

Credits Offered In X - CED Program

During the Spring semester of 1981, the X-CED Program underwent a review and evaluation of its teacher education program by the Alaska Department of Education. The evaluation and review was done by a team of people associated with the many aspects of education in rural Alaska. Team members visited two X-CED Regions as well as the University in Fairbanks and they spoke with X-CED students, school personnel, community people and X-CED staff members.

The team, after reviewing its findings, recommended to the State Board of Education that the X-CED Program be given a four year conditional approval, with interim reviews every two years. The State Board approved the recommendation at a meeting held in Juneau in June.

This approval means that X-CED students will be certified to teach by the State of Alaska upon completion of the teacher education component and receipt of degree from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

In its report, the team noted three strengths of the X-CED teacher training program. The first is that it represents the first time rural Alaskans have had the opportunity to gain control of their destiny in an educational program. The second is that the Program provides students with positive learning experiences, thus enhancing their self-concept based on skills and information utilized in a curriculum that is based on intimate knowledge of the school and the community in which the students live. The fact that they are involved in the schools is a particular strength of the program. Third, the program is undergraduate and graduate degree program in cross-cultural education, including elementary, secondary and bilingual options, along with a non-teaching degree in human resource development.

Over the years, the State of Alaska gradually began providing funds for the program, first through the Alaska Department of Education, which then contracted with the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.