

CNER with ISEGR Publishes Booklet on Native Cultures

FAIRBANKS — The University of Alaska's Center for Northern Educational Research, in collaboration with the university's Institute of Social, Economic and Government Research, has just published a new booklet listing multi-media resource materials on Indian and Eskimo cultures.

The 59-page booklet, entitled "Multi-Media Resource List: Indian and Eskimo Culture in the North," was compiled and written by Diana L. Holzmüller of the university research center.

Many schools in Alaska are establishing new courses in Alaska native studies and attempting to integrate Indian and Eskimo

cultural materials into other school subjects, and the new booklet was prepared to assist teachers in these schools, says the author in the introduction.

Preparation of the booklet was requested and supported by James Harper, director of the Division of Regional Schools and Boarding Home Program in the

Alaska Department of Education.

The university research center will distribute it to Alaskan schools in the fall.

The booklet is specifically designed to help solve the teachers' frequently recurring problem of finding suitable materials for their courses. It is

an annotated bibliography of currently available books, periodicals, exhibits, lessons, and visual aids — classified by grade level — with addresses of places where these materials may be obtained.

Besides listing the wide variety of materials available to teachers, the booklet suggests uses that cover a variety of courses for students of different ages and backgrounds. In general, rural teachers can use them to supplement native students' knowledge of their own cultural heritage and that of others in Alaska. Urban teachers can use historical literature and exhibits to teach their students about the heritage of the North as a background to current social and economic changes.

More specifically, these materials will help in social science courses to develop understanding of past, present, and future changes in the North. In economics, the traditional subsistence economy can be compared to a cash economy and the problems involved in transition from one to the other can be illustrated by those Alaska village economies that supplement subsistence activity with part-time employment and cash purchases.

Poetry and legends of the Indians and Eskimo can be used to stimulate students' interest in literature. Materials on traditional native handicrafts, food, sports and games can help meet the increased interest in the Alaska Native peoples' customs and life styles.

In sum, imaginative teachers in many areas will find ways to use this resource list to increase both white and native students' understanding of and respect for the cultural heritage and contemporary dynamics of the North.