



Alaska  
Commission on  
Postsecondary  
Education

Alaska Student  
Loan Corporation

# Annual Report 2013

Making Futures Possible



## Fellow Alaskans...

ACPE continued to deepen the quality and extend the reach of our service to Alaskans in 2012-2013, with the goal of strengthening higher education outcomes statewide.

- The ACPE-led multi-agency project team completed its analysis and planning phase for Alaska's Navigator: State Workforce and Education-Related Statistics (ANSWERS). At its 2015 launch, ANSWERS will support research and analysis to inform and improve Alaska's public education systems.
- ACPE has enhanced its consumer protection strategies, deploying a video series focused on financial literacy to help students make wise financial decisions.
- The Alaska Career Information System (AKCIS), a perennially popular ACPE service area, underwent significant updates to improve Alaskans' experience and results with the online, one-stop career and learning planning tool.

Today's learners, both young and seasoned, encounter many challenges and opportunities. ACPE is mission-driven to encourage and support Alaskans along their chosen education or training pathways. We remain committed to assisting our fellow citizens in that endeavor by providing the information and resources necessary to building a legacy of success for Alaskans seeking higher education.

Respectfully,



Jim Johnsen  
ACPE Chair



Randy Weaver  
ASLC Chair



Diane Barrans  
ACPE Executive Director  
ASLC Executive Officer

To track our progress, please visit us online at  
[ACPE.ALASKA.GOV](http://ACPE.ALASKA.GOV)

## Who We Are

### OUR MISSION

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

### OUR VALUES

SERVICE • QUALITY • INNOVATION • EMPOWERMENT • ACCOUNTABILITY

The Legislature created ACPE in 1974 to centralize planning for higher education and to administer financial aid programs. Guided by the 14-member Commission, the Executive Director and staff develop and implement programs to increase Alaskans' 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 and is governed by a Board of Directors. The Board's primary responsibilities are to authorize and set investment policies, loan fees, and borrower benefits. The Commission staff serve as the staff of the Corporation. They carry out ASLC activities through the delegated authority of the ASLC Executive Officer, who is also ACPE's Executive Director.

### OUR 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

### WHY WE ARE NEEDED

A better-educated workforce – including technical and collegiate education – will provide a stronger state economy that benefits all Alaskans. The Commission's programs are a suite of financial aid and outreach services designed to provide educational access necessary for Alaskans to maximize their opportunities to be successful.

## **ASLC UPDATE**

### **PERMANENT REFINANCING OF OUTSTANDING DEBT**

ASLC extracted itself from a temporary federal financing conduit by permanently refinancing its Federal Family Education Loan Portfolio on March 28, 2013 with Taxable Education Loan Backed Notes (Notes). The Notes bear interest at an annual rate equal to the one-month London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) plus 0.60%. Without the refinancing, ASLC faced the possibility of turning the portfolio over to the U.S. Department of Education at disadvantaged economic terms.

#### **UP NEXT**

ASLC management expects to be able to meet new loan funding needs without issuing additional debt through fiscal 2015. Thereafter, either equity in an existing trust or new debt will be needed.

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## **ANSWERS UPDATE**

The ANSWERS project is a grant-funded collaboration among ACPE, the Department of Education and Early Development, the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, and the University of Alaska 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. This spring project partners developed, as an ANSWERS proof of concept product, a district-level high school feedback report. The reports were another demonstration of how use of cross-sector data reporting has education stakeholders actively engaged and excited about ANSWERS' progress. At FY13's year end completed project components included:

- Analysis of existing data systems
- Initial stakeholder engagement and communication planning
- Proof-of-concept reports issued and stakeholder input gathered
- Identification of business and technical requirements
- Partner agency agreement on system design, platform, and processes

#### **UP NEXT**

As the next step, the ANSWERS project team will begin work on hardware and software infrastructure necessary to designing and building initial reports and the public portal. Year Two products also include a data governance program, data sharing memoranda of understanding, and a sustainability plan to ensure a smooth transition from the federal grant to long-term funding.

Summary of FY2013 Borrowing (ASEL, FEL, and TEL Programs\*)

Student Level	In-State		Out-of-State		Total	
	Loans	Dollars	Loans	Dollars	Loans	Dollars
Vocational	106	\$669,288	4	\$26,000	110	\$695,288
Undergraduate	264	\$1,819,060	386	\$2,912,191	650	\$4,731,251
Graduate	17	\$98,047	25	\$195,045	42	\$293,092
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>\$2,586,395</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>\$3,133,236</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>\$5,719,631</b>

\*Alaska Supplemental Education Loan, Family Education Loan, and Teacher Education Loan

Alaska Performance Scholarship & Alaska Education Grant  
FY2013 Participation by Institution of Attendance

