

Sheldon Jackson offers aid to freshmen

SITKA — Sheldon Jackson College has announced a new student financial aids program for freshmen students, entitled Achievement Incentive Rebate, according to college officials.

Dr. Michael Kaelke, Sheldon Jackson president, said the program will be started next fall.

"This is a means for students to reduce the amount of loan repayment before graduation and a way that Sheldon Jackson College can make a small contribution to reduction of the

high default rate that occurs with first year college dropouts," he said.

The Achievement Incentive Rebate Program enables freshmen students at the college who earn at least a 2.5 grade point average to receive repayment of 25 percent of their freshmen Alaska Student Loan by Sheldon Jackson College at the end of their first college year. For students with a full loan, this translates to a possible \$1,375 rebate amount.

Dr. Kerry Romesburg, executive

director of the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, said the program would encourage academic excellence and help reduce student indebtedness.

"The freshman year is often a difficult time of transition for students, and it is refreshing to see Sheldon Jackson College so directly demonstrate its emphasis on academic achievement and its concerns for its students," he said.