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APICDA Scholar

Photo by David Ravenscroft

The Essentials of Writing an Exceptional Cover Letter

To put it simply, a cover letter is meant to highlight your achievements, skills and experiences within a golden standard of one page. The primary goal of a cover letter is to “win over” the hiring personnel through your writing. How you write your cover letter can help you convince employers why you are the best choice for the position.

1. Tailor your cover letter to the needs of the organization.

The more you relate your own experiences with what you can “bring to the table,” the more you will appeal to employers.

2. Attach your resume.

Make sure it’s current and includes the most relevant experience related to the position you’re applying for.

3. Address your letter to the hiring manager.

This strategy will help your cover letter be more professional. If you can’t find the hiring manager’s name on the company website, the company name may also be used.

4. Keep your introduction concise.

This section should include the name of the position you’re applying for and how you found the job advertisement.

5. Explain why you are interested in the position.

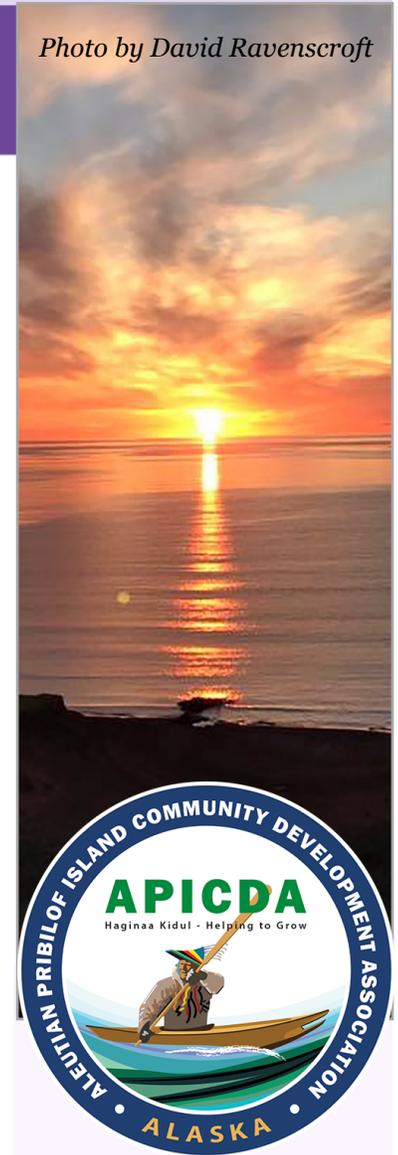
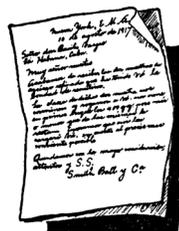
Your employer will most likely want to know your reasons for seeking out this job.

6. Advertise your contact information.

Make it well known to your employer that you are eager to interview by including sufficient contact information and your availability.

By Celeste Kukahiko, excerpted from:

https://www.saltmoney.org/content/media/Article/how-to-write-an-effective-cover-letter/_/R-101-2554?



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Training & Education
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Student Spotlight — Bobbie McNeley



Photo provided by Bobbie McNeley

Bobbie McNeley is from the community of Nelson Lagoon and recently began her final semester of college.

APICDA would like to recognize Bobbie for all her

astounding accomplishments throughout her undergraduate college experience. Here are some facts and tips from Bobbie to current college students:

Why did you decide to go to college and what did you study?

I decided to go to college because I am very interested in Alaska Native law and tribal affairs; there is very little taught about in public K-12 schools. Because of this, I am majoring in Alaska Native Studies with a concentration in Alaska Native Law, Government and Politics. I am also receiving another degree in Tribal Management.

Are you involved with a club, organization, etc.? If so, how is that extracurricular activity going to help you in school and your career?

I am not involved in a club directly related to law, but I am on the Unangam Tunuu Revitalization Committee. We oversee the revitalization program efforts and help maintain progress towards the project's goals. I have been able to work with the Aleut International Association and the Arctic Youth Ambassadors to discuss issues and activities that are important to the Aleut people, but are also of importance to the Arctic.

