

State Utilizes Mt. Edgecumbe To Graduate Work Trainees

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JUNEAU, ALASKA—August 15 will be graduation day for 54 trainees enrolled in the "Multi-Occupation Course for Youth" at Mt. Edgecumbe, Commissioner of Labor Thomas J. Moore announced today.

According to Moore, the course marked the first time the State has utilized the Bureau of Indian Affairs school for one of its training programs. Arrangements for its use were made by Senator Ted Stevens.

The Commissioner said the MDTA course was designed as an employment orientation program for high school drop-outs between the ages of 17 and 21. He added all of the trainees are rural Alaskans who were recruited from every section of the State.

The seven-week course includes basic training in woodworking, mechanics, clerk-typist duties, food service and an opportunity to complete high school equivalency examination (GED test).

Highlights of the course are student discussions with selected

employers and representatives of organized labor about job requirements and opportunities in various industries.

"These discussions were planned to help the trainees select a career by talking to people directly involved in different occupations," Moore said. "We expect these talks to lead to some immediate job offers in addition to creating a desire among the students to continue their education in order to qualify for the more highly skilled occupations."

The commissioner of labor added the course was "an excellent example" of federal-state cooperation and the interest of industry and labor in helping rural Alaskans to obtain gainful employment.

The Alaska Department of Labor recruited the trainees, contacted the labor and business leaders, and will assist in the placement of graduates. The State Department of Education provided the teachers, set up the curriculum and conducted the training.