

Crow is good choice for Native Student Services

by George Owletuck

The new Chancellor of University of Alaska Anchorage recently selected Alice Crow of Bethel as Director of Native Student Services (NSS). The Search Committee recommended three finalists after scrutinizing over forty highly qualified applicants. Chancellor Gorsuch made the right choice in Alice Crow, her appointment represents a victory for Alaska's Native students.

Historically, UAA Native students felt Vice Chancellor Kingry of Student Services was not sensitive to the interests of minority and Native students. Not enough

of the Student Services budget is allocated to Native Student Services, in addition, we fear that the proposed budget cuts will be disproportionately taken out of NSS. Several years ago, Native students marched on campus in protest; securing space in the new business building. The Administration recently provided new computer systems as well. Native Student Services is critical to the success of rural students in college, many Native students apply to UAA but not enough are graduating.

In order to circumvent the limitations imposed on past Native Student Service Directors, suggestions are being made to Chan-

cellor Gorsuch that the NSS Director report directly to his office. Perhaps this is necessary to ensure that the services for Native students will not be cut off or restricted. Other departments may raise objection to such an arrangement, arguing that they too should have direct access to the Chancellor's office. To address this, the position of Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Native Affairs should be created. This person would work closely with the Director of Native Student Services to accomplish mutual objectives for the benefit of Native students. Native students have

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too few Native role models in the UAA bureaucracy and faculty ranks. However, the Administration is attempting to ensure equitable treatment for all, the Chancellor is working to create a positive atmosphere at UAA.

Chancellor Gorsuch did well selecting Alice Crow as Director for Native Student Services; she will need wide community support to address the challenges faced by the University in its

good-faith efforts to educate Native students. Ms. Crow is very qualified for the position. Alice earned a bachelors in Business Administration and worked in the UAA Affirmative Action office. Ms. Crow's business credentials and experience in the academic arena will serve students and the University well, it's too bad she isn't serving on the Calista Board of Directors, she'd serve Calista shareholders well too.