

Alaskans get health awards

Nineteen Alaskans received national recognition for their contributions in improving the health of Alaska Natives and other rural Alaskans this fall, according to the Alaska Native Health Board.

The National Indian Health Board, representing all American Indians and Alaska Natives made the awards in Rapid City, S.D.

The two highest awards went to Robert Clark, executive director of the Bristol Bay Area Health Corp., based in Dillingham; and to Elenor McMullen, community health aide for the village of English Bay.

A major award also was received by Dr. William Richard, a psychiatrist in charge of federal Indian Health Service mental health and alcoholism programs in Alaska. Richards has worked for the Indian Health Service in Alaska since 1970.

Other recipients of national awards were:

- Anecia P. Active, a Yupik Native woman who has been the community

health aide in Togiak since 1974.

- Clara Morgan, a Yupik Native woman who is the health aide supervisor/instructor for the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corp. based in Bethel. She began her career as a health aide in Aniak in 1958.

- Betty Geraldine Nelson, a Koniag Native woman who is the community health aide for the village of Port Lions on Kodiak Island. She began as a volunteer health care provider in the village of Afognak in the 1950s.

- Cecelia "C.C." Bird, an Indian woman who is the social work associate for the Ketchikan Native Corp. in Ketchikan.

Also recognized were members of the Association of Regional Health Directors for:

- Spearheading efforts to get the state to contribute funds for training and supervising the more than 200 community health aides in all villages in rural Alaska in 1984.

- Helping create a unified response to the proposed IHS Resource Alloca-

tion Methodology, which if implemented in its initial form could have reduced federal assistance to Alaska by as much as \$24 million a year.

- Coordinating efforts to address cross-regional health needs and corresponding health legislative issues such as fee for services, malpractice, state standards for training, patient referral systems and others.

- Leading efforts to create standardized community health aide training across the state and to promote sharing of training and supervisory program materials.

- Promoting participation by their several staffs in many statewide task forces and gubernatorial groups, such as the Diabetes Task Force, the Ad Hoc Anemia Task Force, the EMS Advisory Board, the Mental Health Advisory Board, Drug and Alcohol Advisory Board and others.

- Providing liberal logistical support to the Alaska Native Health Board, the state-wide voice for the Native health concerns and issues.