

Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education Middle College and Bridging Programs

Presentation to the Alaska State Legislature
Joint Senate and House Education Committee

November 13, 2018



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Agenda

ACPE Mission

Middle College Connections

Benefits

Barriers

How ACPE Can Help



Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

Mission

ACPE promotes access to and success in education and career training beyond high school

- Education planning tools and resources
- Advocacy and support for postsecondary participation in Alaska
- Financial aid for college and career training
- Consumer protection through private school licensing
- Alaska education outcomes analysis



Note on Funding

ACPE is funded by the Alaska Student Loan Corporation and provides benefits and services to Alaska students, their families, and schools without draw on the State's General Fund



ACPE Nexus with Middle College and Bridging Programs

Education planning tools

- Awareness of benefits of bridging programs and how to prepare for success with such programs

Advocacy for participation in Alaska

- Awareness of connections with low-cost, high-quality public and private programs in Alaska

Student financial aid

- Awareness of options and caveats; financial literacy

Consumer protection

- Education consumer education and institutional authorization

Alaska education outcomes analysis

- Outcomes and return-on-investment information



Alaska Middle College and Bridging Programs (Examples)

University of Alaska programs (multiple)

Alaska Pacific University (early honors)

Ilisagvik College (dual enrollment)

AVTEC (high school training)



Additional Early College Options

International Baccalaureate (West High)

CLEP testing

Summer college

Advanced placement (AP) testing

Internships (limited options)



Potential Benefits of Bridging Programs

Increased high school graduation rates

Increased college enrollment rates

Higher college GPAs

Greater college persistence and faster progress to graduation

Larger benefits to traditionally underrepresented populations
(males and low-income students)

Include collegiate and CTE tracks



Potential Barriers to Bridging Program Participation

Financial barriers

Academic barriers

Informational barriers



Financial Considerations

Generally lower-cost than enrolling directly in college, but not generally eligible for federal financial aid, Alaska Performance Scholarship, Alaska Education Grant or Alaska Student Loans

Programs that do result in financial aid eligibility may also result in exhausting financial aid early



Academic Considerations

Students must be prepared for academic rigor

GPAs in collegiate courses become part of students' college transcripts



Informational Considerations

Students need to understand processes and bureaucracies to enroll in programs

Students need to understand benefits



How ACPE Can Help

Success Centers in-person (Dimond Mall and UAA Enrollment Services) and telephone/distance coaching and assistance

Alaska College and Career Advising Consortium (ACAC) initiatives, including mentoring provided through partners

AKCIS online planning tools (www.akcis.org)

Financial aid and higher education outreach events



Questions?

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