quarter of FY22 declined compared to the same period in FY21 and FY20, while refinance loan volume has increased over the same period. The combined decrease for Alaska Supplemental Education Loans (ASEL) and Family Education Loans (FEL) is \$784,000 or 17% for first quarter FY22 compared to FY21 and \$2,750,000 or 42% for first quarter FY22 compared to FY20. Refinance loan volume increased \$2,121,000 for first quarter FY22 compared to FY21 due to a large marketing campaign that occurred summer 2021.

Project Updates

Alternative Loan Originations and Servicing Outsourcing

The project to outsource alternative loan originations and servicing is in full swing and making good progress. During the quarter, management determined it was necessary to delay cutover to CampusDoor for loan originations until April 1, 2022. The delay was deemed necessary due to unforeseen challenges setting up ACPE loan programs on the system, inadequate time for thorough system testing, and staff availability to complete project deliverables as scheduled. This change also impacts the conversion to American Education Services for loan servicing, which is now scheduled for October 1, 2022. The extension will result in a better customer experience given the additional time for design and testing, and the reduced project cadence will alleviate pressure on staff.

Second Placement Collection Vendor

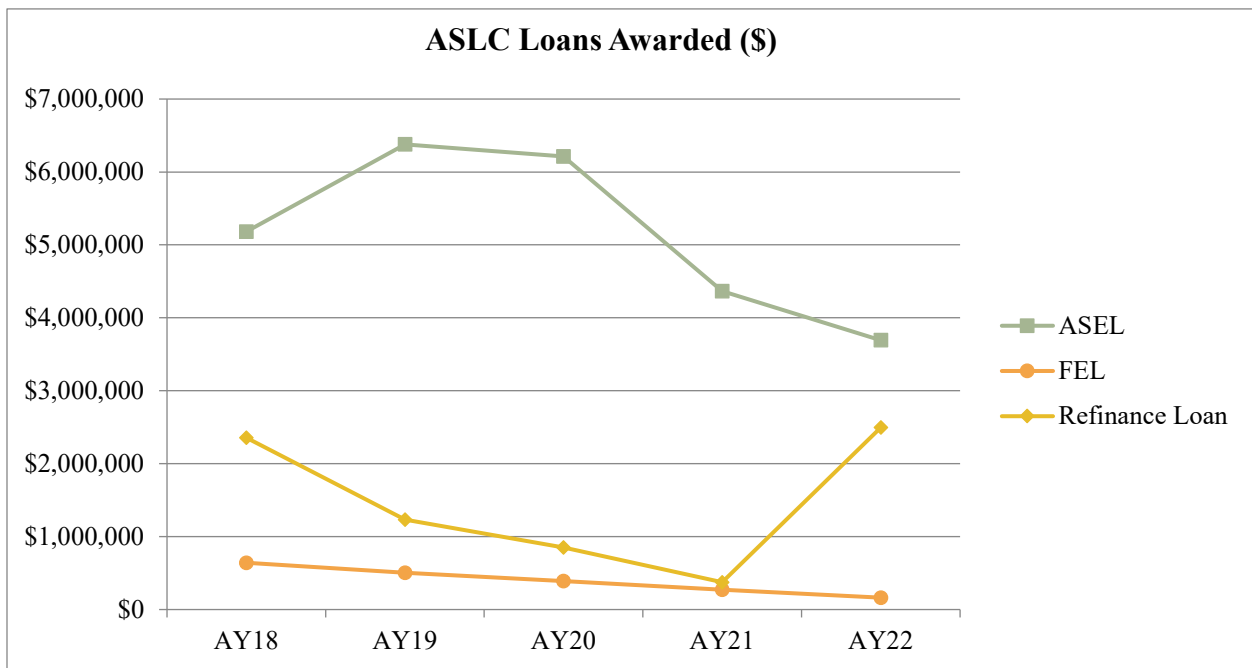
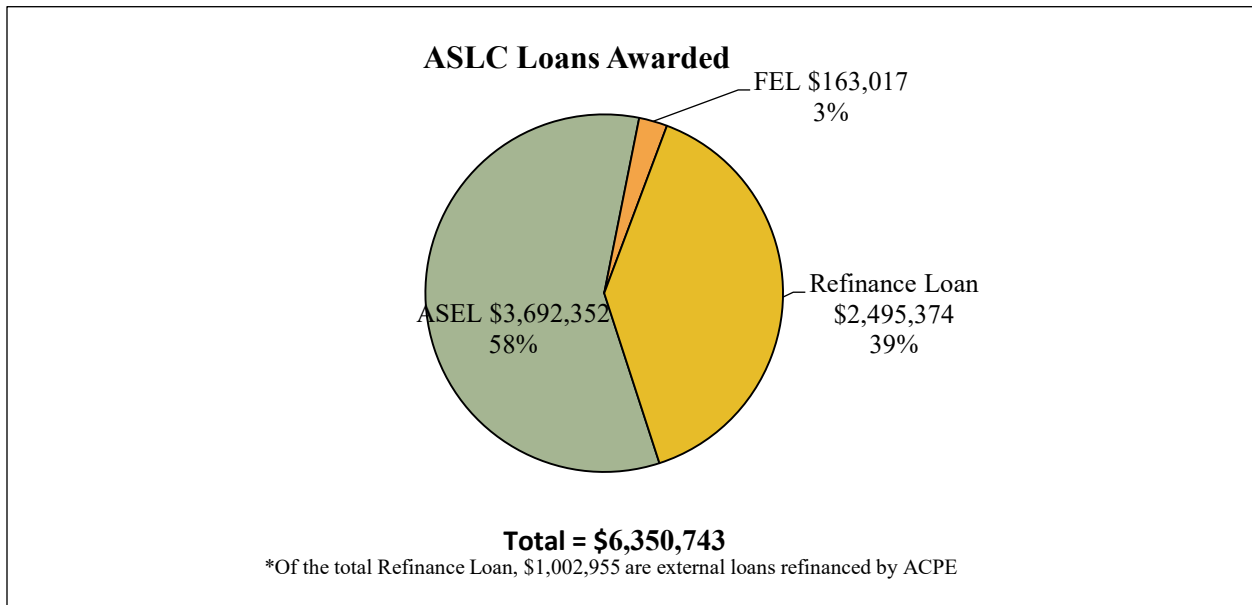
As part of a larger strategy to increase recoveries of defaulted loans, a contract with Transworld Systems, Inc. was established for the performance of second placement collection activities. Second placement collections differ from first placements by using additional collection methods such as litigation. Implementation of this collection method is expected in November 2021.

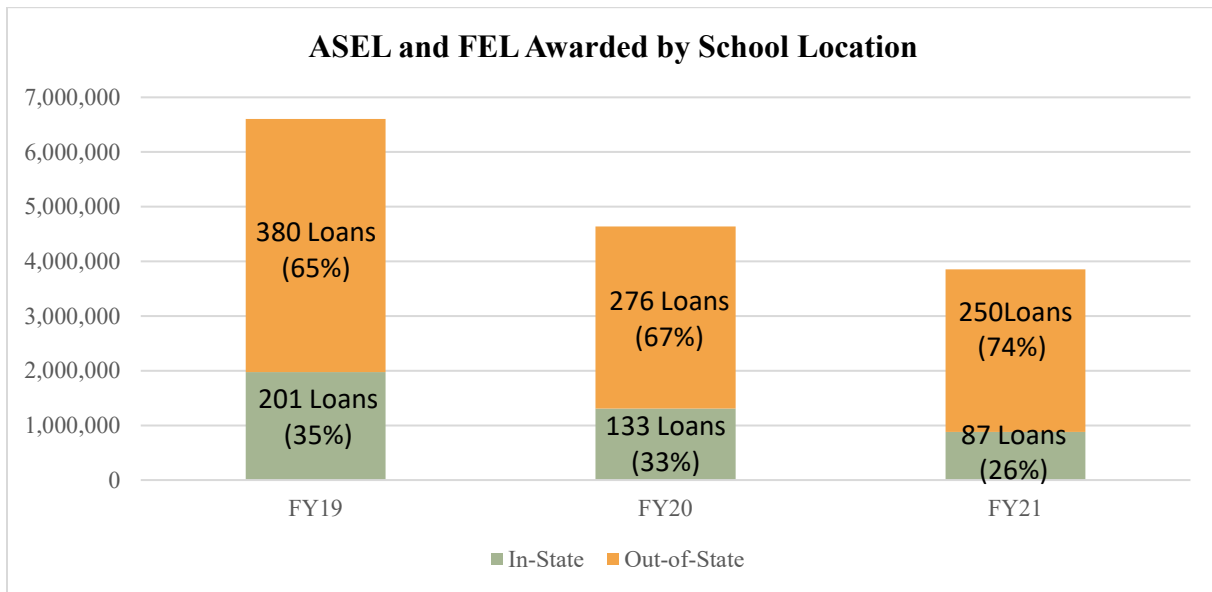
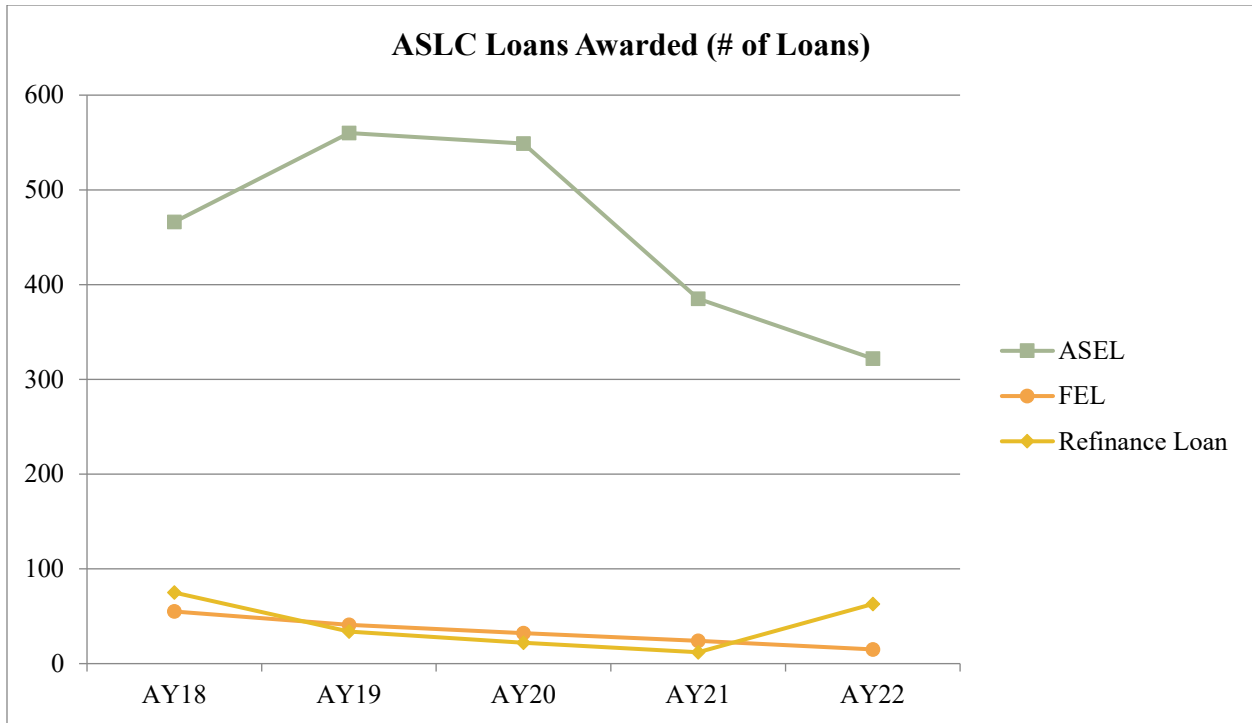
Publications