What have you learned from other students?

Every student is different, and we all have our own capacity to do things. I think the most important thing that I have learned from other students is to work at your own pace. Do not try to compare yourself to others because that will set you up for failure. You are on your own path, do not try to follow someone else's.

Where is your favorite study spot?

The 24-hour study room on the UAF campus is by far the best study spot. It is open 24/7 and it's very nice to be able to have that late night spot to study. I do best sitting at a desk with a good bright light and a lot of space to have my paperwork and books out.

What do you do to prepare for a test?

When studying for a test, I usually like to have all my materials printed off so that I can highlight and put sticky notes all over my materials. I also will listen to music so I do not get distracted by what is going on around me.

What are three things you have with you at all times as a student?

My phone, a pen and snacks. I have all of my emails signed into my phone, my notes at the ready, and I think that staying fueled up helps me retain information.

What advice do you have for new college students?

Get out of your comfort zone, even if it's the slightest bit. Go to that club fair, apply to that international academy, try out that Zumba class or check out that open mic night. If you do not know what you want to do with your college career, maybe one of the extracurricular activities can help guide you. Sometimes, you also just need a break from your dorm room.

APICDA Programs



**Emil William
Berikoff Sr.
1944-2012**

Emil Berikoff, Sr. served on the APICDA Board for 15 years. His contributions as a trusted board member and to the APICDA community were invaluable.

APICDA Training & Education Programs

APICDA offers higher education and supplemental scholarship programs to support and encourage the education and training goals of community residents. The programs enable our residents to have access to college and university programs and to qualify for jobs within the region.



Emil Berikoff Sr. Memorial Scholarship

Applications must be completed, submitted and RECEIVED in the APICDA office by:

- ◆ APRIL 2 for the summer term.
- ◆ JULY 2 for the fall and spring terms.
- ◆ NOV. 15 for the spring term.

For information about application instructions and requirements, please contact APICDA's Training and Education department toll-free at (888) 927-4232, by email at education@apicda.com or visit www.apicda.com.

Supplemental Education Scholarship

A scholarship program designed for APICDA community residents looking for supplemental funding for certificate or vocational training.

How to Qualify:

1. Applicants must be a resident of an APICDA community.
2. Be accepted to an accredited training program.
3. Maintain a 2.0 GPA or passing grade.
4. Applications must be turned in ten business days prior to payment due date.

Scholarships are awarded up to \$4,000 per year, based on financial need.

Updates in the T&E Department

We are delighted to announce that the APICDA Board of Directors approved a significant increase to the Emil Berikoff Sr. Memorial Scholarship. The Training and Education Committee of the Board recognized that tuition has been on the rise across the nation and our scholarship awards needed to keep pace. Our goal is to support residents of the APICDA communities by increasing the scholarship to encourage students to pursue post-secondary education. The full-time scholarship of \$5,000 will be increased to \$10,000 per year for all eligible CDQ recipients and the part-time scholarship of \$2,500 will be increased to \$5,000. The increased amount will be applied for all eligible students who are approved for funding in the fall of 2018. Please visit the Emil Berikoff Sr. scholarship page on the APICDA website or email education@apicda.com for more information and eligibility criteria.



Scholarships for Residents of APICDA Communities

[Niche \\$2,000 “No Essay” Scholarship](#)

Due: Last day of each month

Do you have unmet financial need for college but don't feel like writing *another* essay? Then this scholarship is for you! Each month, Niche gives away scholarships to randomly selected students of all academic levels (i.e. high school senior and above) and all areas of study. Applications take under five minutes to complete, making it easy to reapply each month! To enter for a chance to win, go to <https://www.niche.com/colleges/scholarship/no-essay-scholarship/>.



