

Native rural students get jump on health studies

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Alaskan Native students from various places in Alaska are spending six weeks in Anchorage to prepare themselves for a career in health care.

The Summer Enrichment Program, which is administered by the Alaska Native Foundation, has been bringing in high school junior and senior students for the past three years.

The 20 students are selected on the basis of grades, letters of recommendation, interest and aptitude in the health field. But Director Mike McKeown said, "The variable is motivation. We look for motivation."

"There are three to four applications for every opening. It's a shame we have to turn some students down," McKeown said. He added, "We do hope to expand it, to take in more students and expand the skills area."

Three main classes are offered during the six-week course and the students get three college credits. The courses are math, science and study skills (an English-type class). In addition to attending classes and participating in laboratory exercises the students attend lectures. Lecture speakers usually are members of the Anchorage medical profession. The students also tour Anchorage hospitals and other medical facilities.

Part of the students' course work involved using a computer. The computer is used to enhance that meant, science and the study skills classes.

McKeown said, "We have the students pretty much tied up from 8 to 5."

McKeown said many of the students prefer the science course over others. Dorothy Slats from Chevak said she enjoyed the class because she was learning about chemicals and chemicals' scientific abbreviations. She had taken a science course in high school but "not like this one."

"The intent (of the program) is to make them stay in college," McKeown said. Many of the students attend college in Alaska or leave the state after completing the program. Sixty-nine percent of the students from the program have gone on to college and still are in college, according to McKeown. "All of them have an interest in the medical field. Most of them are interested in nursing," he said. Many of the students go into some type of science program.

Funding for the program comes from various sources including the Josiah Masey Foundation (based in New York), State of Alaska, Indian Health Service and the Atlantic Richfield Foundation.

McKeown said, "We try to find as many sources as possible." A variety of sources means more financial security since there's the chance a funding source could dry up.

According to McKeown, the cost of running the six-week program is \$90,000. Student transportation, student housing, and room and board is paid for by the program.

Student expenses such as books are also paid for by the program. There are nine staff members. Classrooms, offices, and other miscellaneous expenses are included under the ex-

pense list. During the winter operation, costs are approximately \$45,000 according to McKeown.

"There's truly a statewide representation. A lot of them are from small villages," McKeown said.

The students are: Charlie

Beans, Mountain Village; Joanne Beck, Eagle; Mary Edwards, Holy Cross; Catherine Gray, Ketchikan; Carolyn Haakenson, Port Lions; Ruth Harris, Kotzebue; Janet Hunt, Kotlik; Geraldine Simon, College; Dorothy Slats, Chevak; Karen Turner, Anchorage; Laurinda Weston, Mekor-

yuk; April James, Gambell; Nancy Luke, St. Mary's; Raymond Masuleak, Barrow; Agnes Nicholai, Eek; Oydia Olympic, Igigig; Lorrena Prince, Kotlik; Leslie Masuleak, Barrow; Agnes Nicholai, Eek; Oydia Olympic, Igigig; Lorrena Prince, Kotlik; Leslie Ward, Anchorage.