Fall and winter are busy times for publication development. The 2022 Higher Education Almanac is in development and this edition will look at COVID-19 impacts to higher education. The 2022 Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) Outcomes report development is underway through a contract with McKinley Research Group for data analysis while ACPE focuses on the publication layout and design. Both the Almanac and APS outcomes report are scheduled for publication in January 2022.

LOAN ORIGINATIONS

Program Year 21/22 through September 2021





Loans Awarded

Loan Type	2021-2022		2020-2021		% Change	
	# of Loans	Amount Awarded	# of Loans	Amount Awarded	# of Loans	Amount Awarded
Family Education Loans	15	\$163,017	24	\$271,914	-37.50%	-40.05%
AK Supplemental Loans	322	\$3,692,352	385	\$4,367,479	-16.36%	-15.46%
Refinance Loans	63	\$2,495,374	12	\$374,750	425.00%	565.88%
Total:	400	\$6,350,743	421	\$5,014,143	-4.99%	26.66%

ASEL Loans Awarded – by FICO Band

FICO Band	In-State		Out-of-State	
	# of Loans	Percent of Total In-State Loans	# of Loans	Percent of Total Out-of-State Loans
720+	42	13.04%	169	52.48%
680-719	27	8.39%	49	15.22%
650-679	15	4.66%	20	6.21%

REFI Loans Awarded – by FICO Band

FICO Band	# of Loans	Percent of Total Refinance Loans
780+	19	30.16%
720-779	26	41.27%
680-719	18	28.57%

Loans Awarded – by Enrollment Intensity¹

Intensity Level	2021-2022		2020-2021		% Change
	# of Loans	Percentage	# of Loans	Percentage	
On-Time	70	20.77%	72	17.60%	-2.78%
Full-Time	246	73.00%	303	74.08%	-18.81%
Half-Time	21	6.23%	34	8.31%	-38.24%
Total	337		409		-17.60%

¹ Enrollment intensity statistics reflect only loan programs in which all three intensity levels are available (ASEL and FEL).

Special Programs

Loan Type	2020-2021		2019-2020		% Change	
	# of Loans	Amount Awarded	# of Loans	Amount Awarded	# of Loans	Amount Awarded
Winn Brindle	1	\$59,900	3	\$59,643	-66.67%	0.43%
WWAMI Medical Education Loan	0	\$0	0	\$0	N/A	N/A
WICHE PSEP Loan	0	\$0	0	\$0	N/A	N/A
Total:	1	\$59,900	3	\$59,643	-66.67%	0.43%

ACPE Loans Serviced by AES- Loan Detail by Loan Status

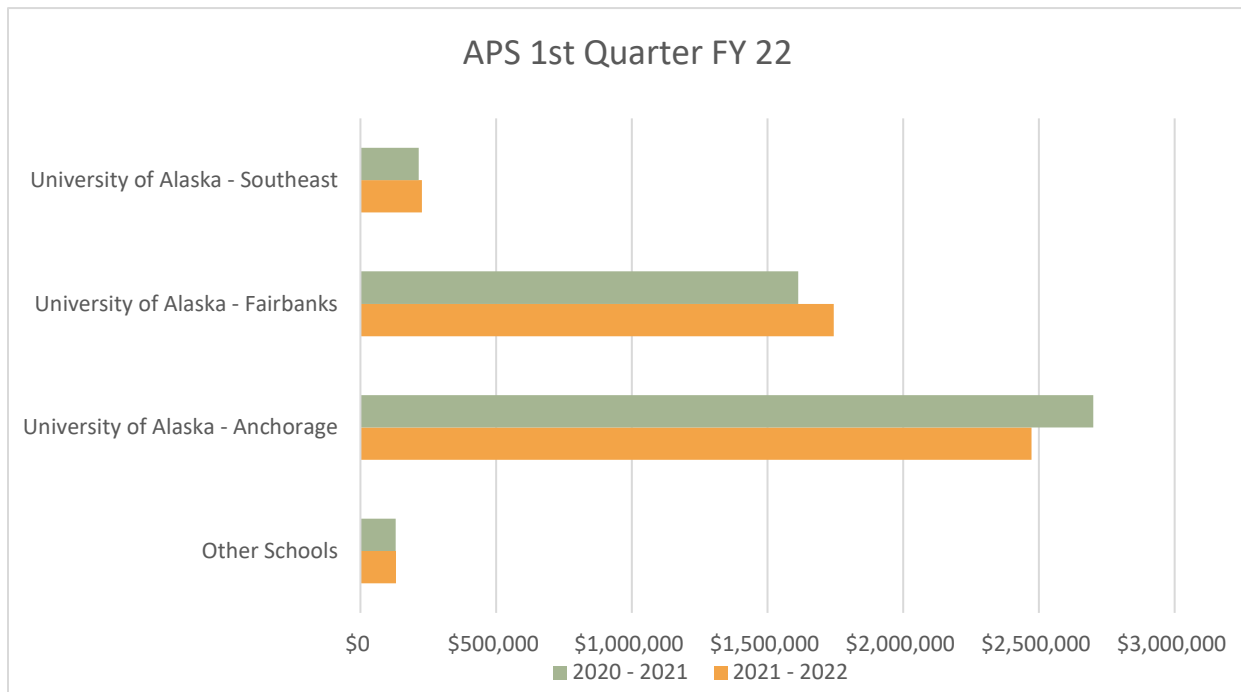
	# of Loans	Principal Amount	Interest Amount	Total Loan Amount
In-School	23	\$98,974	\$35,793	\$134,768
Grace	15	\$103,200	\$43,757	\$146,957
Repay- Current	5,389	\$21,634,014	\$918,238	\$22,552,252
Repay- Past Due	751	\$3,411,479	\$119,052	\$3,530,530
Claim	93	\$406,442	\$22,620	\$429,062
Forbearance	674	\$3,453,975	\$131,031	\$3,585,006
Deferment	701	\$2,930,559	\$231,365	\$3,161,924
Total	7,646	\$32,038,643	\$1,501,856	\$33,540,499

FFELP Complaints

	Quarter 1
# of Complaints	0
Complaint Descriptions	N/A

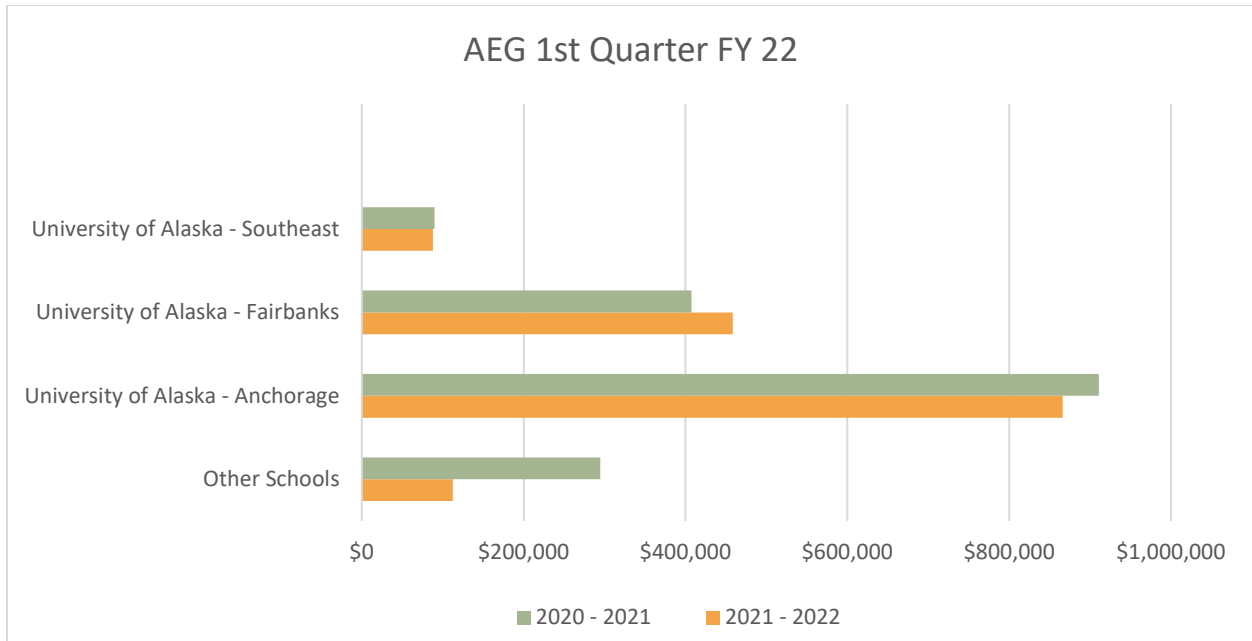
ALASKA PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIP & ALASKA EDUCATION GRANT

