March 2015

What’s New at CAEPR:

CAEPR is hosting the Citizens for the Educational Advancement of Alaska’s Children’s (CEAAC) “Ed Connector,” an interactive web portal for school administrators to access, share, and collaborate on best practices. More specifically, Ed Connector will allow district administrators to:

- Access a collection of curated best practice educational tools
- Share material, curricula, and models
- Rate and track vendor support for quality and results
- Collaborate through virtual dialogue
- Access professional technical assistance staff from its office housed in CAEPR

The portal, moderated by Ed Connector Director Lora Jorgensen, Lora@EdConnector.org, is online at www.EdConnector.org.

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CAEPR developing a salary and benefits schedule and evaluating teacher tenure for the State of Alaska

Geographical differences, retention and recruiting issues, as well as personnel costs make providing education programs of comparable quality across Alaska challenging. The Alaska State Department of Administration is contracting with CAEPR to develop a proposal for a salary and benefits schedule for Alaska’s 53 school districts serving approximately 130,000 students, and an evaluation of teacher tenure.

A brief overview of the study and information sheet are available online at: http://www.iser.uaa.alaska.edu/CAEPR/home/projects/hb278/hb278.php. Additional information is available from the Department of Administration: http://doa.alaska.gov/dop/HB278SchoolStudy/.

CAEPR will soon be launching online surveys of teachers, administrators, school board members, parents, and others to gather stakeholder input into this process. Survey links will be emailed directly to as many stakeholders as possible, but will also be available via the CAEPR website. In addition, Diane Hirshberg will be presenting on this study to the Alaska Superintendents Association Legislative Fly-In on March 8 in Juneau, and to legislators March 9-11.
If you would like to participate in this study or have comments, questions or suggestions, please contact us at TeacherSalaryTenure@uaa.alaska.edu.

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New Publications

CAEPR recently released two new publications:

**How do WorkKeys assessments affect college and career readiness perceptions of Alaska high school students?**  
*By Deanna Schultz and Sam Stern*  
This report analyzes the gap between how high school juniors perceive their readiness to pursue training in a chosen career path and the WorkKeys assessment of their knowledge and skills needed to pursue training in an area. The Research Brief identifies implications for policy and practice, and recommends that skills assessments such as WorkKeys be integrated into career development and college planning activities.

**Alaska career pathways: A baseline analysis**  
*By Dayna Jean DeFeo, Sue Fallon, Diane Hirshberg, Cathy LeCompte*  
This report details the findings from a 2013 statewide study of career pathways (CP) and programs of study (PoS) in secondary districts in Alaska. Twenty-seven of Alaska's 54 districts provided data around the maturity of their CP/PoS, the availability of different CP/PoS, how career planning is addressed, and the availability of courses and PoS in the Health Sciences cluster.

All of CAEPR’s publications are available on our website:  
http://www.iser.uaa.alaska.edu/CAEPR/home/products.php

And finally…

CAEPR Director Diane Hirshberg is co-author of the education chapter in the newly released *Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR) II*, published by the Nordic Council of Ministers. The goals of the second volume of the AHDR–Arctic Human Development Report: Regional Processes and Global Linkages–are to provide an update to the first AHDR (2004) in terms of an assessment of the state of Arctic human development; to highlight the major trends and changes unfolding related to the various issues and thematic areas of human development in the Arctic over the past decade; and, based on this assessment, to identify policy-relevant conclusions and key gaps in knowledge, as well as new and emerging Arctic success stories.

AHDR II is available online at: http://dx.doi.org/10.6027/TN2014-567

As always, please let me know if you do NOT want to receive periodic updates on CAEPR activities and notices of publications. Also please feel free to share with others who might be interested. For more information about CAEPR, please see our website at:  
http://www.iser.uaa.alaska.edu/CAEPR