

## ***ANCSA Review:*** **Regional and Village Corporations**

# **CIRI provides \$50,000 for Native students at UAA**

A \$50,000 grant from Cook Inlet Region, Incorporated (CIRI), will go far to ensure that Alaska Native/American Indian students have a successful academic experience at University of Alaska Anchorage.

"We are pleased to make this contribution to UAA," said Roy M. Huhndorf, CIRI President. "This grant is consistent with CIRI's continuing efforts to enhance educational opportunities for its Alaska Native shareholders and their family members."

CIRI, through The CIRI Foundation, has contributed approximately \$1.7 million over the past 10 years to help fund postsecondary scholarships and training grants to its members.

The academic support provided by the CIRI grant to UAA's new Native Student Services Department will complement learning resources already on campus. Combined with UAA Chancellor Donald Behrend's recent reallocation of funds to provide for more academic counselors in the Native

Student Services Department, the CIRI grant will directly help Native students improve their mathematics, English and writing skills.

CIRI's grant provides encouragement to UAA faculty, staff and students as we seek increased support from a combination of state, federal and private sources for Native educational programs and services," Behrend said.

Private and state funding are required before the long range goals for Native students can be realized, Behrend said. Funding

priorities include housing for Alaska Native students, expansion of the former Della Keats Summer Enrichment Program into the Della Keats Honors Program and establishment of a Native Student Services Endowment Fund to have readily available funds and services for Alaska Native and American Indian students. This fund could be utilized for scholarships, for emergency assistance with housing, food or transportation, to fund visiting professorships for prominent

Alaska Native and American Indian Leaders, to enhance Alaska Native/American Indian Awareness Week on UAA campus, to fund UAA juniors and seniors to serve as tutors in math, science and language arts at Native Student Services.

Efforts are underway in the College of Arts and Sciences to provide additional courses in Native culture, history and languages. These efforts are expected to produce a Native studies minor in the near future.