Program Year 21/22 through September 2021



Other Schools	2020 - 2021	2021 - 2022
Alaska Bible College	\$18,429	\$16,645
Alaska Career College	\$14,267	\$0
Alaska Christian College	\$14,266	\$11,888
Alaska Pacific University	\$36,856	\$62,419
Amundsen Educational Center	\$2,378	\$0
AVTEC	\$29,723	\$27,344
Charter College	\$6,144	\$13,278
Land and Sea Aviation Alaska	\$2,377	\$0
Northern Industrial Training	\$4,755	\$0
Trendsetters	\$1,189	\$0
Wayland Baptist University - Anchorage/Fairbanks	\$0	\$0
Total	\$130,384	\$131,574
Grand Total	\$4,658,982	\$4,574,659

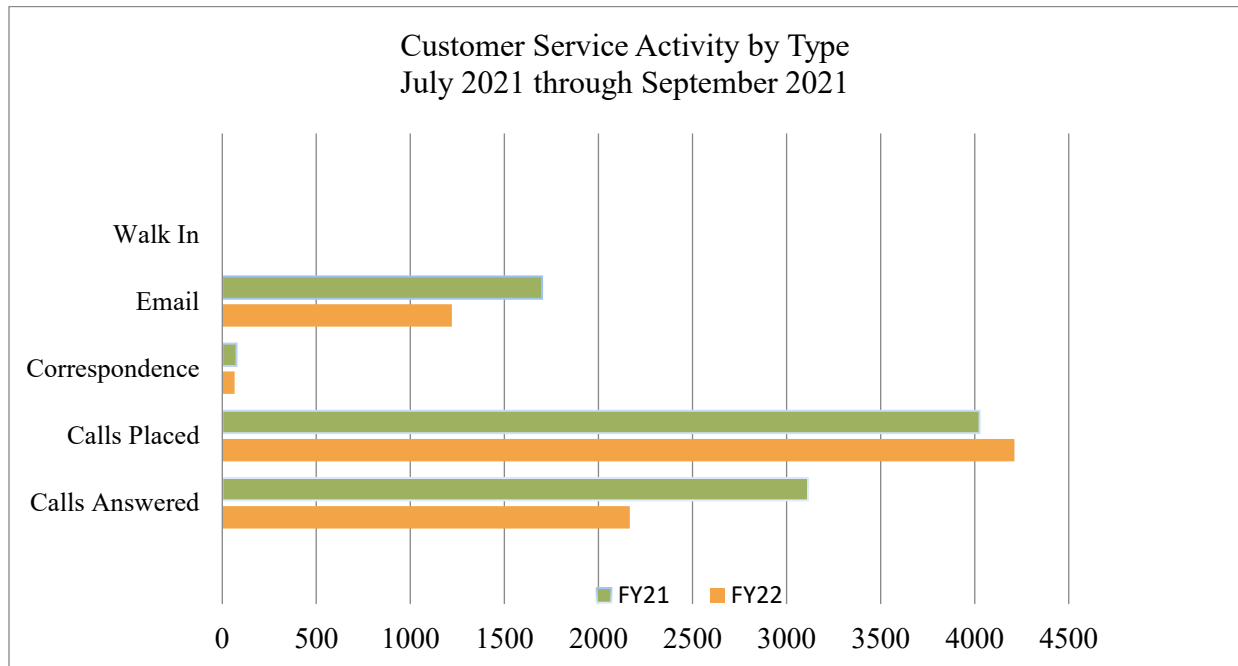
APS amounts change throughout the academic year as students enroll and funds are disbursed.



Other Schools	2020 - 2021	2021 - 2022
Alaska Bible College	\$10,500	\$7,500
Alaska Career College	\$48,500	\$0
Alaska Christian College	\$74,750	\$26,500
Alaska Pacific University	\$63,250	\$75,500
AVTEC	\$28,500	\$3,000
Charter College	\$68,854	\$0
Wayland Baptist University - Anchorage/Fairbanks	\$500	\$0
Total	\$294,854	\$112,500
Grand Total	\$1,702,685	\$1,525,000

AEG amounts change throughout the academic year as students become eligible and funds are disbursed.

CUSTOMER SERVICE



Call Center Activity – July 2021 through September 2021

	2021 – 2022	2020-2021	% Change
Calls Received in IVR*		5,882	
Calls Received in CS Queue	2,346	3,338	-29.72%
Calls Answered by CS	2,166	3,114	-30.44%
Hold Time in CS Queue	2 min 54 sec	1 min 36 sec	81.25%
Calls Placed	4,212	4,025	4.65%

*IVR statistics are temporarily unavailable

Payment Information - July 2021 through September 2021

Automatically Processed

Method	# of Borrowers	Amount Received	% of Total Dollars
Web Pay	12,075	\$4,205,324	58.65%
Premiere Payments	981	\$371,054	5.18%
Tel Pay/IVR	513	\$358,300	5.00%
Bill Pay	650	\$147,308	2.05%
Third Party Payer	55	\$55,779	0.78%
Third Party Payer AWG	128	\$45,077	0.63%
State AWG	60	\$20,448	0.29%
PFD	1	\$982	0.01%
Total	14,463	\$5,204,272	72.59%

Scanned

Method	# of Borrowers	Amount Received	% of Total Dollars
AWG Checks	1,039	\$304,952	4.25%
Local Payments-Scanned	126	\$127,404	1.78%
Coupon Checks	302	\$123,309	1.72%
Total	1,467	\$555,665	7.75%

Manually Processed

Method	# of Borrowers	Amount Received	% of Total Dollars
External Consolidation	15	\$1,404,304	19.59%
Local Payments-Not Scanned	1	\$5,526	0.08%
Total	16	\$1,409,830	19.66%
Total ACPE Processed	15,946	\$7,169,767	100.00%
AES Processed Payments		\$2,218,901	
Grand total of Payments		\$9,388,667	

Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

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Fax: (907) 269-7991
acpe.alaska.gov



MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
THROUGH: Sana Efird, Executive Director
FROM: Kate Hillenbrand, Director of Communications & Outreach
DATE: October 1, 2021
SUBJECT: Outreach Report

The ACPE Communications & Outreach division delivers postsecondary awareness and assistance resources in support of ACPE’s mission to *promote access to and success in education and career training beyond high school*. Throughout the third quarter of 2021, Outreach connected with students, families, and ACPE stakeholders through over 300 telephonic or virtual service sessions; organized and/or presented in close to 50 work sessions, trainings or webinars; and reached nearly 2,500 Alaskans.

COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

ACPE Outreach Activities: July - September 2021		
Service Interactions	April - June 2021	
Telephonic & Virtual Service Interactions*	315	
Virtual Sessions, Webinars, Trainings**	46	
Virtual Session Attendees***	2,416	
Top Reason for Service Interaction	Topic Distribution	ACPE Outreach Campaigns
APS/AEG/ACPE Loans	27%	ACPE Outreach delivered consistent, targeted marketing campaigns specific to FAFSA, APS/AEG, and ACPE loan programs.
FAFSA	28%	
Other/Not Sure	39%	

*Includes Success Center phone calls, Zoom sessions (1:1 & group), AKCIS Helpdesk, etc.

**Includes group/school presentations, FAFSA Time Alaska, AKCIS trainings & webinars, I Know I Can, Kids2College, etc.

***Total number of attendees in Virtual Sessions section – does not include Telephonic & Virtual Service Interactions totals

During the third quarter, Outreach continued its efforts to remain responsive and nimble to the needs of Alaska’s schools, districts, and stakeholders. Outreach contracted with an Alaska-based

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firm to assess, analyze, and provide strategic feedback about agency-wide marketing and communication efforts. This collaboration will continue throughout the fourth quarter with an outcomes report to follow in the January 2022 Commission Meeting. Additionally, based on internal and external feedback, ACPE has launched a preliminary redesign for its homepage with additional strategic updates to design and content rolling out throughout 2022.

Alaska Career Information System (AKCIS)

AKCIS is a cost-effective online platform for comprehensive career, education, and financial aid information. It is an interactive planning tool with a personal, portable online portfolio. ACPE makes AKCIS available across Alaska at no cost to sites through a single statewide license.

2021-2022 Fall Release:

- Activation & Fee Waiver Agreements, submitted annually by AKCIS sites, are in peak renewal season. To date, 311 are processed; 51/54 school districts renewing, 3 schools in communication with new staff.
- Several school districts have implemented formal plans for including Personal Learning & Career Plans (PLCPs) through AKCIS into the school day. Examples include: Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District adding the 4Cs course (Credit, College, Community, and Career) for all students 6th – 12th grades, and Northwest Arctic Borough School District adding AKCIS to the Homeroom curriculum with weekly PLCP activities through AKCIS.
- AKCIS Workshops: ACAC Annual Training, Juneau School District In-Service, Northwest Arctic Borough School District Counselors Training and Homeroom classes, NACTEC Instructors, and Anchorage School District Career Readiness Project Team.
- AKCIS resources for counselors, teachers, and students shared through CANVAS in the Alaska Commons including training videos and QuickStart instruction sheets.
- Clever Rostering providing new single sign-on process – creating AKCIS student portfolios for all students in participating districts and syncing portfolios for quick access in the classroom, saving time for teachers and counselors to work directly with students on PLCP activities.
- AKCIS login sessions have been at pre-Covid levels with 10,100+ unique users; 20,000+ login sessions; 334,000+ page views.

On the Horizon:

- AKCIS Partnership Coordinator will provide training virtually for: WIOA and Youth Services Conference, Alaska Association of School Boards Conference, school district professional development training, and school presentations.



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- Support Lake and Peninsula School District as they activate their grant for the Tengesqaq (Fledgling Taking Flight) Program working across four school districts through BBRCTE with AKCIS as the foundation.

ALASKA COLLEGE & CAREER ADVISING CONSORTIUM (ACAC)

The Alaska College & Career Advising Consortium (ACAC) offered its Annual Training program this fall. The ACAC Annual Training is for representatives from Alaska's educational institutions, state agencies, Alaska Native Corporations, Alaska Native Tribal Organizations, and local non-profit organizations. This annual ACAC training is designed to equip attendees with a wide array of resources to help them support and guide students and adult learners in their preparation for postsecondary education and career training programs in Alaska.

