

# Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education Middle College and Bridging Programs

Presentation to the  
Senate Education Committee  
January 29, 2019



[acpe.alaska.gov](http://acpe.alaska.gov)



# Agenda

ACPE Mission

Middle College Connections

Benefits

Barriers

How ACPE Can Help



# Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

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## 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

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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

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# ACPE Nexus with Middle College and Bridging Programs

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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)

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University of Alaska programs (multiple)

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Alaska Pacific University (early honors)

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Ilisagvik College (dual enrollment)

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AVTEC (high school training)

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# Additional Early College Options

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International Baccalaureate (West High and Palmer High)

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CLEP testing

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Summer college

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Advanced placement (AP) testing

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Internships (limited options)



# Potential Benefits of Bridging Programs

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Increased high school graduation rates

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Increased college enrollment rates

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Higher college GPAs

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Greater college persistence and faster progress to graduation

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

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Include collegiate and CTE tracks



# Potential Barriers to Bridging Program Participation

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Financial barriers

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Academic barriers

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Informational barriers



# Financial Considerations

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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

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



# Academic Considerations

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Students must be prepared for academic rigor

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GPA's in collegiate courses become part of students' college transcripts



# Informational Considerations

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Students need to understand processes and bureaucracies to enroll in programs

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Students need to understand benefits



# How ACPE Can Help

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

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

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AKCIS online planning tools ([www.akcis.org](http://www.akcis.org))

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Financial aid and higher education outreach events

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# Questions?

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