

# Workshop targets opportunities for nurses

by Anne Malone  
for the Tundra Times

Registered Nurse Catherine Bray, an Eskimo from the Thirteenth Regional Corp., is keenly aware of recent changes in the field of nursing.

These changes, according to Bray, were a major factor in her decision two years ago to continue her education.

Bray, who had graduated from Seattle Community College in 1984 and was working in the Seattle area as a licensed practical nurse, wrote then: "I can see the writing on the wall. In order to make any advancement in my chosen field, I will need more education."

In 1984, with the help of an Alaska Native Health Career Program scholarship, Bray enrolled in the nursing program at Clark College in Vancouver, Wash.

Last December, Bray, a 35-year-old single parent with an 11-year-old son, realized her dream when she graduated from Clark College with an associate degree in nursing. As a registered nurse, Bray is now closer to her goal of becoming a specialist in the field of coronary care.

Nurses like Bray who are interested in making career changes and persons interested in a career in nursing will find helpful information at a workshop Friday, presented by the Alaska Native Health Career Program.

The workshop, "Nursing Career Opportunities," will feature a panel discussion on the opportunities available to nurses and the role Alaska Native and other minority nurses are playing in this rapidly changing field.

The workshop will be held from 1:30 to 4 p.m. in Room 105 of the

University of Alaska/Anchorage Community College Campus Center. Admission is free.

The workshop moderator will be Katherine Johnson, a registered nurse and the director of the Alaska Native Health Career Program.

Panelists will include Joanne Thorpe, a nurse at the Alaska Native Medical Center; Jolene Ozawa, a graduate of ACC's Nursing Program; and LaVonne Carole, a nurse practitioner returning to the University of Alaska to complete her four-year nursing degree.

Also on the panel will be Regina Thomas and Dora Croy, both of whom are licensed practical nurses returning to school to complete their associate degrees at ACC and to obtain registered nurse status.

The workshop will provide nurses, nursing students and those interested in nursing careers with information on career opportunities in the nursing field and on the tutorial and scholarship assistance available to nursing students through the Alaska Native Health Career Program.

The workshop also will be an opportunity to congratulate the five Alaska Native Health Career Program nursing scholarship recipients who are graduating during the 1986-87 academic year: Catherine Bray, Akiko Ogura, Barbara Walicki, Dora Croy and Mary Nelson.

Those who want more information on the workshop or on the services available to nursing students may write to the Alaska Native Health Career Program, University of Alaska, Rural Education Office, 3890 University Lake Drive, Anchorage 99508; or call 786-4664.



*Nurse Catherine Bray, 35, graduated recently.*