

UAF program offers science internship, class

FAIRBANKS — Science is an everyday part of life in rural Alaska, as it is everywhere around the world. People with a solid understanding of science can better predict when fish will run, how ice will break up and whether lynx will have enough snowshoe hares to eat.

The University of Alaska Fairbanks has a new program, Native Alaskan Action for Access to Science, specifically designed for Native Alaskans interested in pursuing careers in science, mathematics and engineering. The program is sponsored by the National Science Foundation.

The program includes a special "Science Perspectives" course, which acts as a "bridge" to the regular UAF science curriculum. Faculty from the UAF College of Natural Sciences have integrated study skills, science content and mathematical concepts in creating the four-credit course. This year, 15 Native students at UAF were enrolled in "Science Perspectives."

This summer, the program is also offering paid internships in science. The internships generally last from three to four weeks, offer the chance to travel, involve no expenses on the students' part and pay about \$200 a week. The program is open to university students and upper level high school students.

Internships are available in Native natural science, marine sciences, botany, geology and wildlife management. Some students will learn how to repair nets, while others may work aboard the *R/V Alpha Helix*, UAF's 133-foot research vessel. One geology student will spend 10 weeks in Greenland, living and working on the ice cap.

Those who want more information on the internships or the program are asked to call Cheryl Roussain, the program's coordinator, as soon as possible at 474-6739; or write to her at 614 Gruening, Fairbanks 99775.