



NEWS

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CONTACT:

Anna Galas, Director, Interstate Passport
303-541-0260, agalas@wiche.edu

Kate Springsteen, Member Services Coordinator, Interstate Passport
303-541-0261, kspringsteen@wiche.edu

Keni Campbell, Public Information Officer & Executive Assistant to the Chancellor, University of Alaska Southeast
907-796-6509, klcampbell4@alaska.edu

University of Alaska Southeast is Newest Member of Interstate Passport Network Third Regional University in Alaska to join National Initiative

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Boulder, Colo. – The University of Alaska Southeast is the 42nd higher education institution in the country to join the Interstate Passport Network. The third regional university of the University of Alaska system, the University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) joins the University of Alaska Anchorage and the University of Alaska Fairbanks as a member of the national program of two- and four-year colleges and universities that streamlines the transfer process for students.

“The University of Alaska Southeast is pleased to join other Alaskan universities in the Interstate Passport Network,” said UAS Chancellor Rick Caulfield. “Our goal is to make it even easier for students to access quality educational opportunities no matter their location.”

With campuses in Juneau, Ketchikan and Sitka, UAS serves all of southeast Alaska through campus and online programs. Taking advantage of its unique location that includes the Inside Passage and the Tongass National Forest, the university offers programs in biology and marine biology, environmental science, mine training and fisheries technology, as well as teacher education and educational leadership, liberal arts, business and public administration and health

information management. In addition, UAS maintains formal partnerships with the Sealaska Heritage Institute, the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, and Ketchikan Indian Community – advancing the cultures of the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples. University of Alaska Southeast serves approximately 5,000 undergraduates and offers 75 degrees and certificates through the School of Arts and Sciences, School of Career Education and Alaska College of Education. It supports a wide array of research partnerships and fosters partners in industry to provide state-of-the-art training equipment, internships and career paths.

The Interstate Passport program was founded in 2011, and became fully operational in 2016. Students who earn a Passport, which encompasses lower-division general education and is based on learning outcomes instead of course-by-course articulation, can transfer to a Network institution in another state and have their learning recognized and general education credits accepted. All students from UAS who earn a Passport can now more easily transfer to any Network member institution without having to repeat or take additional coursework to satisfy general education requirements.

"I am very excited that UAS has become a part of the Interstate Passport Network! This program will allow students from other states to transfer easily to UAS and have their credits counted as they pursue their education and career goals." said UAS Provost Karen Carey.

Nearly four in 10 college students will transfer institutions at least once during their college careers, and almost a quarter of those will enroll in an institution in another state, according to data from the National Student Clearinghouse. Until now, transferring between schools – especially across state lines – has been made more difficult and expensive by lengthy credit evaluation processes and loss of credit already earned.

"We are very pleased that the University of Alaska Southeast joined Network days after the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Now all students enrolled in the University of Alaska system can benefit by earning a Passport." said Anna Galas, director of academic leadership initiatives at WICHE. "Even for students who don't transfer, earning a Passport can be beneficial. Because of its specifically defined learning outcomes, the Passport can become a widely recognizable documented completion benchmark from which employers can gauge a prospect's skill level and readiness for a job."

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INTERSTATE PASSPORT

Interstate Passport is a program, based at the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education (WICHE) that facilitates block transfer of lower-division general education attainment

based on multistate faculty-developed learning outcomes among its participating institutions. After years of research and development, the Interstate Passport Network, whose members are two-year and four-year regionally accredited public and private non-profit colleges and universities, was launched in July 2016. Member institutions began awarding Passports in the 2016-2017 academic year. For more information, visit the Interstate Passport website at interstatepassport.wiche.edu.

MEMBERS OF INTERSTATE PASSPORT NETWORK

Currently 42 institutions are members of the Interstate Passport Network. ALABAMA – Community College of the Air Force; ALASKA – University of Alaska Anchorage, University of Alaska Fairbanks, University of Alaska Southeast; ARKANSAS – University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville; CALIFORNIA – Cerritos College, College of the Siskiyous; COLORADO – Adams State University; HAWAII – Hawai‘i Community College, Honolulu Community College, Kapi‘olani Community College, Kaua‘i Community College, Leeward Community College, Maui College, University of Hawai‘i Hilo, University of Hawai‘i Mānoa, University of Hawai‘i West O‘ahu, and Windward Community College; IDAHO – North Idaho College; ILLINOIS – The Chicago School of Professional Psychology; MINNESOTA – Concordia University, St. Paul; NORTH DAKOTA – Lake Region State College, North Dakota State College of Science, University of North Dakota; OREGON – Blue Mountain Community College, Western Oregon University; SOUTH DAKOTA – Black Hills State University, Dakota State University, Northern State University, South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, South Dakota State University, University of South Dakota; UTAH – Dixie State University, Salt Lake Community College, Snow College, Southern Utah University, University of Utah, Utah State University, Utah Valley University, Weber State University; and WYOMING – Laramie County Community College, and University of Wyoming.

WESTERN INTERSTATE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (WICHE)

For over 60 years, the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) has been the leading agency serving higher education throughout and beyond the American West. WICHE is one of four U.S. regional interstate compacts, with a multifaceted portfolio of research, policy, resource-sharing, and student-access programs and priorities. WICHE’s 16 member states include: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawai‘i, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, and entities (including Guam and the Northern Marianas Islands) under auspices of the U.S. Pacific Territories and Freely Associated States. Visit wiche.edu for more information.