

APICDA Scholar Fall 2022



AKUTAN - ATKA - FALSE PASS - NELSON LAGOON - NIKOLSKI - ST. GEORGE - UNALASKA (EX-OFFICIO)

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Cover Photo by Marii Swetzof of Atka
Contents Page Photo by Elizabeth Mears of Unalaska

About Us

The Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association (APICDA) is a non-profit organization that serves residents of Akutan, Atka, False Pass, Nelson Lagoon, Nikolski, St. George, and Unalaska (ex-officio).

APICDA is a Western Alaska Community Development Quota (CDQ) organization dedicated to strengthening local fisheries-based economies by increasing direct fisheries participation in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI), building support infrastructure, and offering programs to assist the advancement of priority goals of the communities we serve. APICDA generates revenue through the management of CDQ quota, fisheries investments in the BSAI, and tourism operations. With guidance from the Board of Directors and staff, APICDA reinvests proceeds in its communities through a portfolio of regional education and training, public infrastructure development, economic development initiatives, job creation, community wellness, and cultural awareness initiatives.



Photo by Nikki Hoblet of False Pass

About the Scholar

The APICDA Scholar is a newsletter for the local youth of APICDA communities, including our college students receiving the Emil Berikoff, Sr. Memorial Scholarship. This newsletter provides students with educational information, program opportunities and resources available at APICDA and other organizations that serve the Aleutian Pribilof region. If you like what you see here or have feedback to share, please let us know! We can be reached by email at education@apicda.com.

Student Spotlight

Danielle Merculief

Hometown: St. George Island

Hello, I am Danielle Merculief from St. George Island. Everyone knows me as Dani. My Parents are Chris and Sally Merculief, grandparents are Gladys and Anthony B. Merculief.



What are you studying?

I am studying Business Administration with a concentration in Healthcare Management. I am a Junior and will be graduating with a bachelor's in business administration in the Spring of 2024. Currently, I am a full-time student and a full-time employee.

What is a cause you are passionate about?

I am very passionate about giving back to our Alaska Native communities. I have worked at Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium for the past six years. One day, I hope to become a part of the leaders among our Unangan communities.

Describe your favorite professor or courses.

My favorite professor is Beverly Holmes. She has taught many of the management and leadership courses I have taken, which happen to be my favorite courses. I enjoy these classes taught by her because she offers a great amount of support and resources to her students. She wants us to succeed.

How do you prepare for a test?

The best way to prepare for a big test is to sit down in a quiet room and just write down as much of the readings as possible. I find when I take notes, I tend to remember more of the material. I also listen to the audio-book versions of my textbooks in-between work and class.

What have you learned from other students?

What I have learned from other students is to still have fun. As students, we are always so busy, so it's important to make time for yourself too. I spend my free time inviting my family over for dinners. I also spend a lot of my time with my puppy dogs, Kiki & Ari.

What advice do you have for new college students?

My advice for new college students is to always ask questions. Ask your professor questions, ask your classmate questions, just ask them. If you have that question, it's likely that half of the class has the same exact question but are too shy to ask. Your professors are so important during your student career, take advantage of the knowledge and advice they have to offer.

Youth Programs & Resources



Youth Internships AVAILABLE!

If you're interested in a summer job or just something to keep you busy during your free time, the APICDA Youth Internship program is for you!

- For youth residents ages 14+
- Earn \$ while you learn
- Gain up to 12 weeks of job-related skills and hands-on experience
- Earn a \$500 APICDA Work Invest Now Scholarship
- Internships are available locally, at APICDA, and other organizations that serve the Aleutian Pribilof region (e.g., city, tribe, corporation, local business)

If you're interested in applying for an APICDA internship, please contact us at education@apicda.com or (907) 771-4216. Applications are available on our website at www.apicda.com/internships

CASH FOR GOOD GRADES & ATTENDANCE!*

7th-12th Grade TAC Shareholders & Registered Descendants: TAC will draw (3)-\$100 cash prize winners for the categories below. ****Fall 2022 Semester Report Cards are due Friday, February 3, 2023.**

TWO CHANCES TO WIN!