After last year's successful pivot to offer the ACAC Annual Training via distance delivery and due to the worsening COVID-19 pandemic, the decision was made to offer the 2021 ACAC Annual Training virtually again this year. This year, ACAC members participated in three live ACAC Training sessions and received pre-recorded presentations from a variety of Alaska postsecondary institutions and organizations. The intent of this format was to ensure members have live interactions with each other and ACPE to build and enhance opportunities for communication and collaboration, while offering a multitude of pre-recorded presentations to ensure they readily have access to relevant postsecondary planning resources.

ACAC Live Sessions:

September 9, 2021: ACPE Postsecondary Planning Resources/Funding Your Future

- Presenters: Christina Campbell, ACPE College & Career Specialist II
Kate Hillenbrand, ACPE Director of Communications & Outreach

September 28, 2021: Federal Student Aid/FAFSA

- Presenter: Maisha Challenger, Federal Student Aid

October 7, 2021: Alaska Career Information System (AKCIS)

- Presenter: Julia Renfro, ACPE AKCIS Partnership Coordinator

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With a substantial increase over last year's training registration, the 2021 ACAC Annual Training saw an increase to 135 attendee registrations, representing the following organizations:

- Ahtna, Inc.
- Alaska Black Caucus
- AK DHSS Division of Juvenile Justice
- AK DHSS Office of Children's Services
- AK DOLWD Div of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Alaska Department of Corrections
- Alaska Gateway School District
- Alaska Humanities Forum
- Alaska Literacy Program
- Alaska Middle College
- Alaska Military Youth Academy
- Aleut Foundation
- Anchorage School District
- Association of Village Council Presidents
- AVTEC
- Alaska Pacific University
- Aqqaluk Trust
- Associated General Contractors of Alaska
- Association of Alaska School Boards
- Bering Strait School District
- Bering Straits Native Corporation
- Calista Education and Culture, Inc.
- Charter College
- Chevak School
- Cook Inlet Tribal Council
- Copper River School District
- Eielson Airforce Base
- Fairbanks North Star Borough School District
- Family Partnership
- Galena City School District
- Highland Academy Charter School
- Hiland Mountain Correctional Center
- Hydaburg School District
- Ilisagvik College
- Juneau School District
- Kawerak, Inc
- Keys Consulting
- Kodiak Regional Adult Education Program
- Kuspuk School District
- Lake & Peninsula School District
- Lower Kuskokwim School District
- Matanuska Susitna Borough School District
- McLaughlin Youth Center
- Native Village of Noatak
- Outer Coast
- Prince William Sound College
- Raven Homeschool
- Renewable Energy Alaska Project
- SEAD
- Sealaska
- Southeast Regional Resource Center SERRC
- Sitka Tribe of Alaska
- Spruce Root
- Tanana Chiefs Conference
- Twindly Bridge Charter School
- University of Alaska Anchorage
- University of Alaska Fairbanks Educators Rising
 - Northwest Campus (Nome)
 - Bristol Bay Campus (Dillingham)
 - Community & Technical College
- University of Alaska Southeast
- Wrangell Public Schools

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EARLY COLLEGE & CAREER EXPLORATION PROGRAMS:

The application period opened for Early College & Career Exploration resources on August 31 with priority applications encouraged by October 1 to ensure timely shipments. Late applications will be accepted with a guarantee of virtual resources and program support, and in-person resources dependent on supplies and shipping availability. All statistics presented reflect applications received through mid-September 2021. Although applications for all three resources are accepted year round, Kids2College and I Know I Can are limited to available resources. Early Career Explorers are always available for free download.

- **I Know I Can** applications for the 2021-2022 school year have been received from **22** schools and **1** community organization across **12** school districts to date. Four schools requested in-person ACPE volunteers if possible, 16 requested teacher led presentations, and three requested ACPE virtual volunteers. We anticipate only a couple in-person events, as most schools switch to ACPE synchronous virtual events when given the opportunity. The **I Know I Can** Yup'ik translation to Yugtun is about to go to print. The Central Yup'ik language, Yugtun, is spoken throughout the Lower Kuskokwim School District as well as in other nearby communities. The Lower Kuskokwim is our largest rural school district, with approximately 400 second grade students each year.
- **Kids2College** applications for the 2020-2021 school year have been received from **20** schools and **1** community organization across **9** school districts to date. One application was received from a homeschool we have not yet worked with. The single homeschool requested asynchronous Career Panel videos, three requested in-person ACPE volunteers if possible, two requested ACPE virtual, and three requested in-person organized by the school. Four requested in-person campus events if available, 13 requested pre-recorded events, one requested a virtual campus event, and one requested a virtual campus tour. We have received three campus applications with interest in both in-person if possible and virtual events.
- **Early Career Explorers** applications for the 2020-2021 school year have been received from **21** schools across **10** school districts to date. Approximately 1,305 students are signed up to use ECE resources. The I Can Be...Series and Careers Build A Community resources are also available in Cup'ik, thanks to a teacher in Chevak.



Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

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Fax: (907) 465-5316
acpe.alaska.gov

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
THROUGH: Sana Efird, Executive Director
FROM: Jamie Oliphant, Director of Information Support Services (ISS)
DATE: 10/7/21
SUBJECT: ISS activities

Alternative Loan Originations and Servicing Outsourcing Projects

ISS continues to play an active role in the alternative loan outsourcing projects. Along with the continued work of transitioning ongoing originations and servicing of loans the ISS team has also been focused on retention needs of our historical data that will not be outsourced. We are in the requirements gathering and design phase. The end goal is to have a robust system that will allow for continued and future data analysis to aid in one of our core values of being data driven. The full outsourcing and conversion project will continue to take up the majority of ISS resources through December 2022.

Other Agency-wide Projects

IRS 1098/1099 reporting for 2021 – annual IRS student loan interest reporting project. The team is currently in the testing phase with implementation in January 2022.

PFD garnishment on default loans – preparation and testing complete, pending PFD payment scheduled for mid to late October.

Second placement collection vendor – project to help in recovery of defaulted loans, currently in testing phase.

ACPE website homepage – ongoing effort to streamline and refresh design of the ACPE homepage. This change is the preliminary phase of a longer term website redesign.

Vendor changes and support – ACPE works with numerous third party vendors and from time to time there are changes necessary and support that we need to provide. This past quarter there were more than usual vendor assistance referrals taking place from onboarding a new company, troubleshooting issues to changes in staffing. These changes take resources to ensure security and safe data handling protocols are being met.

Network Activities and Projects

Our network team continues routine updates and changes to ensure our infrastructure and systems are operating accurately, securely and efficiently. We continue to monitor as well as work with the state on malware and security breaches within the state. We continue to be unaffected by prior state breaches. Security is of the utmost importance to our team and we continue to maintain the guidelines of the state's security office and follow SANS national best practices.

This past quarter we implemented an enhanced user authentication protocol to access our state and ACPE resources. The state is also requesting that all Departments implement by December 2021. We plan to be fully implemented by the end of October 2021.

With enhancements and changes to the infrastructure and remote environments we continue to have multiple user support requests coming in. I anticipate this will be the case as we continue to evolve on new features.

The first phase of the telephone upgrade from Cisco phones to Teams, driven by the state, was implemented on October 6th for three early adopters within ISS who will help with training and user support. The Anchorage office will be fully transitioning on October 14th. The rest of the Juneau staff is scheduled for early calendar year 2022. This upgrade allows for more efficient use of phones for a telework environment.

As part of the ISS and ACPE culture we continue to embrace Lean and enhance systems and processes to help staff, we continue to work with Operations, Finance and Outreach in finding creative ways to automate day to day repetitive tasks.

Please feel free to contact me if there are any questions or need for additional information on this report. It is a pleasure serving the Commission.



Alaska Postsecondary Access and Completion Network

65by2025.org

65by2025@gmail.com

TO: Members, Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
FROM: Kate Hillenbrand, President
 Alaska Postsecondary Access and Completion Network
DATE: October 1, 2021
SUBJECT: Alaska Postsecondary Access & Completion Network Activities Update

Throughout the third quarter of 2021, the Alaska Postsecondary Access & Completion Network (AlaskaCAN), carried out a variety of activities in support of its strategic plan, mission, and vision. After the work completed in the first and second quarters to realign AlaskaCAN committees to more directly support AlaskaCAN strategic priorities, new Board Members identified their Committee participation and began planning for initiatives in the upcoming year. During the third quarter, AlaskaCAN developed Committee Action Plan templates utilizing the SMART Goal model to ensure committee initiatives directly aligned with and supported the overarching Strategic Plan and Mission of AlaskaCAN. Additionally, strategic financial planning sessions are continuing to identify the most effective use of financial resources in support of mission attainment.

The AlaskaCAN Board of Directors also voted unanimously in support of contracting with a web development firm to re-design and build a new website for AlaskaCAN. The current website layout and design is no longer reflective of the current initiatives of AlaskaCAN and has very limited functionality, making it increasingly difficult to make responsive updates, including but not limited to: new Board of Directors membership, event promotion, and postsecondary access resources and research. The new website redesign is set to launch in mid-November.

AlaskaCAN also hosted over 100 registrants for its Quarterly Convening titled - Equity & Access: Removing Barriers to Postsecondary Education. This 2-hour event explored the following content:

1. Exploring the barriers specific to our Alaska Students
2. Highlighting success stories of barrier-breaking initiatives in our state
3. Expanding advocacy networks

Upcoming efforts for the fourth quarter include finalization AlaskaCAN Committee Action Plans, the winter Quarterly Convening, and planning for the 2022 AlaskaCAN Conference. The conference will be held virtually again this year. The theme is “Flexibility, Innovation, and Accessibility in Education: Making it Work” and will be held from 9:00-12:30 on March 1 – 3, 2022.

As always, AlaskaCAN appreciates ACPE’s support and endorsement of the “65% by 2025” statewide attainment goal. Additional Network information is located at www.65by2025.org.

