

Kenai Community College graduation

Three recent graduates of Kenai Peninsula Community College found jobs with BP Alaska Inc. Vivian Cole of Kenai, Leroy Sommer of Nulato and Gilbert Long of Barrow had been attending K.P.C.C. on full two-year scholarships from BP Alaska. They earned Associate of Arts degrees in Petroleum Technology. Two other Native students, Caleb Livingston of Old Harbor and Al Mayac of Anchorage, also earned degrees under BP's scholarship program.

As part of their education, the students spent last summer working for BP at Prudhoe Bay. During the course of their summer's work, each held various positions to give them an understanding of how an oilfield is developed and to allow each to find his area of interest.

Cole and Sommer will be working for BP's Production Department, she as a laboratory technician trainee and he as an operator trainee. Long will work

as an instrument repairman apprentice for engineering.

BP's training and development specialist, R.T. (Dick) Kirksey, indicated his pleasure with the results of BP's scholarship program. "We've gotten some good employees," he states. "We're going to continue offering scholarships to Native

students," he continued. "One of Alaska's resources is our young people, and we want to utilize that resource."

The five graduates were the first Native students to be offered BP's two-year scholarships but, "we hope to be able to expand our program to include more students from the outlying areas," Kirksey said.



LEROY SOMMER, left, and Gilbert Long, right, look on as BP's Dick Kirksey congratulates Vivian Cole after graduation ceremonies at the Kenai Peninsula Community College earlier this month.