

September 29, 2021

Dear friends and volunteers,

***I Know I Can*** is an important tool to encourage students and their families to start thinking about college and other career training opportunities early in their elementary years. Research shows that children learn to think of themselves as having higher education and related career opportunities as early as age eight. This program helps open children’s minds to a multitude of options available to them.

Volunteers who have successfully obtained a postsecondary education (including apprenticeships, specialized occupational training from military service, as well as vocational or collegiate programs) visit first through third grade classrooms in participating schools and read a book titled *I Know I Can* to the students. The age-appropriate book tells the story of a group of animal characters trying to determine what they want to be when they grow up and how college fits into those plans. This story is particularly designed for primary grade student and has been well received in K-5 classrooms. Through a motivational story line, students explore social-emotional topics, begin early career exploration, discover the importance of their classroom studies, and learn that college and career training is possible.

After discussing the story, each student is given the opportunity to complete a special postcard to identify how they want to help their communtiy when they grow up. The postcards are mailed back to the students two years later as a reminder of their goals, the importance of their academics and the opportunities available after high school. Upon completing their postcard, each student receives their own copyof the *I Know I Can* storybook. The book includes extra activities that can be enjoyed at home and help initiate conversations about college preparedness with the whole family. Activities are also available in digital format at: <https://acpe.alaska.gov/IKnowICan>

***I Know I Can*** is part of a continuum of early outreach efforts to K-12 students in the state of Alaska. Recent participating school districts include: Anchorage, Alaska Gateway, Annette Isalnd, Bering Strait, Copper River, Craig City, Delta-Greely, Dillingham, Fairbanks, Iditarod, Juneau, Kashunamiut, Kenai Peninsula Borough, Ketchikan Gateway, Kodiak Island Borough, Lower Kuskokwim, Lower Yukon, Mat-Su, Nome, North Slope Borough, Northwest Arctic Borough, Petersburg City, Sitka Borough, Southeast Island, Southwest Region, Unalaska City, Valdez City, Wrangell Public, Yukon-Koyukuk, and Yupiit school districts.

This year, we have **opportunities for 100 volunteers** **in Anchorage** and we would love to have your help!

We hope you and your colleagues will take part in this important and exciting opportunity, and contribute to the success of Alaska’s youth. College is possible – help us continue delivering this important message to Alaska’s children.

**To volunteer, contact Shelly Morgan, K-12 Specialist at 907-269-7972 or** [**shelly.morgan@alaska.gov**](mailto:shelly.morgan@alaska.gov)**.**

We look forward to your positive response and participation in the **I Know I Can** program.

Sincerely,

Shelly Morgan, K-12 Specialist  
Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education