

UA Native students welcome Elaine

By SUE GAMACHE

"For the first time in Alaska's history we've seen the Native people unite for a common cause," Elaine Ramos, newly-appointed vice-president of Rural Education stated, "and I'm very grateful to all of those who supported me."

An informal welcome reception was held for her by Special Orientation Services (SOS) at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks last week.

Mark John, president of the Native Student Organization (NSO) on campus welcomed Ms. Ramos saying that he was very happy that she had been appointed to the new position. "I realize that the job is very important."

John went on to say that there

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WELCOMING NEW VICE-PRESIDENT OF RURAL EDUCATION—Elaine Ramos, left, newly-appointed official of UA's Rural Education, is being welcomed by people at the University of Alaska. Left to right: Ramos, Mark John, Native Student Organization, president; and Toni Jones, SOS.

Elaine Ramos. . .

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"needs to be a lot of work done on quality education in the villages in order to help the Native people adjust to the new changess being made."

Ms. Ramos commented on the progress of the Native people pointing out that for the first time in history there are Native Alaskans in the State Legislature.

She said that one of the questions she is concerned with is "how do we help our children prepare for the future so that they can still maintain their identity and not destroy their culture."

Past administrations have said that it is too expensive to deliver education to the bush, but Elaine Ramos doesn't think so. "We have already paid too much. The villages should determine the kind of education their children will receive. This is self determination."

Dennis Demmert, head of Native Students at the university said that with this new position he sees real changes in the university's attitude toward Native students and Native student needs."

He went on to say, "I hope this is a step in the real progress of Native needs. With Elaine in there I have high hopes."