

Demmert named to national education panel

Dennis Demmert, director of the Alaska Native Programs at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, has been named to the National Advisory Council on Indian Education.

As a member of the advisory panel, Demmert will have a

voice in setting the direction for Indian education programs on a nationwide basis. Demmert was recommended for the position by U.S. Sen. Ted Stevens.

The 15-member council meets annually in Washington

D.C. Members are appointed for three-year-terms.

Demmert said he hasn't received an extensive explanation of his responsibilities from the U.S. Department of Education but said the panel will be reporting on educational matters

to the president and Congress.

In the past the council has advised three primary committees — the House Education and Labor Committee; the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee and the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs.

One of Demmert's primary concerns is "the same issue facing most federal programs now, the anticipated cuts in programs."

Demmert said the federally funded Indian education programs have provided valuable help to Native students in the past because they respond to student needs. He said that cutting such a program could be harmful to Indian education programs.

After attending the village school in Craig, a BIA school in Sitka, and Sheldon Jackson High School and Junior College, he went on to receive a master's degree from Harvard, with graduate studies there and at Boston University.

Through the years Demmert

has served on a number of Alaska citizen education committees, including the Ketchikan Borough Board of Education, the Alaska Native Education Association, and the Task Force on Teacher Certification for the Alaska Department of Education.

He is a member of the Advisory Council on ESEA Title IV programs, and serves as chairman of the board of the Institute of Alaska Native Arts.

An Army veteran and former commercial fisherman and journeyman carpenter, Demmert has also held membership in the Central Council of Tlingit-Haida Indians, the Alaska Native Brotherhood, and was a U.S. representative at the UNESCO experts' Conference on Circumpolar Studies.

"I am pleased President Reagan chose Dennis for this post," Stevens said. "He is a well qualified, professional educator who has been deeply involved in Native education throughout his life. He should be an asset to the council."