[American Indian College Fund \(AICF\)](#)

Due: May 31

Alaska Native/American Indian students who are enrolled (or plan to be enrolled) full-time at any accredited college or university are eligible for AICF scholarship programs. Tribal, non-tribal “full circle,” and graduate scholarships are offered for students maintaining at least a 2.0 GPA. Must be an enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe to be eligible. For more information, visit <http://collegefund.org/student-resources/scholarships/scholarship-programs/>.

[Cobell Scholarship](#)

Due: March 31

Full-time Alaska Native/American Indian students who are enrolled members of a federally recognized tribe are eligible for the Cobell scholarship. Required documents for a complete application of this merit- and need-based scholarship include an online application and completion of the FAFSA. To learn more, visit <http://cobellscholar.org/>.

[Catching the Dream](#)

Due: March 15 (Summer)

April 30 (Fall)

September 15 (Winter)

Native American students of at least a quarter Indian blood are eligible and encouraged to join this national education and scholarship resource hub. If awarded, students may receive up to \$5,000 in scholarships per semester. Scholarship recipients will continue to receive funding for four years and beyond, depending on whether they choose to attend graduate school. To find out more or to access an application, go to <http://catchingthedream.org/>.



publicdomainpictures.net

Safety Tips from Sean Hislop, Safety Manager

With spring and summer approaching, it will soon be time to enjoy the outdoors. Hiking is a fantastic way to see Alaska. Trails range from short and mostly level to ones that climb in elevation and/or take multiple days to complete.



Do some research so you're familiar with the terrain and any parking fees—you don't want to return to your car and find a ticket. Most importantly, hiking in Alaska can be dangerous if you aren't prepared.

Here are some do's and don'ts:

Don't try a hike that exceeds your physical abilities. **Do** expect the weather to change and dress appropriately; dress in layers so if you are hot you can remove clothing. **Don't** hike alone! Go with at least one other person that you can talk with to help keep bears away. **Do** carry bear spray and know how to use it. Tell someone where you're going and when you should be back. There are some things you should take with you, but those items greatly depend on where you're going and how long you'll be gone. Here's a small list of recommended items to take for a day hike:

- Good broken-in hiking boots or shoes.
- Small, light-weight backpack.
- Water (amount varies by person).
- Sturdy knife (fixed blade, 6-9-inches, with a

sheath that can attach to a belt, for example).

- Small first aid kit: band-aid's, moleskin (for blisters), gauze pads, medical tape, antiseptic wipes, hand sanitizer.
- Light-weight rain gear.
- Snacks (trail mix, granola or protein bars).
- Belt (to attach knife and bear spray).
- Bear spray.
- Fully-charged cell phone.
- Insect repellent.
- Fire starter (flint and steel, lighter, matches).

If you're looking for a specific trail or want a long hike, visit one of these websites. They can help with where to hike, what to wear and more. Take pictures, be safe, and enjoy hiking!

<http://www.alaska.org/things-to-do/advice/hiking-tips>

<http://www.cabinsforyou.com/blog/advice/8-hiking-tips.htm>



Photo by Genee Shaishnikoff

"There are some things you should take with you, but those items greatly depend on where you're going and when you should be back."

Conquering College

CHEGG .com—The “Student Hub”

CHEGG is a national organization for students that offers many helpful services. It first started out as a textbook rental service for college students who were fed up with spending a fortune on books at the start of every new semester. Today, CHEGG has expanded its services to include help with test preparation, finding internships and scholarships, providing helpful student-focused articles, and 24/7 tutoring, which is offered at affordable prices to all students. Tutors of hundreds of subjects, both college- and high school-level, are available at a low cost. Explore the benefits of CHEGG’s services on their website: <https://www.chegg.com/>.



<http://adage.com/article/special-report-americas-hottest-brands/america-s-hottest-brands-chegg/231174/>

Some other student textbook services that may be worth looking into include: Amazon Student Textbook Rentals, Paper Back Swap, Facebook Market and Bookscouter. Be sure to explore all of your options to choose the best service for your student needs!

