

Agencies Start Training for All Minorities

Two Federal agencies have started special training programs to provide employment opportunities for Alaskans of all minority groups.

Through one such program initiated last spring by the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, native Alaskans receive training as air traffic controllers and electronic technicians. These positions have traditionally been filled through transfers of experienced personnel from other regions for tours of duty in Alaska.

The program is conducted in Nome, Alaska, and involves both job redesign and the use of special training agreements, in an effort to meet staffing needs for hard-to-fill technical specialties and to improve employment opportunities for Alaskan natives.

Another program has been developed by Commerce's Environmental Science Services Administration for the training and development of native Alaskans as weather observers.

Upon successful completion of the program which is conducted in cooperation with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior Department, trainees may begin careers as meteorologist technicians.

This is a MUST (Maximum Utilization of Skills and Training) type position which formerly required college training or special skills.

The training is held in Anchorage and includes not only skills development, but also training in consumer practices and community services. Trainees receive subsistence pay while in Anchorage and travel pay to the first duty station after training.