- Excellent GPA (3.5 GPA or above)
- Outstanding Attendance (90% attendance)

TO SUBMIT YOUR REPORT CARD, YOU CAN:

- Scan and email it to shdev@aleutcorp.com
- Fax it to 907-563-4328 (if you fax it, please call to ensure the fax was received)
- Mail/deliver it to 4000 Old Seward Highway, Suite 300, Anchorage, AK 99503

* For official rules and deadlines visit aleutcorp.com/youthincentive



Postsecondary Education Readiness

If you're thinking about going to college or a career school after high school, it's never too early to start planning. The Federal Student Aid (FSA) website (<https://studentaid.gov/>) is a great place to start. There, you can access helpful information, including checklists by grade level to help you get prepared.*

If you're interested in going to college, it's important to know that many colleges have certain requirements for admission, so be sure to check out FSA's checklists to make sure you're on track. Think about and research careers that match your interests and talents so that you'll know which degree program to choose when you get to college.

**The Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE) Alaska Career Information System (AKCIS) is another free resource you can use to help plan for your future through exploring different careers and educational pathways.*

<https://acpe.alaska.gov/planning/akcis>

You'll also want to explore your college options. With so many to choose from, it's important to remember that college is expensive and attending school in-state is more affordable than attending college out of state. If you're curious about your in-state college options, check out page 8 for more information.

For those who have already applied to colleges, don't forget to apply for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at the FSA website by February 28, 2023. This is required of all new and current college students before each year of college. The FAFSA is the one-stop-shop for applying for federal grants, loans, and work-study opportunities. Colleges also use your FAFSA to determine eligibility for federal aid as well as statewide scholarships/grants, such as the Alaska Performance Scholarship.

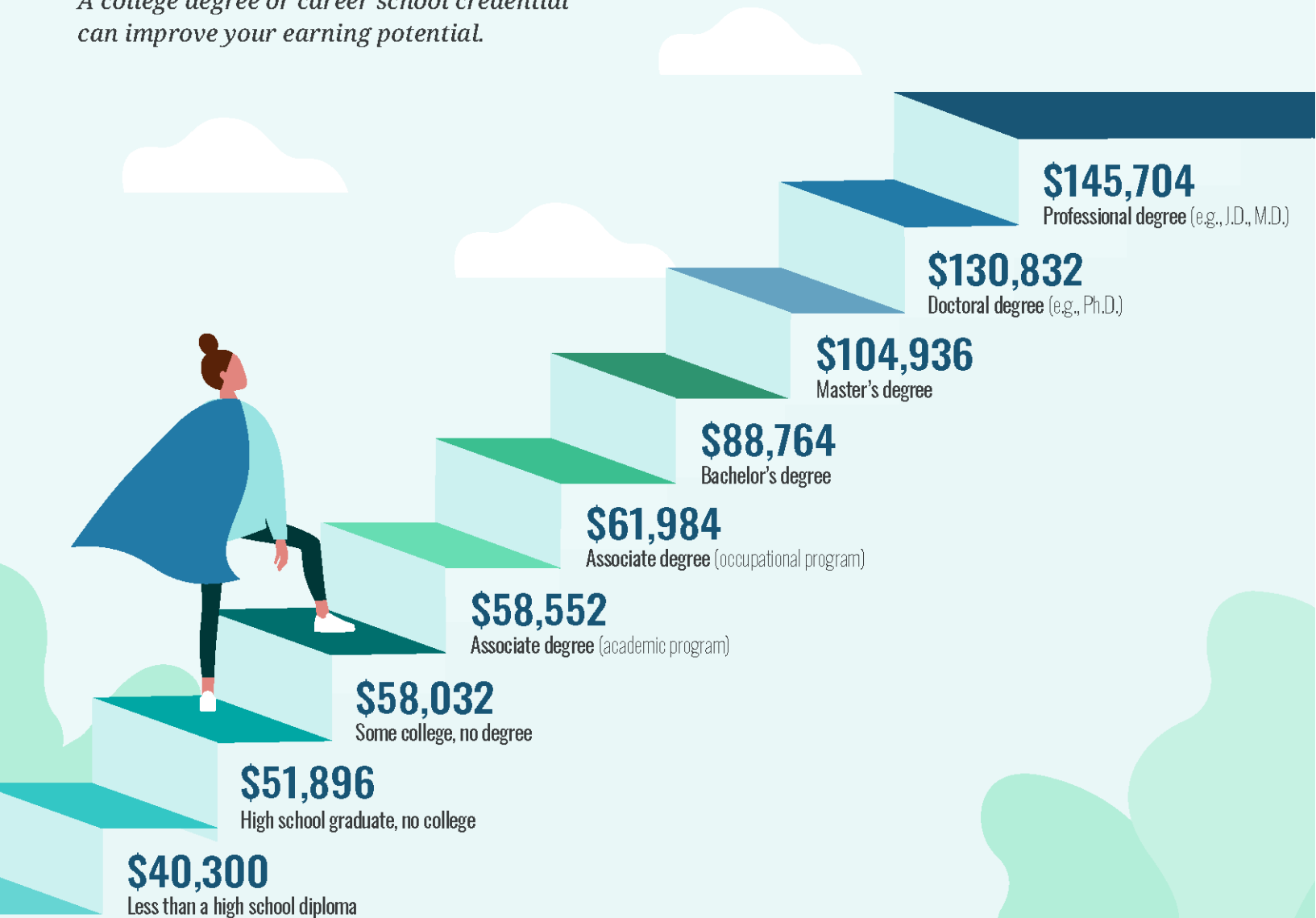
While college is a great option for securing a rewarding career, it's not the only option. If you are more of a hands-on person, you may want to consider looking into career training opportunities, vocational schools such as the Alaska Vocational Technical Center (AVTEC), or apprenticeship programs. Check out page 8 to see some examples.

