

ACC Selected to Work with Adult Literacy Lab

Anchorage Community College has been selected to participate in a federally-funded Adult Literacy Lab (ALL) project, aimed at reducing illiteracy in rural villages of Alaska.

The college will prepare an audio-visual system which can be used by VISTA volunteers to instruct Alaska natives in their far-flung villages, and using the native language.

The instructional program will include English, mathematics, fishing, nutrition, health and other topics of general interest to the villagers, according to

James Irany, as assistant professor of sociology and head of the division of community services at ACC.

"Meaningful audio-visual materials will be used," he said, "such as using symbols of seals, fish, and dogs to teach arithmetic rather than more abstract symbols used in most classrooms."

The program will be field

tested in four Alaska villages between now and next July. When approved, it will be expanded for use in wide areas of rural Alaska.

Funding for the program will come from the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Division of Vocational Education.

ACC staff members working directly on the project include Nancy Gross, Laura Hendricks, Gretchen Bersch, and Reginald Hendricks.