

STATE OF ALASKA

ALASKA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

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January 20, 2012

The Honorable Bert Stedman, Co-Chair
Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol, Room 516
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Stedman:

The following information is provided as follow-up to my January 18, 2012 testimony to the members of the Finance Committee regarding CSHB104 (RLS). Committee members requested information about the numbers of applicants and recipients of both Alaska Performance Scholarships (APS) and AlaskAdvantage Education Grants (AEG) for the 2011-12 year.

That information follows, however, please bear in mind that with respect to the numbers of actual recipients, these are preliminary statistics that will likely have modest changes between now and the end of the 2012 academic year due to changes in students' enrollment and eligibility statuses.

For both AEG and APS purposes, the application is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). 7,753 Alaska residents filed the 2011-12 FAFSA by the program deadline, which was June 30, 2011, indicating they were considering attending at least one Alaska institution.¹ As of December 1, 2011, AEGs had been awarded to 2,009 applicants for attendance at nine Alaska institutions.² Approximately 5,000 students were certified as enrolled in Alaska institutions. However, in developing ACPE's fiscal note relative to costs of fully funding this program, based upon prior year experience I have estimated that between 4,400 and 4,500 of the students meet the AEG award criteria of being: (1) enrolled at least half-time; (2) in good academic standing; and, (3) matriculated into a certificate or degree program.

Relative to APS-eligible 2011 graduates, 2,322 students met the initial eligibility requirements; as of January 1, 902 eligible students had received APS awards. As I indicated to the committee, the 2012 Alaska Performance Scholarship Outcomes Report is scheduled to be transmitted to the legislative members on or before the statutory deadline of January 27, 2012. Please note that the statistics in the report are primarily referencing a snapshot of data from November 14, 2011, and so vary slightly from these numbers. Additional preliminary APS

¹ On the FAFSA filers can list multiple institutions with which the FAFSA data will be shared.

² Alaska Pacific University, AVTEC, Alaska Career College, Charter College, Ilisagvik College, UAA, UAF, UAS and Wayland Baptist

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statistics can be found online at http://akadvantage.alaska.gov/Research/APS_Statistics.aspx. These statistics will be updated following the end of the Spring 2012 term.

I hope this information is responsive to the inquiry. Please let me know if there is additional information I can provide.

Respectfully,



Diane Barrans
Executive Director

DB/dv