Excerpted from <https://studentaid.gov/>

Why Go to College or Career School?

Think you could get a good job now? Yes, maybe you can, but a college degree or career school credential will make your chances even better. Check out the average earnings in 2020 for people 25 years of age and older with different levels of education below.

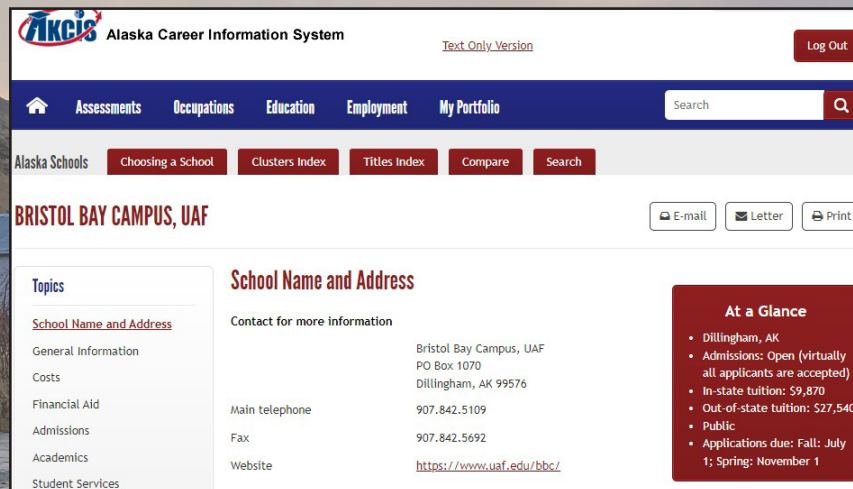
A college degree or career school credential can improve your earning potential.



Source: Bureau of Census for the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, Annual Average 2020

Alaska Schools

Listed below are just a few examples of colleges and vo-tech schools based in Alaska. Go to <https://akcis.org> to view a complete list of in-state schools and information about cost of tuition, location, contact information, and direct website links for each school.



