



The Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, funded by the Alaska Student Loan Corporation, promotes access to and success in education and career training beyond high school.

VALUES

♦ Service ♦ Quality ♦ Innovation ♦ Empowerment ♦ Accountability

CORE SERVICES

- programs creating early awareness of the importance of preparing for success in higher education
- 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

The Commission's AlaskAdvantage Programs are a suite of financial aid and outreach services, designed to provide educational access necessary for Alaskans to become peak performers, regardless of their financial status. A better-educated workforce will provide a stronger state economy that benefits all Alaskans.

The Legislature created ACPE in 1974 to centralize planning for higher education and administer financial aid programs.

Guided by the 14-member Commission, the Executive Director and staff develop and implement programs and policies to increase access to the benefits of higher education. ASLC, a public corporation and enterprise instrumentality of the State of Alaska, was created by the Legislature in 1987 to fund the Commission's programs through tax-exempt bond sales. It has a legal existence independent of the State. The Corporation is governed by a Board of Directors. The Board's primary responsibilities are to authorize and oversee investments, fund the Commission's education programs, and set investment policies, loan fees, interest rates, and borrower benefits.

The administrative staff of the Commission serve as the staff of the Corporation. They carry out ASLC activities through the delegated authority of the ASLC Executive Officer, who is also the Executive Director of ACPE.

Rebecca Huggins



Lvdia Wirkus



Diane Barrans

FELLOW ALASKANS:

The Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) has been launched, and a movement to transform education is afoot in Alaska. Early indicators from first year outcomes are pointing clearly towards success, with over 900 high-performing and hard-working Alaska high school graduates choosing to stay in Alaska for college or career training.

At the same time, the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE) and the Alaska Student Loan Corporation (ASLC) are also experiencing transformation. Specifically, ACPE, Alaska's higher education access agency is:

- Maximizing Alaskans' access to low-cost financial aid by promoting and administering the APS and the expanded AlaskAdvantage Education Grant program with no new administrative costs to Alaska's General Fund;
- In the wake of changes to federal loan programs, servicing a smaller loan portfolio, and effecting appropriate economies of scale by expanding financial aid self-service 24/7 options without increasing staff size or operating budgets;
- Expanding research and analysis to address the need for longitudinal data across education and workforce sectors, and reaping the benefits of growing inter-agency collaborations to provide added-value analyses;
- Facilitating Alaska's application for a federal grant to build and maintain a Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) capable of answering basic education productivity questions such as which programs and interventions are most effective, and how we spend our higher education dollars to effect the most benefit at the lowest cost;
- ♦ Coordinating preparation of the annual APS outcomes report to the Legislature; and
- Leading the Administration's efforts to maximize APS and higher education outreach, including development of statewide outreach Webinars, expanded social media outreach, and adding Spanish and Tagalog translations of APS materials.

ASLC, which funds ACPE's operations, continues its efforts to access new funding options for Alaska's education financial aid and access programs, to keep costs low despite ongoing capital market disruptions and the extended downturn in non-federal loan demand.

Strategic plans to re-focus services in a cost-efficient manner are expected to continue our transformation well into this second decade of the twenty-first century, as we see more Alaska students benefit from increased access to higher education and the resulting career success.

We recognize and appreciate the trust placed in us and pledge our best efforts on behalf of Alaska's students and our state.

Please visit us online at www.akadvantage.alaska.gov or at any of our school or community events statewide. Learn more about ACPE/ASLC partnering to transform higher education access services for Alaska's future.

Respectfully,

Rebecca Huggins, *Chair* ACPE

Lydia H, Wirkus, *Chair* ASLC

Diane Barrans, Executive Director/Officer ACPE/ASLC

I am very thankful that the APS was available for me. I definitely have a hard time paying for school, especially as a full-time student working part-time hours, with full-time working parents who have never received higher than a high school education... Paying for tuition on top of textbooks and other fees is almost near impossible for me. Thank you, APS, for this opportunity. I would be struggling to make ends meet without this scholarship.

