

SJC, ANEC cosponsor Native education forum

Sheldon Jackson College and the Alaska Native Education Council will co-sponsor the third annual Higher Education Forum on Alaska Native Education to be held Feb. 19-23 in Sitka on the historic Sheldon Jackson campus. The theme of this year's forum will be Alaska Natives and Oral Traditions in Education and will focus on developing new ways to bring oral tradition and storytelling into curriculum and classroom methodology.

Who should attend?

Educational administrators, classroom teachers, Alaska Native educators, School Board members, students, future teachers, all those interested in bringing Native

Ways of Knowing into the classroom.

What will be happening?

Storytellers from around the state will present some of their legends, historical knowledge and information. They will share their experiences in bringing this form of knowledge transmission into classroom situations and make recommendations to teachers and educators on how to improve on the use of oral tradition. Teachers, educators and students will meet in small group to discuss the use of oral traditions and how to incorporate this methodology into their lesson plans as well as how to systematically change the way formal educational structures and

institutions view storytelling. Educators will develop specific recommendations to present to school administrators, school boards colleges and universities.

Dr. Kenneth Cameron, president of Sheldon Jackson College, hopes that this year's forum will continue the themes '95 and '96 Higher Education Forums by focusing on the continued need for college and universities to create environments where Alaska Native students can succeed. "The best foundation for a good life is a good education," said Cameron, "so I believe that the education institutions of this state need to find relevant ways to

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bring oral tradition and storytelling into the classroom."

The Forum will take place on campus of Sheldon Jackson College. Not only is Sitka small and most conducive to this kind of retreat, but also SJC has a century old tradition of educating Alaska Natives. SJC exists to serve the academic needs of Alaska Native people.

The First Higher Education Forum addressed the reasons behind the lower success rates of Alaska Native students in comparison to non-Native college students. The theme of the Second Forum was Alaska Native students in comparison to non-Native college students. The theme of the Second Forum was Alaska Natives and the Alaskan Justice System. The findings of these three day retreats are documented in published reports. Many recommendations were made by the forum participants. A number of the recommendations have been implemented at SJC and elsewhere. Among the recommendations was the mandate that the forum become an annual event to maintain continuous dialog, to evaluate the progress made in educational delivery systems for Alaska Native students and to address other issues facing the future leaders of Alaska Natives.

Concurrent events in Sitka: Alaska Native Education Council Board meeting, Southeast Alaska Native Educators meeting, Southeast Alaska Native Summer Institute Planning, Mt. Edgecumbe Golden Anniversary Celebration, SJHS/MEHS "Old-timers" basketball challenge rematch.