



From left, Natasha and Jeff Williams, Tonia Swink, Theresa Mata, Cheryl Dodson (chaperone) and Shawn Williams.

Southeast youths honored at Indian Youth Conference in Oklahoma

Five Southeast Alaska Native youths have won awards and recognition at the Indian Youth Vocational Conference, held in Oklahoma in July.

The purpose of the conference is to promote career skills, to allow Native youth to learn about different Native cultures and to share their own, and to develop leadership skills.

The week-long conference, on the campus of the Sequoyah Indian Boarding School in Tahlequah, Okla., was attended by more than 50 tribes and 300 Native American youths. The conference was hosted by the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma.

The awards for the most outstanding girl and boy went to Tonia Swink, a Tsimshian from Ketchikan, and Shawn Williams, a Tlingit-Eskimo from Klawock.

The Southeastern Natives won the second place trophy for their singing, dancing and storytelling.

Among other honors and awards:

—Theresa Mata received a gold

medalion for public speaking.

—Tonia Swink received an eagle feather pin for public speaking, and was voted acting secretary for the conference.

—Jeff Williams accepted first and third place awards for his team's sports activities.

—Natasha Williams was voted third vice-president for the 1987 Youth Conference to be held in Santa Fe, N.M., and placed seventh in the three-mile run.

—Shawn Williams placed fourth in the three-mile run, and won a number of awards in sports events.

The five award winners work in the summer Tlingit-Haida youth employment program. They were chosen to attend the conference by their supervisors on the basis of attitude, attendance, willingness to learn and job performance.

The youth were sponsored by the Tlingit-Haida Central Council and the Ketchikan School District.