

Crumb heads Anchorage schools community relations

Ms. Jeanmarie Crumb, newly-appointed Director of Community Relations for the Anchorage School District, cites cultural differences as basic as body language as a culprit for minority

children's learning difficulties.

Ms. Crumb explains that these children start with pre-disposed roadblocks.

An example she uses is the message received when a person

looks another in the eye. Its meaning for the Native, Black or Hispanic youngster is not the same as for a white child.

A teacher must be in tune with these differences, she says.

An Alaska Native of Athabascan Indian heritage, Ms. Crumb has 11 years experience as an Alaskan educator and administrator. She has served as program coordinator for the Alaska Student Higher Education Services, deputy administrator for the Alaska State-Operated School System rural teacher training program, and as a trainer in the Alaska Native Foundation village management assistance program.

From 1975 until 1977, Crumb was president and executive director

of the Cook Inlet Native Association, a large regional non-profit corporation with 15 departments and 150 employees.

At the Anchorage School District, Crumb says her approach will be a practical one.

As Community Relations Director, she will be a community liaison, conduct community forums, and will publish a monthly newsletter and parent resource booklet.

Ms. Crumb was born in Fairbanks, spent preschool days in Nenana, attended Fairbanks public schools and is a graduate of Lathrop High School. She was awarded a bachelor of arts degree in history and secondary



Ms. Jeanmarie Crumb

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education from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks in 1968. She earned a master's of education degree from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education in 1975.

Ms. Crumb is married to Lewis Crumb, an accountant, and is the stepmother of Desiree, 18, and Katrina, 16.