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Alaska's Certified Public Manager (CPM) Program  
**Alaska CPM Program Re-Accredited  
Through 2012**

The Alaska Certified Public Manager (CPM) program, which is coordinated by the University of Alaska Corporate Programs (UACP), recently underwent an accreditation process and was re-accredited through the year 2012.

The CPM program is a nationally accredited program designed to develop management, supervision and leadership skills in the public and private sectors. More than half the states in the nation have CPM programs, which are overseen by the National CPM Consortium, an organization formed in 1979 to establish and preserve standards for awarding the CPM designation.

Every five years, the consortium completes an in-depth review of each CPM program as part of the accreditation process. For Alaska's CPM program, this included a complete review of the program's records by a three-member committee, as well as a two-day site visit from the committee chair, JJ Acker.

During the site visit, Acker attended a class, met with advisory board members, and interviewed students and program managers. Based on the review process and site visit, Alaska's CPM program was re-accredited for the next five years. As a final phase of the accreditation process, Acker also drafted a report outlining specific recommendations to further strengthen the program as it continues into the future.

"Accreditation ensures there's consistency across the nation and compliance with national standards," says Acker, who is a member of the consortium's board of directors and is also the director of Utah's CPM program. "The CPM designation is a national service mark, and that means there are criteria to meet. You can't just call yourself a CPM program."

Laraine Derr, chair of the Alaska CPM advisory board, says this nationwide consistency is a benefit for students who complete the CPM program.



"You can move to any of the states that carry a CPM program and your education has value," she says. "What you learn in one state, you can apply in another."

The accreditation process also provides the opportunity for CPM program coordinators to share ideas, challenges and best practices. For example, during Acker's site visit, he met with the American Russian Center at UAA to discuss the possibility of implementing Alaska's CPM program to train public employees in Russia.

"As Russia develops its democracy, education will be needed, especially for public servants. They are interested in Alaska's CPM program because there are similar challenges in Alaska and Russia. Rather than re-create the wheel, they may choose to implement Alaska's program there," says Acker, who added there are currently no international CPM programs and that this could be a pilot program.

For more information:

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