Colleges & Universities

- University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) - Fairbanks, AK
 - UAF Branch Campuses (incomplete list)
 - UAF Bristol Bay Campus - Dillingham, AK (*Serves the Aleutian/Pribilof Islands and the Bristol Bay region*)
 - UAF Community & Technical College - Fairbanks, AK
- University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) – Anchorage, AK
- University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) – Juneau, AK
- Alaska Pacific University (APU) – Anchorage, AK
- Ilisagvik College – Utqiagvik (Barrow), AK (*The first and only tribal college in Alaska*)

Vocational/Technical Schools

- Alaska Vocational Technical Center (AVTEC) – Seward, AK
- Alaska Job Corps Center – Palmer, AK
- Alaska Career College – Anchorage, AK
- Alaska Nautical Training School – Anchorage, AK
- Northern Industrial Training – Palmer, AK

Look out for future editions of the Scholar! We will begin featuring a detailed highlight of two Alaska schools per newsletter. Stay tuned!

Introduction to Nautical Skills

Calling all Alaska High School Students

Ready to begin your Voyage into a High Paying Adventurous Maritime Career Online?

This Six Week Online Course is the starting point for student entry into the AVTEC Young Mariner Training Program. Many students who have completed the high school Nautical Skills course have become fully licensed merchant mariners while still in high school, completely debt free!

The course is delivered by a USCG Licensed Maritime Training Instructor. Students who complete the Nautical Skills course are eligible to receive tuition and room and board funds to assist them with participation in a wide range of maritime training at AVTEC. Funding opportunities and discounts are available to Alaska High School Students.

Requirements include reliable internet connection, webcam, mic, speakers, and ability to print.

★ Register Online
www.avtec.edu/hsns

Topics

Maritime Career Awareness
Chart Navigation
Safety of Life at Sea
Time, Speed, and Distance
Nautical Courtesy
Basic Rules of the Road
Knot Tying

Dates

Spring 2023

January 17-February 28

Fall 2023

September 12-October 20

Space is very limited!

Time

Tues. & Thurs. | 8:30-9:30 am

Live Webinars Via Zoom

zoom.us/test

Online Activities:

Delivered daily - AVTEC Online
online.avtec.edu

Questions

Admissions:

Teri Laird (907) 224-6196

teri.laird@avtec.edu

Course:

Deb Burdick (907) 224-6196

deb.burdick@avtec.edu



Cost

Registration Fee: \$50 (non-refundable)

Tuition: \$150

Most Alaska districts have funds to assist with tuition.

Navigation Tool Kit: \$190.65

Tool kits are not consumable and can be reused

Please check with your organization for availability of a used kit.

AVTEC, as an employer and service provider, complies with Alaska Human Rights Law and Federal Civil Rights Laws. Individuals with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations are welcome to contact AVTEC at admissions@avtec.edu or (800)478-5389 or for individuals with hearing impairments via Alaska Relay at 711 or (800)770-8973.

Postsecondary Education Programs & Resources

APICDA College Scholarships



Emil Berikoff, Sr. Memorial Scholarship (EBMS)

This program is named in honor of the late Emil Berikoff, Sr. of Unalaska, who served on the APICDA Board for 15 years before passing away in 2011. His contributions as a trusted board member and to the region were invaluable.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Be a resident of an APICDA community
- Be enrolled part-time or full-time
- Maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA for each term funded
- Demonstrate financial need
- Submit a complete application packet by one of the deadlines below

Application Deadlines:

April 1 (Summer Term) - **July 1** (School Year) - **November 15** (Winter/Spring Terms)

Complete applications must be received by APICDA by 5:00 PM (AKST) on the day of the deadline.



Haginaa Kidul (Helping to Grow) College Scholarship

This competitive scholarship program is offered to residents of APICDA CDQ communities and residents of the non-CDQ Aleutian communities of Adak, Cold Bay, King Cove, Sand Point and Unalaska.

Scholarships are awarded up to \$2,000 each per school year.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Be a full-time, permanent resident
- Be enrolled full-time
- Maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA
- Show intent to return to community or the region after completion of school
- **Submit a complete application packet by 5:00PM (AKST) on June 1st**

To learn more, please contact your local APICDA Community Liaison Officer (CLO) (see page 16), visit apicda.com, or email us at education@apicda.com.

