

Alaskan artist-designed blanket given to UAF museum

by Jamie Tanner
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The University of Alaska Fairbanks held a reception at the university museum Dec. 12 for the Pendleton quilt which is part of the Athabascan Heritage Collection.

The quilt was created by artist Kathleen Carlo and is the first of four such quilts in the spirit keeper series sponsored by the Doyon Foundation.

About 1000 of the quilts will be sold at the museum for a limited time. The first 300 quilts will be signed by the artist and sold for \$300 each. The remaining quilts will be sold for \$250.

The Doyon Foundation sponsored this fundraiser for educational programs in the area. "This is an effort to share with and promote Native artists with the public. Doyon funds are all structured to instill a cultural pride within the community," says

Miranda Wright, Doyon executive director.

The quilt was manufactured by the Pendleton Woolen Mills Company in Portland, Ore. This is one of the oldest companies to produce the Indian trading blankets. The blankets are 64" x 80" and 100 percent wool.

The quilt is entitled "Seyelneyoo," meaning 'my relatives.' The quilt characterizes the Koyukon Athabascan oral tradition. It is a story of three Athabascan clans: the bear clan, shown by bear prints; the caribou clan, depicted by caribou horns; and water, shown as three wavy lines. The background is inspired by the color of smoked moose skins, according to Carlo.

"When I heard about the competition in the Doyon region, I entered because they helped me go to school and get a bachelor of fine arts degree. I just wanted to give something back," says Carlo.