Administrative Action Log
(1st Quarter FY22)

Appeals and Complaints

DATE	DESCRIPTION	ACTION TAKEN
8/31/2021	Appeal 2021 PFD Garnishment	Denied; no qualifying reason selected.
9/2/2021	Appeal 2021 PFD Garnishment	Referred to Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH).
9/8/2021	Appeal 2021 PFD Garnishment	Referred to OAH.
9/13/2021	Appeal 2021 PFD Garnishment	Referred to OAH. Borrower withdrew appeal.
9/13/2021	Appeal 2021 PFD Garnishment	Referred to OAH.
9/14/2021	Appeal 2021 PFD Garnishment	Referred to OAH.
9/20/2021	Appeal 2021 PFD Garnishment	Referred to OAH.
9/22/2021	Appeal 2021 PFD Garnishment	Denied; no qualifying reason selected.
9/23/2021	Appeal 2021 PFD Garnishment	Referred to OAH.
9/23/2021	Appeal 2021 PFD Garnishment	Denied; no qualifying reason selected.
9/24/2021	Appeal 2021 PFD Garnishment	Denied; no qualifying reason selected.
9/27/2021	Appeal 2021 PFD Garnishment	Denied; no qualifying reason selected.
9/27/2021	Appeal 2021 PFD Garnishment	Denied; no qualifying reason selected.
9/27/2021	Appeal 2021 PFD Garnishment	Denied; no qualifying reason selected.
9/27/2021	Appeal 2021 PFD Garnishment	PFD released by ACPE; account paid in full.
9/27/2021	Appeal 2021 PFD Garnishment	Denied; no qualifying reason selected.
9/29/2021	Appeal 2021 PFD Garnishment	Denied; no qualifying reason selected.
10/1/2021	Appeal 2021 PFD Garnishment	Referred to OAH.

Executive Director Decisions

DATE	DESCRIPTION	ACTION TAKEN
7/30/2021	Medical Cancellation	Approved
8/3/2021	Medical Cancellation	Approved
8/3/2021	Medical Cancellation	Denied – Offered Defaulted Loan Modification Program.

Commission Members' Affiliations

Please provide any updates the Commission Secretary

BARBARA ADAMS

Nenana City Public School – School Board, Advisory North Seat
 American Educational Research Association – Member
 American Evaluation Association – Member
 National Rural Education Association – Member
 National Council of Teachers of Mathematics – Member
 Mixed Methods International Research Association – Member
 Fairbanks Retriever Club – Member, Formerly Treasurer
 Nenana Community Church – Member
 Former Affiliations:
 Education Northwest Board of Directors – Ex Officio, Chair, Vice Chair,
 Secretary/Treasurer, Member
 University of Alaska Fairbanks – Graduate College, School of Education,
 Interior-Aleutians Campus
 University of Alaska, K-12 Outreach
 NSF Math Focus Project Grant External Advisory Committee, Interior-
 Aleutians Campus, UAF
 Friends of the Library, Nenana Public Library – Board Member
 American Mathematical Society – Member
 Acoustical Society of America – Member

DALE ANDERSON

Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
 Alaska Travel Industry Association
 City and Borough of Juneau Assembly member
 Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission
 Commissioner Juneau Chamber of Commerce
 Juneau Convention and Visitors Bureau
 University of Alaska Board of Regents

JOSHUA BICCHINELLA

Anchorage Chamber of Commerce
 Wasilla Chamber of Commerce
 Palmer Chamber of Commerce
 Big Lake Elementary PTO
 Wasilla Government Affairs Committee Member
 Alaska Postsecondary Access and Completion Network Director (Business Seat)
 Pi Alpha Alpha Honor Society Member- Walden Chapter
 Meadow Lakes Community Council Member

PEARL BROWER

Wells Fargo Advisory Board
 Alaska Postsecondary Access and Completion Network - Tribal/Vocational Seat
 Friends of Tuzzy Library - Secretary/Treasurer
 Tribal College Journal – Chair
 Alaska Airlines Community Advisory Board
 The Foraker Group Operations Board of Directors Leadership: Barrow

JOHN BROWN

Academic Advisory Council of Mat-Su Central (AAC)
 Alaska Council of School Administrators (ACSA)
 Alaska Association of Elementary School Principals (AAESP)
 Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals (AASSP)
 Alaskans for Palmer Hayflats (APH)

Mat-Su Principal Association (MSPA)
Wasilla Chamber of Commerce (WCC)

MIA COSTELLO

Alaska State House of Representatives
Finance Committee: 2011 - 2014
Alaska State Senate
Chair, Labor and Commerce Committee 2015-Present
Member, Judiciary Committee 2015-Present
Member, Regulatory Review Committee 2015-Present
Other Political and Government Positions
Governor's Office Deputy Director of Communications
Legislative aide
State Public Information Officer
Intern coordinator for U.S. Senator Ted Stevens
Governor's Outdoor Recreation and Trails Advisory Council
Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports Statehood
Celebration Commission
Business and Professional Positions
Coach, NineStar Education and Employment
Services Teacher, Anchorage and Juneau School
Districts Public relations executive
Owner, Mia Costello Consulting
Service Organizations and Community Involvement
Alaska Outdoor Council
National Rifle Association
Alaska Airmen's Association
Anchorage Republican Women's Club, Juneau Big Brothers Big Sisters
Masters Swimming

CHERYL EDENSHAW

Northwest Artic Borough Economic Development Commission – Member
Kikiktagruk Inupiat Corporation Board – Member
Alaska Workforce Investment Board – Member
Chukchi/UAF Advisory Council – Chair
Former affiliations:
Kotzebue Advisory Board – Chair
Kotzebue City Council – Member
Native Village of Kotzebue – Member
Maniilaq Assn. Board of Directors – Member
Aqqaluk trust – Trustee

RODOLFO GARCIA

Georgeson Botanical Garden Friends
The American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
The Society of Physics Students- UAF Chapter
Psi Chi Honors Society- UAF Chapter
Geoscience Club- UAF Chapter
Associated Students of UAF- Senator and Chair of Rules Committee for 2020-2021 academic year

LINDSAY HALLAM

American Library Association- Member
Alaska Library Association- Member
Christian Librarian Consortium- Member
Association of Christian Librarians- Member
Alaska Advisory Council on Libraries- Member

KEITH HAMILTON

Alaska Christian College, President
 Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, Commissioner
 Board of Education and Early Development, Member
 Certified-Christian Non-Profit Leader, Azusa Pacific University Evangelical
 Covenant Church Ministerium
 Kenai Peninsula Alaska Ministerial Association
 Kenai Peninsula Executive Directors Association
 North Park University, Board of Trustees Personnel Board, Member
 Soldotna Chamber of Commerce
 Former Affiliations:
 Alaska Children's Trust Steering Committee Alaska Juvenile Justice
 Advisory Council, Member Arctic Barnabas Ministry, Board Member
 Covenant Bible College Midwest, Windsor, Board Vice Chair
 Evangelical Covenant Church, National Board of Christian Formation,
 Secretary Faith Based and Community Initiatives Advisory Council, Member
 Mission Springs Conference Center, Scotts Valley, CA, Board Member New
 Hope Counseling Center, Ex-Officio Board Member
 Sexual Abstinence Curriculum Task Force, Rocklin Unified School District,
 Member Task Force on Postsecondary Education, Member

DONALD HANDELAND

American Society of Civil Engineers
 Former Affiliations:
 Alaska State Board of Education and Early Development
 Alaska Advisory Task Force on Higher Education and Career Readiness
 Alaska Association of Student Governments Executive Board

DONN LISTON

Legislative Staff, 1983 session
 Master's Degree in Education, UAS 1989
 Alaska Type A Certified Teacher, 2003-2019
 Classroom teacher/Adult Basic Education Instructor
 BP Teacher of Excellence, 2013
 Legislative Staff, 2018 session
 Member of Susitna Rotary, Willow Chamber of Commerce

LISA PARKER

University of Alaska Board of Regents
 City of Soldotna Council member
 Resource Development Council Board of Directors
 Alaska State Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors
 Alaska Municipal League Board of Directors – November 2017 – Present
 Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education Board of Directors – March 2017-Present
 City Council Soldotna, Alaska – 2002-2007; 2016 – Present
 Governor's Sustainability Conference – June 2015
 Governor's Oil and Gas Policy Transition Team – December 2014
 Resource Development Council Board of Directors – 2004 – Present
 Alaska Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors – 2009 – 2018
 Anchorage, Alaska Downtown Rotary – 2013 – 2016
 Soldotna, Alaska Rotary – 2016 - 2018
 Kenai Peninsula Food Bank Board of Directors – 2013 – 2015

Kenai Peninsula Planning Commission – December 2010 – January 2012
 Kenai Peninsula Borough Board of Adjustment – December 2008 – December 2010
 Conference of Alaskans, 2004
 Anchorage Charter Commission, 1975 (elected to Commission at age 19)
 U.S. Department of Transportation, Pipeline Safety Standard Committee 1994-1999,
 Committee Chair – 1994-1998, Reappointed 2004 – 2011.
 University of Alaska, Kenai River Campus, College Council 1997-2003, Vice-Chair
 1999-2002
 Blood Bank of Alaska, Board of Directors 2000-2002
 Kenai Watershed Forum Board of Directors, 1999-2002
 Alaska – Alberta Bilateral Council, 2002. Appointed by Governor Tony Knowles
 Governor’s Water Quality Work Group, 1996-1997
 American Planning Association, Alaska Chapter, Regional Vice-President South
 Central Alaska 1997-1999
 Alaska Trails Plan Review Taskforce, Governor’s Trail & Recreational Access for
 Alaska Citizens Advisory Board, 1999
 Governor’s Natural Resources Policy Transition Team, Chair Subcommittee on Oil,
 Gas, and Mining, 1995
 International Oil Spill Conference Technical Review Committee, 1994-1995
 Alaska Common Ground, Board of Directors, 1991-1993
 Kenai Peninsula Community Care Center, Board of Directors, 1992-January 2007
 National Association of Environmental Professionals, 1988-1998
 Mining and Petroleum Training Services, Board of Directors, 1984-1992
 Alaska Reapportionment Board, Vice-Chair, 1990
 Assist numerous nonprofit organizations in capital campaigns and fundraising efforts

ANDI STORY

Alaska Native Language Preservation Advisory Council – House Liaison (nonvoting)
 Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) Legislative Advisory Committee - member
 UAS College of Education External Advisory Committee – member
 National Conference of State Legislatures’ (NCSL) International Education Study Group – member
 Governor’s Teacher Retention and Recruitment Working Group - former member
 Juneau School District Board of Education – member 2003-2018