APICDA Vocational Training Scholarships

Supplemental Education Scholarship

This scholarship program is available to qualifying residents of APICDA communities. Scholarships are awarded up to \$4,000 each per year, based on financial need.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Must be age 18 or older
- Be a resident of an APICDA community
- Plan to enroll in an accredited training program or vocational-technical institution
- Maintain a 2.0 GPA or passing grade
- **Submit a complete application packet no later than 10 business days prior to the program start date**



Haginaa Kidul (Helping to Grow) Vocational Training Scholarship

This competitive scholarship program is offered to residents of APICDA CDQ communities and residents of the non-CDQ Aleutian communities of Adak, Cold Bay, King Cove, Sand Point and Unalaska.

Scholarships are awarded up to \$2,000 each per school year.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Be a full-time, permanent resident
- Must be age 18 or older
- Maintain a 2.0 GPA or passing grade
- Plan to enroll in an accredited training program or vocational-technical institution
- Must show intent to return to community or the region after completion of training
- **Submit a complete application packet no later than 30 days prior to the program start date**



Congratulations to Blaine Henning of Unalaska for recently graduating from Northwest Lineman College!

To learn more, please contact your local APICDA Community Liaison Officer (CLO) (see page 16), visit apicda.com, or email us at education@apicda.com.

Additional APICDA Scholarships

EBMS GPA Scholarship

Recipients of the APICDA Emil Berikoff, Sr. Memorial Scholarship (EBMS) who earn a 3.5 term GPA or higher are eligible for this scholarship. There is no application process; GPA Scholarship awards are automatically disbursed during the fall and spring terms.

Term GPA:	Award Amount:
3.5 - 3.74	\$500 per term
3.75 - 3.99	\$750 per term
4.00	\$1,000 per term

Work Invest Now (WIN) Scholarship

This scholarship is available to residents who successfully complete a youth or college APICDA internship. See page 5 for more details about youth internships.

The youth WINS award is \$500 per internship, which can be applied later towards college or vocational training expenses. The college WINS award is \$2,000 per internship, and is disbursed during the fall and spring terms of the following academic year.

More Scholarship Opportunities

The Aleut Foundation Scholarships

The Aleut Foundation (TAF) offers scholarships to shareholders and descendants of The Aleut Corporation. TAF's mission is to enhance the life and culture of Aleut people through funding their postsecondary education and career development. Visit www.thealeutfoundation.org for more information about TAF scholarship offerings.

TAF Scholarship Deadlines:
Summer Term: April 30 th
Fall (School Year) Term: June 30 th
Winter/Spring Term: November 30 th
Vocational/Career Development: Open Year-Round



Overcoming Homesickness

For some, attending postsecondary education requires you to move away from your hometown temporarily. The transition from a small community to a larger community or a city can be overwhelming for many. Homesickness is something we all experience when we are away from home for an extended period of time. It can be difficult, but many have pushed through those feelings to achieve their academic goals, and you can too. Here are some helpful tips for those of you who may be experiencing homesickness.

Maintain/Build Up Your Support System

Having a support system to lean on is crucial while you're away from home. Your support system can include family, friends (old and new), mental health professionals such as a counselor or therapist, and even professors/instructors and other staff at your school or training program. If you find it hard to make new friends, consider joining a club, attending events on campus, or organizing a study group with your classmates.

Avoid Isolation

While it's true that some students do better when studying alone, isolating yourself too much can be harmful for your mental health and wellbeing. Make an effort to be around other people and share your feelings (the good and not so good) rather than holding them in.

Set Aside Time for Yourself

Continue to engage in interests and hobbies you already enjoy and spend some time exploring new ones too. Make your health a priority and be consistent with caring for yourself.

Take a "Piece of Home" With You

Bring an item from home with you that gives you hope and comfort.

Keep a Journal

Document your feelings and daily experiences in a journal so you can look back on it later to see your progression throughout the year and learn what worked for you and what didn't.

Don't Lose Sight of Your End Goal

Always remember why you decided to be here in the first place. Small sacrifices now will lead to great rewards later!

Excerpted from <https://acpe.alaska.gov/PLANNING/Training-Details/ArticleID/49/How-to-Battle-Homesickness>

Love Your Writing, Love Yourself

I enjoy writing, I teach writing, but I still procrastinate. I'll file papers away, fold laundry, even make deals with myself, such as, "After I watch this one TV program, I'll buckle down and write." Sometimes I do; sometimes another deal ensues. If you struggle with writing, here are some tips from the experts.

