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**Press Release** 

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 2, 2021

## **FUNDING AVAILABILITY & DISTRIBUTION**

Alaska Education Grant (AEG)
Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS)
Washington, Wyoming, Alaska Montana, Idaho Regional Medical Education Program
(WWAMI)

JUNEAU – Yesterday, Governor Dunleavy signed the FY2022 State Budget; however, funding for the Alaska Higher Education Investment Fund (HEIF), which supports AEG, APS and WWAMI, is still unresolved. The issue surrounding the HEIF will be considered during the Legislative Special Session beginning on August 2, 2021.

ACPE is optimistic that this funding issue will be resolved and AEG, APS, and WWAMI award disbursements will occur for the start of the 2021-22 academic year. Sana Efird, ACPE Executive Director, encourages all Alaska students planning to attend a postsecondary program in Alaska this fall to continue their academic planning efforts. For students to be well-positioned to receive the awards they qualify for, they should still submit the FAFSA (studentaid.gov), apply for institutional and programmatic scholarships, and work with campus advisors in preparation for the fall semester.

In a statement released by University of Alaska Interim President Pat Pitney, she shared the university will honor the APS and AEG awards to new and continuing students for this fall. Additionally she stated, "UA understands funding from the state to cover these scholarships will be delayed. But for now, our most pressing goal is to ensure students pursue their higher education goals without added financial stress. To accomplish that goal, the UA system is acting now so that our students can focus on a successful collegiate experience this fall."

ACPE encourages students, families, and postsecondary education stakeholders to <u>sign-up here</u> to receive AEG, APS, and WWAMI funding updates as more information becomes available.

## 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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