

# Thompson named JOM student of year

Ryan Thompson was named winner of the Overall Student of the Year Award for 1989-90 at the Johnson O'Malley Student Awards Ceremony recently.

Thompson, originally from Mountain Village, has been coming to Anchorage to attend school since the age of 5. He is currently enrolled at West High School through the Alaska State School for the Deaf. He has lived in three foster homes in order to attend school in Anchorage and has lived in the Deaf Program's Student Learning Center for the past two years of high school.

Thompson is a student who has demonstrated inner strength and determination by performing exceptionally well in school in spite of the hardships he has had to overcome. Besides being deaf, Thompson has had to adjust to life in the city as opposed to small village life in his home. He also

has had to adjust to living with foster parents who at first were strangers to him.

Thompson has been actively involved in the West High School Culture Club and plays basketball. During the past two years, he has never missed a practice or a game. Thompson has also competed in the Native Youth Olympics for the past two years.

"Even though it's hard to be away from family and friends in Mountain Village, I like Anchorage because there are more deaf people to communicate and associate with here," Thompson said, speaking through interpreter Sharon Carriek.

After high school, Thompson plans to continue his education at college or a vocational school. He currently maintains a 3.308 grade point average. He is interested in becoming a printer.



Ryan Thompson

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*—Ryan Thompson*