

Tlingit-Haida Council receives HUD training funds

The HUD Office of Native American Programs has awarded \$2,000,000 in Indian Community Development Block Grants to The Central Council of Tlingit and Haida. The Central Council of Tlingit and Haida will administer the grants which were individually awarded to the villages of Skagway Village, Douglas Indian Association, Chilkoot Indian Association, Hoonah Indian Association, Organized Village of Saxman, and The Central Council of Tlingit and Haida. The grants will be used for construction of a facility for delivery of job training and entrepre-

neurship services to low and moderate income Native Americans. Other partners in this endeavor include The Central Council, U.S. Department of Education and Administration for Native American Programs, who also contributed \$838,000 for the project.

The vision for this facility is to empower tribal members to create sustainable, self-sufficient lifestyles that are achievable and in agreement with traditional values. It will benefit village residents by providing community members with the opportunity to access culturally appropriate and Native-oper-

ated training. The Center's vocational training priorities include computers, small business and tourism, construction, value-added manufacturing, tribal government and public administration, health/social services and mining.

Marlin Knight, administrator for the Alaska HUD Office of Native American Programs, stated, "This vocational training center is one of our major initiatives of partnering with Alaska Native villages to prepare their members for emerging jobs, technologies and local industries.

The Central Council of Tlingit and Haida is to be commended for their ongoing efforts to promote job creation and training, which will assist many families to move from welfare to work."

The Vocational Center will be located in Juneau, but will bring classes to rural communities and provide distance delivery options for accessibility to any community in Southeast Alaska. If you have any questions, contact Eric Davenport, project director, at (907) 586-1432.