2020

Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education Acronyms

STEPHANIE BUTLER

Updated 03-2020

**ACRONYMS AND TERMS FOR ALASKA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY
EDUCATION (ACPE)**

65 by 2025	Initiative of the Alaska Postsecondary Access & Completion Network, funded by a Lumina grant, to increase the percentage of working-age Alaskans who will have a postsecondary credential to 65% by the year 2025.
Accreditation	Accreditation is a peer review process that examines competency, authority, or credibility of a higher education institution. Alaska requires that colleges and universities operating in the state be accredited by a body recognized by the Secretary of Education. The goal of accreditation is to ensure that education provided by institutions of higher education meets acceptable levels of quality and that credits are transferrable.
Alaska Education and Workforce Outcomes Database (Outcomes)	Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) developed to manage, analyze and evaluate outcomes of educational programs and services. Outcomes is a partnership between the University of Alaska, Alaska Department of Education & Early Development, Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development and ACPE. Outcomes replaces the ANSWERS system.
American Education Services (AES)	American Education Services. (AES) is a Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) and private (alternative) student loan national servicer, owned by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA). AES services ACPE's legacy FFELP portfolio.
Alaska Career Information System (AKCIS)	AKCIS is a web-based statewide service offered by ACPE to provide comprehensive, interactive and user-friendly career and postsecondary education/training information to help youth and adult users explore and plan for careers, with emphasis on careers within Alaska. AKCIS is offered in all 54 school districts.
Alaska College and Career Advising Corps (ACAC)	Designed under a federal College Access Challenge Grant (CACG), ACAC provides training and information resources to partners and volunteers across the state who are committed to developing a postsecondary education culture and helping Alaska's students access and benefit from postsecondary education and career training. The program includes mentoring through the FAFSA Time Alaska, Apply Now Alaska and Decision Day Alaska programs
AlaskAdvantage	The trademarked name of a now-discontinued suite of ACPE education loan programs and services that offered benefits or outreach to Alaskans and to the organizations that serve Alaska's students. This program ended when the Department of Education

	discontinued the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP).
Alaska Education Grant (AEG)	A state need-based grant ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 per academic year for qualifying Alaska residents attending participating Alaska postsecondary institution. AEG awards are funded by the Alaska Higher Education Investment Fund (HEIF), and operating costs are absorbed by ACPE.
Alaska Navigator: Statewide Workforce and Education-Related Statistics (ANSWERS)	ANSWERS is the State of Alaska's P-20W Statewide Longitudinal Data System. ANSWERS was developed to link existing Alaska K-12, higher education and employment data to deliver critical information to Alaska's policymakers, educators, and general public about the state's education continuum. In 2012, the state received a \$4 million federal grant over 3 years to develop the system. The system has been rebranded and is now known as the Alaska Education and Workforce Outcomes Database (Outcomes)
Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS)	Alaska's state performance-based scholarship to incent Alaska's students, parents and educators to strive for excellence in education. Awards may be used at participating colleges, universities or approved career and technical education programs in Alaska.
Alaska Postsecondary Access and Completion Network (Alaska CAN or The Network)	The Network, is a non-profit organization originally created by ACPE under a federal College Access Challenge Grant (CACG). The Network focuses on increasing postsecondary access and success in Alaska and promulgated the state's 65 by 2025 attainment goal. Board members represent secondary and postsecondary education, business, rural and urban areas, and community nonprofits. It establishes a network for members to share best practices, tools and resources relating to college access and success.
Alaska Presence Benefit	A legacy annual credit to qualifying borrowers' loan principal balances to reduce their costs. Borrowers qualify while living in Alaska. The ASLC Board approves the offering of benefits annually based on cash flows and costs estimates. This benefit is not offered on new loans.
Alaska Student Aid Portal (ASAP)	ACPE web portal to provide students with secure access to real-time grant and scholarship account information regarding their eligibility, award level, remaining terms available, remaining years in which to use available terms, and ability to change record of school of attendance.
Alaska Student Loan Corporation (ASLC)	The state corporation that funds the student loan programs and ACPE's operating budget. Created in 1987 to provide a means of alternative financing in the form of tax-exempt bonds. ASLC is governed by a board of directors appointed by the governor (two

	from ACPE and the Commissioners of Revenue, Administration and Community & Economic Development).
Alaska Supplemental Education Loan (ASEL)	Alaska's state education loan program to provide supplemental financial assistance if the federal loan program is insufficient to cover the costs of attendance or if the borrower does not qualify for financial aid under the federal student loan program.
Annual Percentage Rate (APR)	The Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is the yearly cost of borrowing a loan, shown as a percentage of the amount borrowed. Because APR is calculated the same way on different loans from different lenders, the APR also allows applicants to compare loans with different terms and conditions.
Apply Now Alaska	An initiative coordinated statewide by ACPE and based on the American College Application Campaign model, to assist first-generation and low-income high school students as they navigate the complexities of the admissions process to postsecondary institutions. The event season runs from November to February.
Ascendium Education Group (AEG)	ACPE's federal loan guarantor, located in Madison, Wisconsin. Formerly known as Great Lakes Higher Education Guarantee Corporation.
Award Letter	An official document issued by a school's financial aid office that lists the financial aid offered to the student through the school. It provides details of a borrower's financial need and the breakdown of the financial aid package according to amount, source and type of aid. The award letter (also called a Financial Aid Notification/FAN) includes the terms and conditions for the financial aid and cost of attendance.
Administrative Wage Garnishment (AWG)	State statutes and regulations provide ACPE the authority to garnish wages of a borrower who has defaulted on their state loan, without the need for a court order. Limitations are structured in state and federal law.
Award Year	The academic year for which financial aid is requested (or received).
A.W. "Winn" Brindle Education Loan (WB)	This program, which is no longer funded, was funded by private donations and offered forgivable loans to full-time students in a fisheries-related degree or certificate program.
Borrower Benefits	Interest rate reductions and account credits that reduce the overall cost of borrowing. ASLC benefits are variable and are evaluated and approved annually based on cash flows and costs estimates.

Campus-Based Aid	Financial aid programs administered by the student's school. The federal government provides the school with a fixed annual allocation, which is awarded by the financial aid administrator to qualifying students. Programs include the Perkins Loan, Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant, and Federal Work-Study. Note that there is no guarantee that every eligible student will receive financial aid through these programs because the awards are made from a fixed pool of money.
Capitalized Interest	Unpaid interest charges added to the principal balance of an educational loan thereby increasing the size of the loan. Interest is then charged on the new balance, including both the unpaid principal and the accrued interest. Capitalizing the interest increases the monthly payment and the amount of money ultimately repaid. Interest is generally capitalized when there is a change in the status of the loan at a time when there is unpaid interest outstanding, such as going from deferment to repayment status. Borrowers can significantly reduce their costs by paying interest each month, even if a payment is not due.
Clearinghouse (or National Student Clearinghouse (NSC))	A non-profit association that maintains a comprehensive electronic registry of postsecondary student records provided by the participating schools. Over 2,700 colleges, 91% of the nation's enrollment, participate. The Clearinghouse process identifies those borrowers who withdraw from school and need to begin repayment; transfer from one school to another; return to school and may be eligible for a deferment; continue in school and are eligible for deferment or in-school extension.
Cohort Default Rate (CDR)	<p data-bbox="574 1381 1414 1703">A measurement of loan cohort performance that identifies the percent of the cohort that is in default at a given time. Cohorts may include schools, states, or calendar groups. Alaska loan cohort rates are calculated annually based on loans entering repayment between January 1 and December 31 of the cohort year, which are greater than six months (180 days) past due at the end of the first 12 months of repayment and have not previously defaulted. These calculations differ from the federal cohort default rate calculations.</p> <p data-bbox="574 1728 1414 1902">The US Department of Education cohort default rate is calculated as the percentage of borrowers who entered repayment on Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program or William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program loans between Oct. 1st and Sept. 30th of a given year and subsequently defaulted prior</p>

	to Sept. 30 th two years later (for example, the 2016 CDR is calculated on student loans entering repayment between Oct 1, 2015 and Sept 30, 2016 and subsequently default prior to Sept 30, 2018).
College Access Challenge Grant (CACG)	A federal grant program to foster partnerships among federal, state, and local governments and philanthropic organizations through matching challenge grants aimed at increasing the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.
Consolidation Loan	A loan that combines several student loans into one bigger loan from a single lender. The consolidation loan pays off the balances on the other loans. ACPE no longer offers a consolidation loan; however, federal consolidation loans are still available.
Cosigner	A cosigner is responsible for loan repayment if the borrower fails to repay it. Borrowers who do not meet ACPE's credit requirements must provide a cosigner who meets those requirements. Also called an endorser.
Cost Of Attendance (COA)	Also known as the cost of education or budget. The total cost for the student to attend school, including tuition and fees, room and board, allowances for books and supplies, transportation, and personal and incidental expenses. Loan fees, if applicable, may also be included in the COA. Childcare and expenses for disabilities may also be included. Schools establish standard budgets for students: living on-campus and off-campus, married and unmarried, and residents and nonresidents.
Credit Rating or Credit Score	Credit ratings or scores are calculated by credit bureaus based on an individual's past debt and repayment history. Credit bureaus and credit reporting agencies provide this information to banks and businesses to determine if an applicant meets the applicable underwriting standard to qualify for a loan. Credit scores generally range from 300 to 850, with the 2019 Alaska average score being 675.
Credit Reporting	ACPE reports the current status of all accounts to national credit bureaus monthly, which impacts the borrower's credit rating. Accounts that are 60 or more days delinquent are reported past due.
Dear Colleague Letter (DCL)	An official communication to schools and lenders that explains and clarifies the federal Department's guidance regarding federal regulations and statutes. Also known as a Dear Partner Letter.
Decision Day Alaska	An initiative, derived from the national College Decision Day, to recognize high school seniors for their postsecondary educational plans and encourage younger students and families to prepare

	early for postsecondary education. The event season runs from May to June.
Default	Failure to make monthly payments on the loan as agreed, or failure to abide by terms and conditions of a loan promissory note (PN). ACPE borrowers who default may be subject to wage and PFD garnishment and transferred to a collection agency, among other consequences.
Default Rate	The general definition of default rate is the measure as a percentage of borrowers who failed to make scheduled payments in a specified date range. See also Cohort Default Rate CDR.
Deferment	A period of time during which a borrower is allowed to postpone repaying the loan. With the exception of federal subsidized loans, interest continues to accrue during deferment periods. A borrower can postpone paying the interest charges by capitalizing the interest, which increases the size of the loan. Most loan programs allow students to defer their loans while they are in school at least half-time. A borrower who defaults on a loan loses eligibility for a deferment on that loan.
Dependent	For purposes of completing the FAFSA, a dependent student is generally one who is unmarried and under 24 years old. Federal need-based aid to dependent students is awarded based on their parents' income.
Direct Loans (DL)	The William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program (AKA the Direct Loan Program) is a federal program through which the federal government makes student loans. Loans may be subsidized for students considered high need under the FAFSA formula, meaning that the loans have very low rates and the federal government pays the interest during the in-school period and during certain other deferments. Generally, ACPE's interest rates are the next lowest option for Alaska students, after subsidized loans.
Direct Payment (ACH)	Automatic electronic debit from borrower's bank account each month for loan repayment. Borrowers making direct payment at ACPE receive a 0.25% interest rate reduction. The benefit is reviewed annually by the ASLC Board.
Disclosure	A written statement of the repayment terms of the loan sent to the borrower at the time the loan is scheduled for repayment. It identifies the principal balance, the estimated interest to be paid over the life of the loan, annual interest rate, annual percentage rate, the number of payments to be made and the monthly payment amount. A new disclosure is sent to the borrower if the repayment schedule changes, for example if the student receives a deferment. A disclosure may also be called a truth-in-lending statement or a statement of loan terms.

