



## Family Partnership Charter School Sponsors 'Steps to Your Future'

with Mari Jo Parks, M.Ed., Career & College Coach



Are you struggling with finding the right path for life after high school or dealing with the maze of college applications? **YOU Don't have to do it alone!** Family Partnership and I are hosting weekly seminars to help students and parents get the information needed to make the transition from high school. Topics include selecting and applying to college, financial aid, scholarships, essay writing and more.

This week's seminar was the College and Education Selection Process. I know many of you were unable to attend our Thursday night session, so I am going to do a brief overview of information. Also, the seminars are being recorded, so ask for access to them by emailing Teresa Hintze - [Hintze\\_Teresa@asdk12.org](mailto:Hintze_Teresa@asdk12.org).

When looking at college there are some things you need to understand. ONE important piece of information to know is many colleges in the Lower 48 want Alaska students. Our students have an excellent education, they are adventurers, leaders, explorers, understand the world around them, and have opportunities that are unique. Colleges are looking for these types of students. So feel free to apply to schools out of state.

Here is some of my advice: First, Look for the best education for YOU!!!

### What to consider:

**Location is Important:** If you are going out of state how will you get there? Do you have any family or friends that live near the college to be a support network? Climate and size of the city can also make a difference.

**Size:** How big is the school? How many students will be in your freshman and sophomore classes? How many students will be in your field of study classes?

**Entrance Requirements:** Know the entrance requirements including SAT or ACT, foreign language requirements, grade point average, even shot records.

**Credit Requirements for Your Degree:** Number of credits needed for degree, transferability of credits from another college, foreign language requirement

**Major Fields of Study:** Degree programs offered, Accreditation Record, what are the acceptance requirements to your degree program, number of credits needed to graduate, internships opportunities.

**Costs:** Tuition, student fees, extra costs, books, equipment and supplies, social expenses, access to local stores dormitories and meal plans.

**Financial Aid Assistance:** Federal Grants, scholarships, need based grants, work study opportunities.

### Other Thoughts...

**Ivy League:** Some people want to go to an Ivy League school, that can be good, but it can also be the wrong match for you. Know why you want to go to an Ivy League school. Going there because of name alone is the wrong reason. Do your research to decide if the cost is equal to the education.

**Private Colleges:** When you look at private colleges you see very expensive tuition. But the good news is many private colleges are more affordable because they have better scholarships and financial aid packages. Most of the students I have worked with paid less for their college education than if they had stayed in Alaska.

**Alaska Colleges:** Alaska has outstanding education at the university level. Students are surprised to learn there are more educational opportunities than they realize. The University of Alaska system has three main campuses at Anchorage, Fairbanks and Southeast-Juneau. Each are nationally recognized in various majors.

Alaska Pacific University (APU) is a private college in Anchorage. It is recognized as one of the top ten colleges in the country for a school its size.

**Community Colleges:** Community Colleges are part of the UA system. Community colleges are located in smaller communities. They offer two different tracks of study. One track is specific to a certain career similar to vocational schools. The second track is basic education that can be transferred to a four-year college. Completion of these programs can result in certificates or Associates Degrees.

Deciding on the right college is hard and exciting. It is worth taking the time to explore and find your options. Contact me for the handouts from the seminar at [future.inc1@gmail.com](mailto:future.inc1@gmail.com) or for more information.

Our next seminar is Financial Aid on Wed. Oct. 21 at 6:00. Hope to see you on Zoom. Have a good week! *Mari Jo*