

# Bicultural Conference set for April 6 - 8 in Anchorage

## From Our Juneau Bureau.

The Alaska State Department of Education (DOE) has announced that it will be sponsoring the Third Annual Alaska Bi-lingual Bi-cultural Conference in Anchorage April 6-8 at the Anchorage Westward Hotel. Judy Franklett, Bilingual Education Administrator for the Department says that she expects participation to number about 300.

Invitations have been sent to school districts statewide and guest speakers include Dr. Walter

Sobeloff and Walter Williams, Tlingit Bilingual Instructor of the Juneau Indian Studies Program.

Ms. Franklett says that eleven general and work sessions will be held with the focus on the Lau vs Nichols court case. The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the findings of a lower court saying that educational systems must provide equal education and states must have a plan for bilingual children.

The State of Alaska has been in the process of developing a plan but it has not yet been

accepted by the Office of Civil Rights. Ms. Franklett said that Alaska's plan has been late in being approved by the Office of Civil Rights and that the plan has been worked on for well over a year.

Participants in the workshop will have the opportunity to provide input and recommendations to the plan for Alaska's bilingual children. Marilou Madden, Director of Education Program Support for the department and Francisco Garcia of the Lau Center in Portland will join the conference to provide information and support for conference participants.

Other areas to be discussed will touch on teaching a second language, administration of multi-cultural programs, writing systems for Native languages, community involvement, Native art, certified bilingual/multilingual teachers and teaching English as a lively art.