



Frontier Charter School Sponsors
‘Steps to Your Future’
with Mari Jo Parks, M.Ed., Career & College Coach



Dear Parents and Students,

Today's Steps to the Future is about training we don't talk about enough!!! As I review my previous newsletter, I realize how serious I am, in some ways forgetting we should be to be thinking about your future possibilities. Over the past few weeks while working with students I have been having students think about hidden jobs. So today I am going to do a similar thing. Hope you like it!!!

Did You Know?...The University of Alaska has a Community and Technical College??? Their motto is, "CTC can prepare you for great careers in a number of high-demand fields." It is an excellent website to visit at: <https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/academics/community-and-technical-college/departments/programs.cshhtml>

Here are a few of their offerings:

Air Traffic Control – Air traffic prepares students to assume roles in the directing and control of aircraft moving through the National Airspace System. They manage air traffic between or within airports. It is a high stress job but very satisfying.

Automotive Technology – This AAS (Associates of Applied Sciences 2 year) degree and undergraduate certificate are accredited by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation. The Automotive Technology program prepares graduates for high-skill careers as maintenance and repair technicians in dealerships, fleet operations, and independent repair facilities. Ranked 13th among 20 Best Automotive Mechanic Schools in the US. You can take this training anywhere in the country and find a great paying job.

Computer Networking and Technology – Prepares students for entry level positions or career advancement in computer electronics and networking industry. The mean salary in Alaska is \$83,700.

Culinary Arts - The AAS Culinary Arts at UAA is a cutting-edge program accredited by the American Culinary Federation (ACF) that introduces you to seasoned professionals, the hottest trends, and constantly-evolving curriculum to reflect the rapid-fire changes in our industry. Students in this program learn how to write recipes, shop for ingredients, stay within an acceptable food cost percentage, and sell final product. Upon successful completion of the AAS Culinary Arts degree, students will be ACF certified culinarians.

Occupational Safety and Health - The Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Occupational Safety and Health prepares students for employment as safety professionals in a variety of industries, including construction, petroleum, mining, tourism, and government agencies. This is a very unique program. You can find jobs as a construction and building inspector, fire inspector, safety coordinator and inspectors working on the pipeline.

Other Great Programs at UAA

Medical Assistance - The Medical Assisting Program provides a supervised hands-on experience allowing students to gain confidence and perfect their skills before heading out to on the job experience. The program is a great choice for students looking to build a firm health care foundation.

Paralegal Studies - The Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Paralegal Studies provides students with the specialized skills and knowledge to build a career performing substantive legal work under the supervision of a lawyer, in accordance with American Bar Association standards, or to work in a variety of public service and government agencies where familiarity with government regulation and legal processes is required. The program is approved by the American Bar Association.

Steps to Finding Your Career

You should be thinking about what you like to do. Ask others what you are good at. Make a list. Many of those skills can be transferred to a career.

Also look around your community (I know it is hard right now but try) and see what businesses are out there. Going down one street in Anchorage I saw stores including plumbing, a music repair shop, the Post Office, a car dealership, a quick shop, a T-shirt design store, a bank, and of course a coffee drive through. Can you see yourself working in any of those businesses?

Please remember you are going to live to be over 100!!! There will be many careers in your future. Deciding where to start is hard but also exciting. I love the stories of former students finding a unique career. One of my favorite stories is the young man from Wasilla, who wanted to work in theatre and accidentally got trained to create and maintain wigs for major productions including on Broadway. He has also traveled the world with plays like the Lion King. Another great story is the young woman who went from modeling to designing jeans working with major retailers around the country. The jeans quickly attracted a devoted celebrity following, including actress Eva Longoria, fashion model Amber Valletta, and singer Mandy Moore.

Opportunities are around the corner. Look around, talk with others, look on the internet, imagine, have fun with planning your life.

Please feel free to contact me with questions and ideas for future 'Steps to Your Future'. Just e-mail me at future.inc1@gmail.com.

To Your Future, *Mari Jo*