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Press Release

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Alaska Performance Scholarship Shaping Alaska Students' Plans and Actions *APS Grads Report Scholarship Motivates School Performance and College Decisions*

"APS is the sole reason I stayed in Alaska for college...."

"I am so fortunate to have received APS and completed my associate's degree from UAA. I gained a full time job within my career field due to UAA and APS and could not be happier...."

JUNEAU – Students responding to a survey of eligible students from the first four graduating high school classes able to receive the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) report positive impacts. The graduates' responses reflect the APS's increasing influence on high school students doing more to prepare for postsecondary and career success. 2,121 students responded to the survey, conducted in March 2015 by the McDowell Group on behalf of the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education.

Diane Barrans, Executive Director of the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, stated "It is extremely gratifying to hear directly from these young Alaskans that the APS is working as intended— with Alaska high school graduates who are more likely to pursue Alaska's college and career education options, and are better prepared to succeed in postsecondary education."

Key survey findings include:

- APS is an important factor in Alaska students' decision to enroll in postsecondary education. Nearly two-thirds of APS recipients said that APS was a factor in their decision, and the impact has been increasing over time.
- APS is keeping Alaska students in-state for postsecondary education. Over three-quarters of APS recipients said that APS influenced their decision to attend an in-state school.
- APS encourages a variety of positive high school behaviors. Among the most recent graduates, between one-half and two-thirds were influenced by APS to: take placement exams, achieve better grades, seek out advising, prepare for placement exams, consider career options, and take challenging courses.
- APS' influence on these behaviors has been increasing over time.

Find the full report, and annual APS outcomes reports, on the Commission's website at acpe.alaska.gov.