Due Diligence	The process of exercising a servicer's responsibility for collecting on a loan.
(ED) U.S. Department of Education	An acronym sometimes used for the Department of Education. Executive Branch of the federal government that establishes policy for, administers, and coordinates most federal assistance to education.
Electronic Signature (E-SIGN)	An electronic symbol or process attached to, or logically associated with, a record and used by a person with the intent to sign the document or record. Established under the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act on 6/8/2000.
Education Finance Council	The Education Finance Council is an association representing the nation's nonprofit and state-based student loan and finance organizations. These public purpose organizations are dedicated to the single purpose of making college more affordable.
Education Loan Management Resources (ELM)	Education Loan Management Resources created a uniform data exchange network for student loan processing. This technology platform allows lenders to exchange critical loan data with schools efficiently.
Expected Family Contribution (EFC)	The amount the family is expected to contribute to paying for a student's education, as determined by the FAFSA Federal Methodology. The EFC includes parent and student contributions, and varies according to the student's dependency status, family size, number of family members in school, taxable and nontaxable income and assets. The difference between the student's costs and the EFC is the student's financial need, and is used in determining the student's eligibility for need-based financial aid.
Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act 2003 (FACTA)	Federal act allowing consumers to obtain each year, free of charge, a personal credit history report, requiring that merchants omit from sales receipts all but the last five digits of a customer's credit card number, and requiring that procedures for government oversight and financial institution notification of ID theft and fraud be implemented. Amended the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA).
Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA)	The Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1681, is U.S. federal law enacted to promote the accuracy, fairness, and privacy of consumer information contained in the files of consumer reporting agencies.
Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA)	The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, Pub. L. 95-109; 91 Stat. 874, codified as 15 U.S.C. § 1692 –1692p, designed to eliminate abusive practices in the collection of consumer debts, to promote fair debt collection, and to provide consumers with an avenue for

	disputing and obtaining validation of debt information in order to ensure the information's accuracy
Fair Isaac Credit Score (FICO)	A statistical model developed by the Fair Isaac Corporation, which is used by credit bureaus, and banking institutions to calculate and determine an individual's credit score.
Family Education Loan (FEL)	ACPE's FEL program provides low interest loans to families to assist in paying the costs of education for family members. Borrowers may be parents, grandparents, foster parents, or spouses.
Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP)	FFELP was terminated in 2009. Through FFELP, ACPE offered federally-guaranteed low-cost loans to students and parents. FFELP loans included Stafford, PLUS, Consolidated, all of which are now offered directly by the federal government.
Federal Methodology	The need analysis formula used on the FAFSA to determine the EFC. The federal methodology takes family size, the number of family members in college, taxable and nontaxable income and assets into account.
Federal Work-Study (FWS)	Program providing undergraduate and graduate students with part-time employment, usually at the school of attendance, during the school year. The federal government pays a portion of the student's salary, making it cheaper for departments and businesses to hire the student. For this reason, work-study students often find it easier to get a part-time job. Eligibility for FWS is based on need. Money earned from a FWS job is not counted as income for the subsequent year's need analysis process.
Finance Charge	The estimated amount of interest that will be paid over the life of the loan.
Financial Aid	Money provided to the student and the family to help them pay for the student's education. Major forms of financial aid include gift aid (grants and scholarships) and self-help aid (loans and work).
Financial Aid Administrator (FAA)	A staff member at an eligible school who is charged with the administration of financial aid programs.
Financial Aid Counseling	Students with federal loans are required to meet with a financial aid administrator or participate in a distance education-counseling program before they receive their first loan disbursement and again before they graduate or otherwise leave school. During these counseling sessions, called entrance and exit interviews, the FAA reviews the repayment terms of the loan and the repayment schedule with the student.

Financial Aid Office (FAO)	The college or university office that is responsible for the determination of student financial need and the awarding of financial aid.
Financial Aid Package	The complete collection of grants, scholarships, loans, and work-study employment from all sources (federal, state, institutional and private) offered to a student to enable them to attend the college or university.
Financial Literacy	The ability to understand and effectively apply various financial skills, including personal financial management, budgeting, and investing. Financial literacy helps individuals become self-sufficient so they can achieve financial stability. ACPE incorporates financial literacy education into the loan application process.
Forbearance	During a forbearance period, the lender allows the borrower to temporarily postpone repaying the principal, but the interest charges continue to accrue, even on subsidized loans. Forbearances are granted at the lender's discretion, usually in cases of extreme financial hardship or other unusual circumstances when the borrower does not qualify for a deferment. Typically, accrued interest is capitalized.
Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)	Form used to apply for a broad category of federal and state student aid programs. No fee is charged.
FAFSA Time Alaska	FAFSA Time Alaska provides FAFSA-specific resources and training to site coordinators volunteering to host FAFSA completion events around the state. The event season runs from October to April. (Previously known as College Goal Alaska)
Federal Student Aid (FSA)	Aid offered to postsecondary education students by the federal government in the form of grants, loans, work-study programs, and other forms of assistance.
Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)	A widely accepted set of rules, conventions, standards, and procedures for reporting financial information, as established by the Financial Accounting Standards Board.
Gift Aid	Financial aid, such as grants and scholarships, which does not need to be repaid.
Grace Period	The time that begins when a borrower leaves school (whether because of graduation or withdrawal) or drops below the required enrollment level, and ends the day before the repayment period starts. The length of the grace period is stipulated in the promissory note that the borrower signed. Payments are not due during the grace period.

Graduate PLUS Loan	A federal loan made to a graduate or professional student, defined as a student enrolled in a program or course above the baccalaureate level or enrolled in a program leading to a professional degree at an eligible school.
Graduated Repayment	A repayment schedule where monthly payments are smaller at the start of the repayment period and gradually become larger.
Grant	A type of financial aid based on financial need that the student does not have to repay.
Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation (Great Lakes)	ACPE's former federal loan guarantor from 2018 through early 2019 when it transitioned to Ascendium Education Group AEG as part of corporate restructuring.
Guaranty Agency or Guarantor	A state or private nonprofit organization that has an agreement with the U.S. Secretary of Education to administer a loan guarantee program under the Higher Education Act, and enforces federal and state law regarding student loans. It is responsible for overseeing the student loan process, and insures them against default for the lender.
Health Education Assistance Loan (HEAL)	A low interest loan administered by the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). It is available to medical school students pursuing medicine, osteopathy, dentistry, veterinary medicine, optometry, podiatry, clinical psychology, health administration and public health. Undergraduate pharmacology students are also eligible.
Higher Ed Loan Mgt System (HELMS)	Loan servicing software used by ACPE since 1996.
Higher Education Investment Fund (HEIF)	Fund established in statute for the purpose of making grants and scholarships. This fund was established to endow the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) and the Alaska Education Grant (AEG).
Income-Based Repayment (IBR)	IBR is a federal loan repayment option with payment caps based on income and family size. After 25 years of qualifying payments and/or economic hardship deferments, the US Department of Education repays the outstanding balance and accrued interest on eligible loans. IBR is available for all federal student loans, except parent PLUS loans.
Income-Sensitive Repayment	A repayment plan for federal loan programs available to borrowers whose standard monthly loan payment (10-year repayment term) exceeds a percentage of their discretionary income. The monthly payment amount is based on a percentage of gross monthly income, and must at least satisfy monthly

	interest accrual. The plan is designed for borrowers who have a low initial income but anticipate it to increase over time.
Independent	A student is considered independent for purposes of not including parent income on the FAFSA if the student is at least 24 years old as of January 1 of the academic year, is married, is a graduate or professional student, has a legal dependent other than a spouse, is a veteran of the US Armed Forces, or is an orphan or ward of the court (or was a ward of the court until age 18), homeless or at risk of being homeless. A parent refusing to provide support for their child's education is not sufficient for the child to be declared independent.
Institutional Authorization	All postsecondary educational providers in Alaska, and the programs they offer, must be authorized in accordance with law as set forth in AS 14.48, or be formally determined by ACPE to be exempt from authorization. ACPE's authorization process is designed to ensure postsecondary education providers and programs meet minimum standards set out in law, relative to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional financial soundness • Ethical business practices • Educational program • Administrative capacity <p>Authorization is a separate process from accreditation.</p>
Institutional Student Information Report (ISIR)	The electronic version of the Student Aid Report (SAR) delivered to schools. It is sent by the US Department of Education to provide information about students who completed a FAFSA and indicated they might attend that school. This report includes the EFC and is used by the school to determine eligibility for financial aid.
Interest	Amount charged to the borrower for the benefit of using the lender's money. Interest is usually calculated as a percentage of the principal balance of the loan. The percentage rate may be fixed for the life of the loan, or it may be variable, depending on the terms of the loan.
Interest Cap	The maximum interest rate that can be charged on a loan. Not to be confused with capitalized interest.
Institutional Standards & Evaluation Committee (ISEC)	Five commissioners appointed by the Chair to meet at the call of the Chair to consider matters of initial authorization, program changes, and institutional compliance, and make recommendations for final action to the full Commission.
Lender's Interest and Special Allowance	An accounting mechanism that a lender uses to report to the Department the loans that it has made and to request from the

