

Dayna Defeo

Hi, I'm Dayna!

I started working in higher education in 2003 as an adjunct instructor of Spanish at New Mexico State University - Carlsbad (NMSUC). My first full-time job in higher education was as an academic advisor and coordinator of services for students with disabilities. That position opened my eyes to the diverse needs of incoming students, the special role of the community college, and a full array of student support services. In 2008, I was promoted to an Institutional Research Coordinator position at NMSUC, where I used student-level data to explore institutional procedures, exploring the effects and efficacy of institutional procedures (like placement testing), curriculum (like developmental education sequencing), academic supports (like tutoring), and early college success initiatives (like dual credit).

I came to the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) in 2010, just as I was finishing my PhD. My first position was Coordinator of the Learning Resources Center, which provides tutoring and academic support to students across campus, but primarily to freshman and developmental students. From there, I took on the role of College and Career Readiness Coordinator, where I studied the impacts of early outcomes placement testing and dual credit initiatives. In 2014, I joined the Center for Alaska Education Policy Research (CAEPR) as a Senior Researcher, and took on the Directorship in 2017 with a two-part research agenda: college & career readiness, and k12 teacher supply & demand.

My current projects include exploring youth career aspirations, the college success outcomes for dual credit participants, activities that can promote student success in high-attrition freshman science classes, and how students develop career decision self-efficacy.

I hope serving on the Board of Directors will be an opportunity for me to learn and share, and put some of these data to use in service of students across Alaska!