

Oil-Oriented Training

COLLEGE—Eight major oil companies join this summer with the Alaska Department of Labor and Education and the Bureau of Indian Affairs in offering a special pilot program, "Orientation to the Oil Industry."

The ten-week program, conducted at the BIA facilities at Mt. Edgecumbe-Sitka, is being administered locally under contract by the Sitka Community College.

The Community College has provided five full-time instructors, two Adult Basic Education teachers, two professional counselors, three dormitory supervisors and a recreation director. The oil industry has added nine full-time instructors to the staff.

Currently enrolled are 115 students from 37 areas of the state; the participants vary widely in age, education and experience.

To handle the training, the group was divided into nine classes, with each class rotating through nine separate weeks of training, including product knowledge, shop tools, heavy tools, materials handling and construction practices, field operations and equipment, controls, trouble shooting, administrative practice, and camp services.

Judging by the students' written comments, instructor evaluations, and the results of exten-

sive individual counseling, the program has thus far been well-received.

Highlights of the program include instruction in the operation of a portable rig, the handling and laying of a pipeline, safe industrial practices, welding, maintenance of equipment in severely cold weather, driver training, and study of electrical, electronic and paper controls.

Participants who need to improve reading, writing or mathematics skills receive regular help which does not interfere with

their progress in the rest of the program.

Some 130 films are available to assist in presentation, in addition to the newest oil industry teaching-learning aids for the classroom. Speakers from Sitka business and industry have also been invited to describe their activities to the students.

Mr. Louis J. Licari, Resident Director of the Sitka Community College, is program administrator. Mr. Robert W. Dorman of New York is industry training advisor.