

# Atautchimukta: Multicultural, Bilingual Conference February 17-19

"Atautchimukta - Let Us All Come Together" will be the theme of the Seventh Annual Alaska Bilingual-Multicultural Education Conference to be held at the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel February 17-19.

The conference, cosponsored by the Alaska Bilingual-Bicultural Advisory Council and the Alaska Department of Education, is expected to draw as many as 600 teachers, students, community members, classroom aides, school board members and university personnel. The three-day meeting will include a choice of more than 54 workshops.

Keynote address of the conference will be given on Tuesday morning by Willie Hensley, president of NANA Development Corporation. He will speak on maintaining ethnic cultures and languages within a modern social and economic context.

Seven-eighths of this year's conference leaders are Alaskan. School districts were asked early in the planning stages what workshops they would like to have and what they could contribute. "It's truly a grassroots conference," said Mike Travis, Department of Education bilingual-bicultural education specialist. "The conference would not be possible without the time and expertise contributed by the school districts and other educational organizations and agencies."

Ethnic arts and crafts, some available for purchase by school districts for instructional purposes, will be exhibited along with materials developed for bilingual/multicultural education. Aleut, Yup'ik Eskimo, Athabascan, Philipino, Korean, Japanese, Hispanic, Inupiaq Eskimo,

Tlingit and St. Lawrence Island ethnic groups will provide entertainment.

Of special interest this year are a series of 16 workshops especially for parents and six sessions especially for high school students. Visits to An-

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chorage are scheduled to encourage sharing cultures among visitors and residents.

In other general sessions, Christina Bratt Paulston, director of the University of Pittsburgh English Language Institute will speak on TESOL, an international nonprofit organization for teaching English as a foreign language, a second language or a

dialect. Michael Krauss, linguist at the University of Alaska's Alaska Native Language Center

will speak on maintaining and reviving Alaskan Native languages.

Workshop topics will range widely from "Implementing Civil Rights Grants" to "Evaluating Children's Literature" and "Community Resources." In line with the conference theme, special consideration will be given to the interdependency of generations in successful multicultural education.

Conference participants may elect to register for one college credit for the three

days through either the University of Alaska or Alaska Pacific University. More information about the conference is available from the University of Alaska, Department of Conferences and Institutes, 117 Eielson Building, Fairbanks, AK 99701 or phone 479-7800.