Analyze good writing

Maybe someone in your organization sends out the best emails, or another person's technical papers leave you wanting to read more. Reading is the #1 way to improve writing skills. What makes some writing so good? Take some time to pick it apart and discover their secrets. Good writing is conversational; it makes you feel like the author is speaking directly to you, sometimes even reading your mind. One way to improve your writing is to picture one individual to whom you are speaking and focus on that person and how you want to reach them. How could you phrase it that grabs their attention.

Think before you write

For most people, problems with clarity came from lack of planning. Trying to write without knowing what you want to say will often leave the reader confused later. Before you write, put the key message into a single, short sentence. If you can't do it at the keyboard, go for a walk and work it out. You can record it on your phone to write down later.

Stick to a schedule, but step away

Without writing it on my daily planner, it won't get done. If I have a deadline to meet, I work back from that date and enter dates for all of the stages along the way, leaving plenty of time for rewriting, proofreading, and revising.

When you are writing, it is important to step away periodically because doing some mindless chore can help your brain relax and make more interesting connections. Set a timer, and write for 20-30 minutes. Then, take 10 minutes to go for a walk, play fetch with your dog, or fold that laundry.

Even the most experienced writers can't stay tied to their computer for 10 hours straight!

Separate the creative and the critical

One reason for writer's block is trying to be creative and critical at the same time. Knowing that you'll do the editing later, you'll be faster, more creative, and more productive.

Put away the red pen

Revise before you proofread. That means, put the red pen away and ask the bigger, more important questions first. Is your message clear? Did you use the right structure for your audience? You'll have time for that red pen later.

Find a writing mentor

The key is to find someone who truly loves the craft because editing software can help with your punctuation and grammar. Working with a professional who is passionate about their craft will help you unleash the amazing ideas that you have within, because our world doesn't need more dull writers who write for the status quo. We need someone who pushes the envelope and makes us think. Who knows - that could be you!

Why... not?

The reason I love learning to be a better writer is because I believe I can reach more people by sharing my experiences, good and bad, and, at the same time, it's very therapeutic for me. I needed to express myself from a young age. I had feelings I needed to get out. So, whether it's a technical paper for work or a private journal, know that when you sit down to write, no one is looking. It's up to you if and when you share a draft with someone else. Whatever you write is as private as the thoughts in your head — until you decide otherwise. The laundry can wait. Record that TV show to watch later. Put the papers to file in a basket for tomorrow. Now is the time to write.



About the Author

Kathy Kysar is the regional Writing Support Specialist for the UAF-Bristol Bay Campus. She supports all University of Alaska students as a writing tutor, coach, and guide. Kathy is available by phone, email, and Zoom, and challenges students to take advantage of her lifelong writing experience in teaching, marketing, and course design to help you become a successful academic writer. She can be reached at krkysar@alaska.edu or (907) 795-5403.

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Congrats to Our Recent Grads!



Blaine Henning
Electrical Lineworker Program Certificate of Completion
Northwest Lineman College



Larissa Chitty
B.A. Anthropology, Alaska Native Studies minor
University of Alaska Fairbanks



Shannon McConnell
B.S. Elementary Education, Special Education minor
University of Alaska Southeast



Nicole Whittern
B.S. Sports & Exercise Science
Seattle University

APICDA COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICERS (CLO'S)

April Pelkey (Akutan) - akutancllo@apicda.com

Marii Swetzof (Atka) - atkaclo@apicda.com

Melanie Hoblet (False Pass) - falsepassclo@apicda.com

Katie Johnson (Nelson Lagoon) - nelsonlagooncllo@apicda.com

Lorraine DeLeon (Nikolski) - nikolskiclo@apicda.com

Sarah Merculief (St. George) - stgeorgecllo@apicda.com

Carlin Enlow (Unalaska) - unalaskaclo@apicda.com



ALEUTIAN PRIBILOF ISLAND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

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Photo by Genee Shaishnikoff of Unalaska