Request and Report (LaRS)	Department interest benefits and special allowance that it has earned, or to report payments the lender owes to the Department.
Lumina Foundation	An independent private philanthropic foundation focused on increasing success in higher education.
Master Promissory Note (MPN)	A promissory note that authorizes the lender to disburse multiple loans during multi-year terms upon request and the school's certification of loan eligibility.
Medical Cancellation	In the event the borrower is permanently disabled, and therefore unable to be gainfully employed, a loan may be eligible for medical cancellation. Cancellation eligibility is, in part, determined by the loan contract the borrower signed. Alaska statute does not entitle a borrower to medical cancellation; therefore, contract law and Alaska Education Loan Regulations govern this process.
Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority (MOHELA)	Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority is one of several Direct Loan Servicers in the country. The ASLC is a signatory sub-contractor of MOHELA for federal Direct Loan Servicing. MOHELA services Direct Loans allocated to the ASLC, and the ASLC receives a share of the servicing fees paid by the US Department of Education.
National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS)	A private nonprofit organization whose expertise is assisting higher education policymakers and administrators bridge the gap between research and practice.
National College Access Network (NCAN)	National non-profit organization that assists local communities initiate, develop and sustain college access programs designed to increase the number of students who pursue education beyond high school through advising and financial assistance.
National Council of Higher Education Resources (NCHER)	An organization which represents a nationwide network of guaranty agencies, secondary markets, lenders, loan servicers, collection agencies, schools, and other organizations involved in the administration of FFEL portfolios.
National Disbursement Network (NDN)	A central disbursing agent affiliated with Education Loan Management Resources (ELM) that ACPE uses to disburse loan funds to schools that request this method of receiving disbursements. NDN electronically debits an ACPE account and disburses the funds to the school either by electronic fund transfer or by check, depending on the school's preference.
National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS)	The U.S. Department of Education's central database for information about a student's financial aid.

Need Analysis	The process for determining a student's financial need using financial information provided by the student and his or her parents (and spouse, if any) on the FAFSA.
Need-Based	Financial aid based on student's ability to pay. Most government sources of financial aid are need-based.
Northwest Ed Loan Association (NELA)	ACPE's former federal loan guarantor. NELA became affiliated with USAFunds in 2004.
Non-Subsidized Interest	Interest that accrues and is to be paid by the borrower.
Office of Management & Budget (OMB)	Budget office in the Governor's office.
Origination Fee	Administrative fee paid to the lender and charged as a percentage of the loan amount as it is disbursed.
P-20W Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS)	Abbreviation and acronym for the statewide longitudinal data system, which links K-12 education data to postsecondary education and workforce information.
Parent Loans For Undergraduate Students (PLUS)	Federal loans available to parents of dependent undergraduate students to help finance the child's education. Parents may borrow up to the full cost of their children's education, less the amount of any other financial aid received. PLUS Loans may be used to pay the EFC. There is a minimal credit check required for the PLUS loan, so a good credit history is required.
Pell Grant	A federal grant to undergraduates that provides funds based on the student's financial need. The amount of the grant for 2020-21 is \$6,345.
Perkins Loan	Formerly the National Direct Student Loan Program, the Perkins Loan allows students to borrow up to \$5,500/year maximum of \$27,500 for undergraduate school and \$8,500/year maximum of \$60,000 for graduate school. The Perkins Loan has one of the lowest interest rates and is awarded by the financial aid administrator to students with exceptional financial need. The student must have applied for a Pell Grant to be eligible. The interest on the Perkins Loan is subsidized while the student is in school.
Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA)	Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) is a national provider of student financial aid services, including loan guaranty, loan servicing, financial aid processing, outreach, and other student aid programs. It conducts its student loan servicing operations nationally as FedLoan Servicing and American Education Services (AES).

Premiere Credit of North America, LLC (PCNA)	Premiere Credit of North America, LLC (PCNA) is the collection agency contracted to collect on defaulted state education loans.
Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP)	A WICHE program that provides access for Alaska students to enroll full-time in eligible health-related degree programs that are not available in this state. Alaska pays a support fee to reserve seats in these programs, and the Alaska program participants are required to repay the support fee paid on their behalf.
Promissory Note (PN)	Legal contract between borrower and ACPE describing terms and conditions of loan.
Program Participation Application (PPA)	An institution must enter into a program participation agreement with ACPE in order to be eligible to offer state financial aid programs. The agreement sets out the requirements for compliance with state statutes and regulations governing these programs.
Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)	The Public Service Loan Forgiveness program forgives the remaining balance on federal student loans after borrowers have made 120 qualifying monthly payments under a qualifying repayment plan while working full-time for a qualifying employer. Qualifying employers include a US federal, state, or tribal government or not-for-profit organization.
Refinance Loan	A loan that combines several student loans into one loan from a single lender. The refinance loan is used to pay off the balances on the other loans.
Skip Tracing	Skip Tracing is the process by which a lender attempts to obtain corrected borrower address or telephone information when the current address and/or phone is no longer valid.
Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)	Institutional requirements for satisfactory academic progress to continue receiving federal or state aid.
Student Aid Report (SAR)	Record of information from a student's FAFSA provided to the student by the U.S. Dept. of Education (DOE), which includes the calculation of the student's expected family contribution (EFC). The electronic version sent to schools and ACPE is called an Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR).
Servicer	An organization that collects payments on a loan and performs other administrative tasks associated with maintaining a loan portfolio. Loan servicers disburse loan funds, monitor loans while the borrowers are in school, collect payments, process deferments and forbearances, respond to borrower inquiries and ensure that the loans are administered in compliance with all applicable state and federal requirements.

Special Allowance Payment (SAP)	A percentage of the daily average unpaid principal balance, paid to a lender by the Department on an eligible Federal Stafford, PLUS, Supplemental Loans for Students (SLS), or Consolidation loan. The special allowance rate is set by statutory formula. Currently the rates paid by borrowers on the loans are higher than the relevant market index and lenders are required to rebate the difference back to the federal government.
Stafford Loans	Federal loans that come in two forms, subsidized and unsubsidized. Subsidized loans are based on need; unsubsidized loans are not. The federal government pays the interest on the subsidized Stafford Loan while the student is in school and in certain deferment periods. The Subsidized Stafford Loan was formerly known as the Guaranteed Student Loan (GSL).
State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO)	The national association of higher education leaders of statewide coordinating and governing boards and other state policy agencies for higher education. SHEEO serves its members as an advocate for state policy leadership, as a liaison between states and the federal government, as a vehicle for peer collaboration, and as a source of information and analysis on educational and public policy issues. In Alaska, the SHEEO role is shared between the Executive Director of ACPE and the President of the University of Alaska.
Success Center	Located in ACPE's Anchorage office, Success Center staff assist students and parents through the financial aid process and postsecondary education or career training preparation.
Subsidized Loan	With a subsidized loan, such as the Perkins Loan or the Subsidized Stafford Loan, the government pays the interest on the loan while the student is in school, during the six-month grace period following qualifying enrollment and the beginning of repayment, and during any deferment periods. Subsidized loans are awarded based on financial need and may not be used to finance the family contribution.
Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (SEOG)	Federal grant program for undergraduate students with exceptional need. SEOG grants are awarded by the school's financial aid office, and provide up to \$4,000 per year. To qualify, a student must also be a recipient of a Pell Grant.
Teacher Education Loan (TEL)	The TEL was created to provide an incentive for rural high school graduates to pursue teaching careers and return to teach in rural communities; school boards award teacher education loans with preference given to applicants from rural schools, to attend a bachelor's degree program in elementary or secondary education or a teacher certification program. Borrowers who teach in a qualifying school may be eligible for forgiveness benefits.

	Legislation passed in 2014 made the awarding of TELs to new borrowers subject to the availability of funding from the State. Absent such funding, effective fall of 2014, only continuing borrowers will receive additional loans, which are funded by ASLC.
Truth-In-Lending (TIL)	See Disclosure
Truth in Lending Act (TILA)	The Truth in Lending Act (TILA) of 1968 is United States federal law designed to promote the informed use of consumer credit, by requiring disclosures about its terms and cost to standardize the manner in which costs associated with borrowing are calculated and disclosed. It requires publication of the Annual Percentage Rate (APR) on a loan.
Unmet Need	Any negative difference between the amount a student/family has the capacity to pay and the cost of education as certified by the institution's Financial Aid Office is considered to be their "unmet need".
Unsubsidized Loan	A loan for which the borrower is responsible for the interest on an unsubsidized loan from the date the loan is disbursed, even while the student is still in school. Students may avoid paying the interest while they are in school by capitalizing the interest, which increases the loan amount.
Variable Interest Rate (VIR)	In a variable interest loan, the interest rate changes periodically. For example, the interest rate might be pegged to the cost of US Treasury Bills (e.g., T-Bill rate plus 3.1%) and be updated monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually. ACPE does not currently offer any variable rate loans.
Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)	WICHE is a regional organization created by the Western Regional Education Compact, adopted by the Western states. WICHE was created to facilitate resource sharing among the higher education systems of the West. It implements a number of activities to accomplish its objectives. Alaska participates in three WICHE student exchange programs administered by ACPE. Alaska has participated in the WICHE compact since 1955.
Western Undergraduate Exchange Program (WUE)	A WICHE program, WUE allows Alaska residents to enroll at two-year and four-year institutions in participating states at reduced tuition level applicable only to WUE students. Over 100 colleges and universities participate in this exchange program.
Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP)	A WICHE program that enables Alaska residents to enroll at reduced tuition rates in certain graduate programs in other western states.

The Washington, Wyoming Alaska, Montana, Idaho Program (WWAMI)	Provides access to graduate medical education not otherwise available in Alaska. State residents compete only with other Alaska residents for 20 positions reserved at the University of Washington School of Medicine (UWSM) for Alaska students. Alaska pays to UWSM the contractual costs of the program not covered by tuition, but fifty percent of that cost is a loan for the participant if they fail to return to the state and become employed in the medical field for which support was provided. After acceptance by UWSM, the student attends the first year of school at University of Alaska Anchorage.
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