

Vocational Teachers Meet at University

Seventy-six Alaska vocational teachers have completed their first state-wide conference on vocational education in a two-day meet on the University of Alaska campus.

Under the leadership of Dr. Earl R. Hepler, director of vocational education for the State Department of Education, the teachers discussed the needs of education related to employment in Alaska and how these needs may be adequately met in the future.

Dr. Charles W. Lafferty, superintendent, North Star Borough School district, said that "no high school in Alaska should graduate a single student who was not ready to go into employment upon high school graduation or who was not going on into further education."

The Borough school district was the first local district in the state to hire a full-time director of vocational education.

Furthermore, Dr. Lafferty said that if a student could not continue in schooling beyond high school, then "it is the responsibility of the school to have provided education to make him an employable member of his community."

State Department of Education group leaders included Dr. Hepler; Mrs. Mildred Foster, assistant state director, vocational education; Mrs. Phyllis Davis, supervisor, home economics and Mrs. Robert Miller, supervisor, trades, industries and fisheries.

Mr. James O'Cara of Portland, Oregon, assisted with discussions on the newly-emerging vocational office occupations and distributive education and Mr. Walter Ward, principal, Palmer High School, was leader of the agricultural sectional.

Throughout the conference, Alaska's vocational instructors were given an opportunity to discover what other teachers are doing and what their future teaching might incorporate, through these group discussions.

Teachers of agriculture, distributive education, home economics, office occupations and trades and industrial education attended the meeting which followed the theme, "What Is Ahead for Vocational Education in Alaska?"