Looking for a UA Student Organization to get involved in? UAA and UAF have a wide variety of activities and clubs for you to join! Here are a handful of great choices that we found:

University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA)

- Aurora Borealis Campus Lions Club
- American Indian Science & Engineering Society
- Game Club
- Meditation & Wellness Club
- Multicultural Community Wellness Club
- Native Student Council
- UAA Glee Club

University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF)

- Alaska Alpine Club
- Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Club
- Fencing Club
- Fisheries & Ocean Science Student Association
- Frozen Lenses Photography Club
- Gaming Society
- Yoga Club

To see more UA Student Organizations, visit these sites:
<https://uaa.campuslabs.com/engage/organizations>
<http://uaf.edu/sli/clubs/list/>



Photo by Shayla Shaishnikoff

News & Articles

Free College Tuition for Alaska Natives

Recently, Ilisagvik College, the only tribal college in Alaska, began offering free tuition for all Alaska Natives over the age of 18. Even better - prospective students can choose where to earn college credits! Students who want a change of scenery, but still want to be in a small community, can live on campus in Barrow. Students unable to be on campus or who don't want to leave their communities, don't have to! All that's required is a good internet connection to take classes via distance learning right in the comfort of their own homes.

How much does free tuition save Ilisagvik College students per year? The cost of each college credit is \$145, so full-time students save nearly \$3,500 per year on tuition. That's more than enough money to buy two round-trip tickets from Anchorage to New York! Another benefit is the faculty-to-student ratio, which is greater than most large universities, meaning that students get more one-on-one time if they have questions or need help. Janelle Everett, director of recruitment at Ilisagvik College, says, "... we're able to help them [students] a little bit more. We want to help them succeed."



Photo by Hertha Kashevarof

Another great aspect of Ilisagvik College is, because it's a tribal college, it's a place where Alaska Native cultures from across the state come to merge. It's often



easier to make friends when some type of connection already exists, so the cultural abundance and variety at Ilisagvik College increases the likelihood that Alaska Native students will connect with each other.

With rising costs of living and a competitive job market in rural areas, it's important for Alaska Native students to go to college, or any post-secondary educational institution, and earn degrees or certificates so they can continue living and thriving in the communities they are from.

To apply to or receive more information about Ilisagvik College, go to their website <https://www.ilisagvik.edu/> or call (907) 852-3333 or (800) 478-7337 (toll-free), or send a message on the contact page of the website: <https://www.ilisagvik.edu/contact-us/>.

By Celeste Kukahiko, excerpted from:

Oliver, S. G. (2017, Dec. 8). Ilisagvik College waives tuition for Alaska Native students. *The Arctic Sounder*. Retrieved from http://www.thearcticsounder.com/article/1749ilisagvik_college_waives_tuition_for_alaska

Have a Super Spring Semester!

Congratulations to our Fall 2017 Graduates! APICDA applauds your accomplishments and wishes you continued success. Please congratulate the following individuals if you get the opportunity to do so:

- **Kevin Huynh, Unalaska**
- **Claudine Tungul, Unalaska**
- **Rachell Gulanes, Unalaska**



*"ALL THAT IS GOLD DOES NOT GLITTER, NOT ALL THOSE WHO WANDER ARE LOST: THE OLD THAT IS STRONG DOES NOT WITHER, DEEP ROOTS ARE NOT REACHED BY THE FROST. FROM THE ASHES A FIRE SHALL BE WOKEN, A LIGHT FROM THE SHADOWS SHALL SPRING, RENEWED SHALL BE BLADE THAT WAS BROKEN. THE CROWN-LESS AGAIN SHALL BE KING."
~ J.R.R. TOLKIEN*

**Contact your Community Liaison Officers (CLO)
to secure your APICDA Scholarship**

Give your CLO a call today to start the discussion.

Akutan

April Pelkey
Phone: (907) 698-2449
Cell: (907) 538-9957
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False Pass

Tammy Shellikoff
Phone: (907) 548-4002
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Nelson Lagoon

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Nikolski

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St. George

Currently vacant.
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Atka

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