School Name	APS		AEG	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
AK Bible College	2	\$7,132	0	\$0
AK Christian College	1	\$3,566	0	\$0
APU	7	\$27,346	36	\$30,375
AVTEC	4	\$9,214	18	\$43,500
Alaska Career College	1	\$2,378	33	\$45,945
Charter College	5	\$9,117	221	\$124,657
Ilisagvik College	0	\$0	10	\$12,375
UAA	1,027	\$3,183,334	2,343	\$2,479,500
UAF	618	\$2,117,128	867	\$920,250
UAS	98	\$308,089	247	\$275,250
Wayland Baptist	0	\$0	38	\$32,500
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>1,763</b>	<b>\$5,667,304</b>	<b>3,813</b>	<b>\$3,964,352</b>

FY2013 WICHE Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)

	Alaska Participants	Total Alaska Tuition Savings
<b>WUE</b>	1,421	\$11,200,000

## FY2013 Outreach Activities

	<b>Events</b>	<b>Communities</b>	<b>Individuals</b>
Statewide	54	*	1,872
Far North	37	21	1,150
Interior	31	7	1,720
South Central	114	14	4,813
Southwest	25	11	739
Southeast	43	10	2,027
Total	304	63	12,321

\* Multiple communities represented at each event

Graduating with a business degree from an out-of-state school, the College of William and Mary, was more affordable through ACPE. After a few years of working, I then pursued my MBA in Sydney, Australia, also made possible by Alaska's state education loans. Both opportunities gave me a wealth of experience that helped me in running my advertising agency here in Anchorage.

– William Ross Johnston



## AKCIS UPDATE

The 2013 version of the Alaska Career Information System (AKCIS) delivers the same high-value, Alaska-centered content with a fresh new look and more tools than ever to help Alaskans map out their future education and career plans. The engaging new design includes global navigation menus, summary pages for each section, and icons to easily identify topics and tools for the career and education planning process. AKCIS provides information on: occupations, industries, education options, financial aid and job search best practices.

### UP NEXT

Working with the University of Alaska, in the coming year ACPE plans to roll out a new AKCIS component providing employer profile information to students in the postsecondary planning process. Alaska Career Connections allows employers to display information on occupations they employ to AKCIS users. Going a step further, if they choose, employers can participate in a volunteer registry for educators and counselors to connect students to meaningful school- or work-based learning experiences such as job shadows, career fairs and internships.

For more information please visit [AKCIS.org](http://AKCIS.org)

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## CONSUMER LITERACY EFFORTS

As noted by local financial aid/advising professionals, rising college costs and debt loads have made it essential for (particularly younger) students to be better educated about personal finance. To help them make wise financial decisions relative to their career expectations, ACPE created a series of five short Financial Literacy videos. Vetted by real college students, the messages, How to Create a Budget, Keeping College Costs Low, The Right Amount to Borrow, Knowing Your Credit, and Keeping Loan Costs Low are targeted to aspiring and current college students to help young consumers make sound, proactive financial choices at the start of their adult lives.

### UP NEXT

Teaming with the University of Alaska, ACPE will continue support of financial literacy initiatives and related resource sharing.

For more information please visit [acpe.alaska.gov/STUDENT-PARENT/College\\_Career/Money\\_marts](http://acpe.alaska.gov/STUDENT-PARENT/College_Career/Money_marts)

## Management Team

Diane Barrans  
Executive Director/Executive Officer

Worth Barthel, MBA, SPHR  
Human Resource Officer

Stephanie Butler, MS, CIA  
Director of Program Operations

Kenneth Dodson  
Director of Information Support Services

Rebekah Matrosova, MPA  
Director of Outreach & Early Awareness

Charlene Morrison, CPA  
Chief Finance Officer

Kerry Thomas, MBA  
Internal Auditor

Rochelle Rogers  
Commission/Corporation Secretary

## ASLC Board

Randy Weaver, Chair  
ACPE Member

Jim Johnsen, Vice Chair  
ACPE Member

Susan Bell (Designee: Catherine Jeans)  
Commissioner of Commerce, Community &  
Economic Development

Angela Rodell (Designee: Deven Mitchell)  
Commissioner of Revenue

Becky Hultberg (Designee: Michael Barnhill)  
Commissioner of Administration

## Commissioners

Jim Johnsen, Chair  
General Public

Randy Weaver, Vice Chair  
General Public

Milton B. Byrd, Ph.D.  
Proprietary Education

Jerry Covey  
General Public

Ray DePriest  
Community Colleges

Senator Mike Dunleavy  
State Senate

Jo Heckman  
University of Alaska Board of Regents

Rebecca Huggins  
General Public

Patricia Jacobson  
University of Alaska Board of Regents

Andrew Lessig  
Student

Sue Linford  
Private Higher Education

Jim Merriner  
Board of Education & Early Development

Representative Tammie Wilson  
House of Representatives



Governor  
Sean Parnell



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