

ALASKA POSTSECONDARY ACCESS AND COMPLETION NETWORK

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

FEBRUARY 27 – MARCH 4, 2020

Barbara Mongar (*At Large Seat Nominee*)

I grew up in Florida and joined the U.S. Air Force at the age of 18. For 20 years I traveled throughout the world as an Air Weapons Control Technician. Realizing how important education was and the fact that I would need a degree once I left the Air Force, I obtained my Bachelor's Degree in Psychology while still on active duty. After leaving the military, I eventually moved my family to Alaska to work as the Youth Instructional Program Specialist on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER). In that position, I researched and obtained the Darden "Recipe for Success" College-Going Experience Grant for the youth program that funded Career Nights and local College Campus Tours. I went on to accept a position with the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE), first as the Community Liaison and then as the Community Partnership Manager. In my last position with ACPE, I worked closely with the Network Board of Directors on different projects they had to increase the percentage of Alaskans who complete postsecondary education. In my current position, as the Mat-Su Reentry Coalition Coordinator, I work with the coalition on identifying and implementing strategies that increase former prisoners' well-being within the community and reduce the likelihood of them recidivating. One of these strategies is providing educational opportunities to inmates prior to and after their release from prison. I believe I would bring a unique perspective to the Board regarding an Alaska population that sometimes gets overlooked.