--2011 APS Recipient



I am so grateful for the APS scholarship...

Because of the APS scholarship, in

conjunction with the UAA Scholars

scholarship, I am able to attend full

time without any loans. I am very

fortunate for the timing of the APS!

-- 2011 APS Recipient

2011 PROGRAM STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Summary of FY2011 Low-Cost Education Loan Borrowing (ASEL, FEL, and TEL Programs)

	In-State		Out-of-State			Total		
Student Level	Loans	Dollars		Loans	Dollars	Loans	Dollars	
Vocational	104	\$655,633		14	\$94,750	118	\$750,383	
Undergraduate	764	\$5,412,496		747	\$5,740,671	1,511	\$11,153,167	
Graduate	41	\$215,378		36	\$299,829	77	\$515,207	
Total	909	\$6,283,507		797	\$6,135,250	1,706	\$12,418,757	

Total FY2011 AlaskAdvantage Education Grant (AEG) Disbursements by Institution of Attendance

by institution of Attendance	# Students	Total Dollars Disbursed
APU	92	\$18,000
AVTEC	62	\$16,500
Career Academy	112	\$7,500
Charter College	159	\$41,000
Ilisagvik College	2	\$375
UAA	1,324	\$931,315
UAF	417	\$387,750
UAS	131	\$94,125
Wayland Baptist (Anchorage)	19	\$17,500
Total	2,318	\$1,514,065

Summary of FY2011 WICHE Exchange Program Savings for Alaska Students

Alaska Stadents	Alaska Participants	Total Alaska Student Tuition Savings
WICHE Western Undergraduate Exchange Program Participation	1,496	\$12,200,000 (\$8,162 per student)

Summary of FY2011 AlaskAdvantage Outreach Activities

In FY11 ACPE staff participated in 368 events in 52 communities serving over 54,000 Alaskans, and direct mailed education planning resources to over 33,000 Alaska students.

For detailed program statistics, financial statements, and general information, visit us online at AKAdvantage.alaska.gov.

ALASKA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

Rebecca Huggins, Chair Sharon Charnell Gherman, Vice Chair

Milton B. Byrd, Ph.D. Representative Alan Dick

Senator Hollis French Hugh Grant

Pat Jacobson Spike Jorgensen

Andrew McConnell Jim Merriner

Dave Rees Jan Sieberts

Kirk Wickersham Lydia Wirkus

ALASKA STUDENT LOAN CORPORATION

Lydia H. Wirkus, Chair Hugh Grant, Vice Chair

Commissioner Bryan Butcher (Designee: Angela Rodell)
Commissioner Becky Hultberg (Designee: Michael Barnhill)
Commissioner Susan Bell (Designee: Cathy Jeans)

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Diane Barrans, Executive Director/Executive Officer
Worth Barthel, Human Resources and Administrative Officer
Stephanie Butler, Director of Program Operations
Kenneth Dodson, Director of Information Support Services
Charlene Morrison, CPA, Chief Financial Officer
Kerry Thomas, Internal Auditor
Donna Vargas, Commission/Corporation Secretary



Back row: Jim Merriner, Hollis French, Spike Jorgensen, Jan Sieberts, Sharon Charnell Gherman Front row: Rebecca Huggins, Bob Martin (term expired), Milton Byrd, Dave Rees, Pat Jacobson

Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education/Alaska Student Loan Corporation PO Box 110505, Juneau, Alaska 99811-0505
Toll-free 800-441-2962 • Juneau 907-465-2962

For complete information and financial statements, visit our Web site at AKAdvantage.alaska.gov

ACPE provides its programs and services to all persons without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, political affiliation, or disability. Upon request, information contained in this publication will be made available in an alternate format.

Governor's Photo: Jeff Schultz of AlaskaStock.com