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 ***Kids2Careers* Connects Students with College & Career Exploration***Creativity & Virtual Tools Provide Expanded Reach Statewide*

ANCHORAGE – This spring, 5th-8th grade students from diverse communities across the state will participate in Kids2Careers Virtual and In-Person Campus Events.

The Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE) in partnership with Alaska 529 and local postsecondary institutions, have found creative ways to meet the needs of students and educators providing all participating students the opportunity to visit a college campus, wither in-person, through an interactive Zoom event, a pre-recorded event, or a virtual tour. As part of the *Kids2Careers* curriculum program, universities work together with ACPE and Alaska 529 to offer in-person and virtual campus events to 5th-8th grade students. [*Kids2Careers*](https://acpe.alaska.gov/Kids2Careers)students participating in virtual campus events will experience two morning sessions complete with fun, hands-on and age-appropriate mini-college classes, while those participating in-person will travel from classroom to classroom for a similar experience. Without the *Kids2Careers* Virtual Campus Events, many students otherwise might not have the opportunity to explore Alaska’s college campuses, due to transportation challenges and distance, particularly for those living in rural Alaska. Event recordings are also available for students who miss the live events.

For many participating students, *Kids2Careers* curriculumprovides first steps toward exploring college and career training, and helps solidify the important connection between academics, future opportunities and strong communities. *Kids2Careers* engages and stimulates career exploration and college and career training preparation by teaching students about a variety of postsecondary options and the steps they can take today to prepare for college & career training. Students learn about high school graduation requirements/recommendations, the importance of extracurricular activities and enrichment programs, admissions to college and training programs, and how to qualify for financial aid opportunities like the Alaska Performance Scholarship.

*Kids2Careers* encourages students to aspire to education and training beyond high school – whether it’s an apprenticeship, a certificate, a one-year technical program, a four-year degree, or a seven-year professional degree sequence, through its message that postsecondary training is important *and* attainable.

*Kids2Careers* alumni are more likely to discuss college & career training with family and teachers, and to understand grade level steps that will afford more options and financial aid after high school. For those children whose families may not have a college-going history, it’s an opportunity to learn first-hand about the career avenues and life experiences college offers. In addition to the curriculum and campus events, Kids2Careers offers extensive planning tools and resources for 5th-12th grade students and families.

For more information on [Kids2Career](https://acpe.alaska.gov/K-8Programs)s, please contact Shelly Morgan, K-12 Specialist with the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education at 907-269-7972 or shelly.morgan@alaska.gov.

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