

# *Alaska College/Career Advising Corps*

“Near-Peer” Mentoring

Lora Jorgensen, M.Ed.  
Director of Outreach



**Alaska Commission on  
Postsecondary Education**

# Project Goal:

*Increase the number of high school graduates who enroll and complete postsecondary education with special emphasis on disadvantaged populations*



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# National College Advising Corps Model

- ▶ Recent College Grad
- ▶ Trained in college access
- ▶ Service orientation
- ▶ Placed in targeted high school
- ▶ 1 Year commitment
- ▶ Now in 13 states and 21 institutions

## *Target Audience*

- ▶ First gen. / low income



# Implementation Strategy

## ▶ Phase I

- Pilot in Anchorage School District
  - Service HS
  - Bartlett HS

## ▶ Phase II

- Utilize experience to inform planning for full scale refined program while ensuring self-sustainability
- Bethel HS (Isolated rural community)

## ▶ Phase III

- Expand program across Alaska and increase quality

# Lessons Learned

- ▶ Site Selection – Capacity Assessment
- ▶ Staff Recruitment/Selection
- ▶ Key Performance Indicators
- ▶ Data Management

# Capacity Assessment

Aligned with School Leadership

- Seamless delivery
- Access to tools/resources
- Buy in from various staff
- Integration into school calendar/activities

Not a priority for School Leadership

- Isolated advisor and fragmented delivery
- Limited access to tools/resources
- Little support/interest from staff
- No integration into school calendar/activities



# Capacity Assessment

- ▶ A proven track record of collaboration between K–12 and postsecondary
- ▶ Leadership alignment and support
- ▶ Predominantly low–income student body
- ▶ Data collection/tracking
- ▶ Knowledge and use of AKCIS within the school
- ▶ Community involvement

# Use of a Capacity Assessment

- ▶ Alaska's Results with initial use in Bethel
  - Provides transparent selection criteria
  - Creates a discussion climate
  - Solidifies initial priorities
  - Identifies intersection points
  - Emphasizes commitment
  - Formalizes agreement

# Staff Recruitment/Selection

## Key Characteristics

- ▶ Self-directed
- ▶ Personable & friendly
- ▶ Creative & out of the box thinker
- ▶ Builds collaboration and breaks down barriers
- ▶ Comfortable delivering presentations
- ▶ Strong critical thinking/problem solving skills
- ▶ Outstanding communication skills



# Key Performance Indicators

- ▶ Primary or Big Goal
  - National Clearinghouse
    - Postsecondary enrollment
- ▶ Program Activity Targets
- ▶ School Climate Indicators
  - Universal Encouragement Program

See Handout

# Data Management

## Core Components

- ▶ Student Profile
- ▶ Service Detail
- ▶ Career Plan
- ▶ Postsecondary Application Process
- ▶ Financial Aid Tracking
- ▶ Event Attendance (student specific)
- ▶ Event Tracking



# Data Features – Internet based

- ▶ Import student data from external source
- ▶ Searchable by relational fields
- ▶ Historical records to monitor progress
- ▶ Customizable reporting
- ▶ Admin/users assignment and access

# Contact Info

Lora Jorgensen (907) 269-7591  
[Lora.jorgensen@alaska.gov](mailto:Lora.jorgensen@alaska.gov)



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