

Close-up program brings students to nation's capitol

WASHINGTON, D.C.—High schools from across Alaska have once again been invited by the Close Up Foundation to travel to Washington for a week-long government studies program.

The invitation has been issued on behalf of the Board of Directors of CLOSE UP, by Dale Kummer, the foundation's community coordinator for Alaska.

"Washington is a city with innumerable resources and expertise and CLOSE UP seeks to capitalize on these opinions and information," Kummer said.

Kummer explained that during their week in Washington the students meet with members of Congress, journalists, experts on the executive and judicial branches and on foreign and domestic issues. The participants also take part in various tours of the city, attend a live theater performance, and have a final banquet and dance.

"The heart of the week is daily, small group workshops where the local students have the opportunity to share their ideas with students from other areas of the country," Kummer said. The Close Up program is open to all students in grades 10, 11, and 12 and there is no limit to the number

of participants from each school.

To ensure that all types of students are able to participate, CLOSE UP provides fellowship funds to each participating school for teacher and low-income students.

A teacher from each school also travels to Washington with the students so that the teachers may carry Washington resources back to their classroom.

The teachers and some of the students may also participate in a televised seminar aired on the C-SPAN cable network through a grant to CLOSE UP from the Du Pont Company and R. J. Reynolds Industries, Inc.

Funds for these fellowships are made available through a congressional appropriation and matching community grants from Exxon Company, U.S.A.; MAPCO Inc.; R.J. Reynolds Industries, Inc.; and Sea-Land Corporation.

It is expected that more than 530 students and teachers from Alaska will be among the 23,000 from across the country to participate in CLOSE UP this year.

Close up

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Participating Schools

Alaska

1984/85 Close Up Program

Alaska Gateway REAA, Tok
Juneau Alternative High School,
Douglas
Anchorage Christian Academy,
Anchorage
Austin E. Lathrop High School,
Fairbanks
Bartlett High School, Anchorage
Ben Eielson High School, Eielson
AFB
Bethel Regional High School, Bethel
680B Reeve High School, FPO Seattle
Bristol Bay High School, Naknek
Central Correspondence, Juneau
Chugiak Gruening High School, Eagle
River
Cordova High School, Cordova
Delta High School, Delta Junction
Dillingham High School, Dillingham
Dimond High School, Anchorage
East Anchorage High School,

Anchorage

Fairbanks Alternative High School,
Fairbanks

Glennallen High School, Glennallen
Grace Baptist School, Homer
Haines High School, Haines
Homer High School, Homer
Hoonah High School, Hoonah
Juneau Douglas High School, Douglas
Kenai Central High School, Kenai
Ketchikan High School, Ketchikan

Kodiak High School, Kodiak
Kodiak Island Borough School
District, Kodiak

Kuspuk School District, Stoney River
Lower Kuskokwim REAA, Bethel
Lower Yukon REAA, Mountain
Village

Monroe Catholic High School,
Fairbanks

Nenana High School, Nenana
Nikolaevsk High School, Anchor
Point

Ninilchik High School, Ninilchik

North Pole High School, Fairbanks
North Slope Borough High School,
Barrow

Northwest Arctic School District,
Kotzebue

Palmer High School, Palmer
Petersburg High School, Petersburg
Prince of Wales High School, Craig
Railbelt School District, Healy

"Close Up not only taught us about
American Government, but it also pro-
vided an opportunity to interact with
other teachers and students from dif-
ferent areas of the country. This is
especially important for teachers and
students from rural Alaska, and the ex-
perience has been both socially and
culturally beneficial," said Kenneth R.
Schneider, a teacher in the Lower
Kuskokwim School District.

Alaska demonstrated that
geographical distance from
Washington is no barrier to citizenship
education. Alaska began participating
in CLOSE UP in 1979 when educators
traveled five hundred miles to meet in
Juneau, Fairbanks, and Anchorage to
hear about CLOSE UP and to begin
their activities in the state. The fear
that it would be impossible to coor-
dinate such a broad geographical area
was laid to rest.

In 1985 more than 500 students and
teachers traveled approximately 4,000
miles to the nation's capital — with
some having to come an additional
9,000 miles to their point of departure
— to take part in the Washington
CLOSE UP Program. Probably not
since the statehood bill was passed had
more Alaskans visited Washington at
one time.

During this week-long stay,
Alaskan students and teachers met
with the Alaskan congressional delega-
tion and participated in a statewide
television program hosted by Sen.
Frank Murkowski and Rep. Don
Young. The students attended
seminars on current national issues and
met with students from other areas of
the country to discuss community
similarities and differences.

Alaska can rightfully boast of hav-
ing one of the most comprehensive
local CLOSE UP efforts in the nation.
Several series of six-day, issue-
intensive, state residential programs
were held in Juneau this year.
ALASKA CLOSE UP, sponsored by
the state Legislature and administered
by Alaska Management Technologies,
Inc., offers school districts an oppor-
tunity to participate in these events.