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Press Release

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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***I'm Going To College* Program Sparks the Interest of Young Alaskans** *Introducing 5th & 6th Grade Students to College Prepares Them for Success*

ANCHORAGE – This spring, Alaskan 5th and 6th grade school children will attend their local colleges for a day of age-appropriate classroom and hands-on activities. A partnership between the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE) and UA College Savings Plan, *I'm Going To College* encourages students to aspire to education and training beyond high school – whether it's an apprenticeship, a one-year technical program or a 10-year professional degree sequence; by learning that it is important *and* attainable.

In the nine years since Alaska's *I'm Going To College* program was launched, it has grown from 600 students participating on five college campuses eight years ago to more than 2,300 students on 12 campuses in 11 communities across the state.

By following the *I'm Going To College* classroom curriculum and then visiting a local campus, students learn about the benefits of attending college, compare different campuses, calculate college costs, and learn steps they can take to qualify for financial aid such as the Alaska Performance Scholarship. The fun and educational campus visit gives students a sampling of college classes and lifestyle while inspiring them to include college in their future plans.

I'm Going To College alumna are more likely to discuss college preparation with parents and teachers, and to understand college is possible for them. It is an opportunity for those children whose families may not have a college-going history, to learn first-hand about the career avenues college offers and the fun of the college experience.

A 2011 *I'm Going To College* participant in Fairbanks recalled "*It was fun, exciting, and I got to learn new stuff. I also learned Russian words, saw the library and discovered the life of being a college student.*" "*It was fun and it helped me learn about college,*" said another student from Ketchikan.

Students will visit the following college campuses between Feb 2 and May 10, 2012.

BARROW: Thursday, February 2: Ilisagvik College
Contact: Janelle Everett: 907-852-1799; janelle.everett@ilisagvic.cc

SITKA: Thursday, March 29: UAS Sitka Campus

Contact: Marilyn durocher: 907-747-7705; marilyn.durocher@uas.alaska.edu

KODIAK: Friday, March 30: UAA Kodiak College

Contact: Sandra Chichenoff: 907-486-1219; schichenoff@kodiak.alaska.edu

NOME: Friday, April 13: UAF Northwest Campus

Contact: Erin Forton: 907-443-8427; emforton@alaska.edu

VALDEZ: Tuesday, April 10: Prince William Sound Community College

Contact: Robyn Davis: 907-834-1626; rkdavis@pwsc.edu

FAIRBANKS: Thursday, April 19: University of Alaska Fairbanks

Contact: Ashley Munro: 907-474-1934; akmunro@alaska.edu

DILLINGHAM: Thursday, April 26: UAF Bristol Bay Campus

Contact: Ralph Andrew: 907-842-5109 x 330; rfandrew@alaska.edu

PALMER: Friday, April 27: UAA – Matsu College

Contact: Amy Seamans: 907-745-9799; aseamans@matsu.alaska.edu

ANCHORAGE: Friday, May 4: University of Alaska Anchorage

Contact: Brian McDermott: 907-786-1543; anbpm@uaa.alaska.edu

KETCHIKAN: Monday, May 7: UAS – Ketchikan Campus

Contact: Brenda Hurley: 228-4513; brenda.hurley@uas.alaska.edu

JUNEAU: Wednesday May 9/Thursday May 10: University of Alaska Southeast

Contact: Julie Staveland: 907-796-6430; julie.staveland@uas.alaska.edu

For more information, please contact Shelly Morgan, K-12 Specialist with the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education at 907-269-7972 or shelly.morgan@alaska.gov

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