

Humble Oil Sponsors Village Art Program

Three University of Alaska professors will take their classrooms to seven Arctic villages next month under a pilot art awareness program funded by Humble Oil & Refining Co.

The team will be made up of Art Department Head Helmut Van Flein, Professor Glen Simpson and Professor Ron Senungutuk.

Villages scheduled to be visited during August under the program are Nightmute, Tanunak, Kwethluk, Diomedes, Gambell, Savoonga and Wainwright.

"Each of us will spend about a week in one of the villages,"

Professor Van Flein said. "In this short period we do not expect to 'teach' art in a formal sense, but we do hope to help the Native artists refine their techniques and improve their production methods."

"We will also encourage young people in the villages to maintain the artistic traditions of their communities and impress upon them the fact that good traditional art is commercially valuable. It commands both respect and premium prices," he said.

The University of Alaska has a similarly purposed campus centered program for Native artists. The new Humble-funded project is designed to broaden the scope of the University's on-going effort.