

College-, Work- and Life-Ready

Alaska's students dream of their futures. Preparing students to make their dreams achievable involves families, schools and communities. This discussion work group focuses on objectives that include: 1) articulating no more than four broad policy goals for ensuring Alaskan citizens are college-, work- and life-ready at the end of their secondary education experience; and, 2) identify concrete, measurable action steps designed to achieve each stated policy goal.

One of the two documents recommended as advance reading is the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education's publication *Making Alaska More Competitive by Preparing Citizens for College and Career*. The report concludes that this high-level goal is not currently achieved in Alaska for an adequate number of citizens.

Do we agree with the conclusion? If so, what must we do or do differently to improve Alaska's performance in this area?

At the education summit this work group will be asked to focus on the following:

- What happens to Alaska high school graduates. What do they do? Where do they go? (Work, military service, postsecondary, other?)
- Share and discuss the hurdles Alaska high school students and graduates face when choosing the postsecondary option and when choosing direct entry into the work force?
- Does everyone share the same sense of urgency here? That is, does everyone believe that a college-going rate of less than 30 percent and a college graduation rate of 7 percent are too low for Alaska? Are industry and the business sector content to utilize the remaining human resources (in their current condition/skill levels) that opt out of postsecondary education and training to meet their work force needs?
- What four high-level goals are of greatest importance for improved outcomes?
- Discuss and recommend at least three action steps relative to each goal that can be pursued following the education summit.

Questions to consider:

1. How do we align what is needed for student success in college and the work place with what is taught and measured in high school?
2. Do we really know what the future looks like and are we preparing our students for that future?

Pre-summit reading:

- *Making Alaska More Competitive by Preparing Citizens for College and Career*
- *The Emerging Policy Triangle: Economic Development, Workforce Development and Education*

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