

AFN's Leask announces awards to recognize outstanding Natives

Alaska Federation of Natives President Janie Leask has announced the establishment of "The President's Awards" to be presented annually at AFN's October convention in the areas of health, education, housing and small business.

Leask said the aim is give Native people an opportunity to recognize Alaska Natives who have made substantial contributions and have demonstrated strong commitment, competence and sensitivity in their fields on behalf of Natives.

In the past, she said, there has not been a statewide forum in which Native could recognize such significant contributions made by their own people.

A special Della Keats "Healing Hands" award also will be presented.

Nominations for the awards must be received at the AFN offices by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 30. The address is 411 W. Fourth Ave., Suite 301, Anchorage 99501.

The awards include:

- The President's Award for Education is for an Alaska Native in the educational field whose accomplishments have improved the educational opportunities of Alaska Natives.

Nominations for the award may be made for individuals who are involved in traditional education, pre-school, elementary, secondary or post-

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AFN seeks nominees for new awards

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secondary education who have had a positive impact on Native people and their lives.

Nominees could include traditional/cultural educators, parent committee members, teachers, teacher aides, school board members, administrators, advocates of education and all education-related professions.

Criteria considered important include respect of elders, peers and youth; ability to foster greater self-esteem and pride in Native people; ongoing involvement in education-related community activities; ability to effectively bridge gaps between parents, students, school and community; and quality work which sparks life-long learning as an important process for

native people.

•The President's Award for Indian Housing is for an Alaska Native in the housing field whose accomplishments have improved the housing conditions and opportunities of Alaska Natives.

Nominations for the award may be made for individuals who are housing commissioners and administrators, field staff personnel working on housing-related activities, community members active in housing issues for their community and all housing professions and disciplines.

Among criteria considered most important for this award is the role the nominee has played in the development of Alaska housing.

•The President's Award for Small Business is for an Alaska Native who

in the business field whose accomplishments have improved the economic opportunities of Alaska Natives.

Nominations for the award may be made for dedicated individuals who are involved in activities such as village store operations, fish processing, natural resources development, arts and crafts, transportation, services and small community projects.

Criteria considered important include response to adversity — examples of problems faced by the business and the solutions taken in resolving them; staying power — a substantiated history as an established business in Alaska; employment opportunities — impact of the business on job opportunities in the community; evidence of contributions by the nominee in community-related activities; nominee's ability to foster greater self-esteem and pride in Native people; and respect of elders, peers and community.

•The President's Award for Health is for an Alaska Native in the health field whose accomplishments have improved the health of Alaska Natives.

Nominations for the award may be in the areas of advocacy, health program administration and health promotion.

Nominees could include "638" contractors, IHS personnel, political advocates and all health professionals.

•The Special Della Keats Healing Hands Award is for an Alaska Native health care provider whose accomplishments have most directly affected Native people in their home community.