

Sohio announces new scholarship for Alaskans

ANCHORAGE - Sohio Alaska Petroleum Company President, George N. Nelson, announced today the company has begun a new Alaska scholarship program for graduating high school seniors, beginning with this year's class.

The new program is called the Sohio-Principals' Scholarship Program since high school principals from around Alaska will be selecting the recipients. Twenty-five scholarships, each worth \$4,000 over four years, will be awarded annually to graduates from 25 schools.

The Commissioner of Education for the State of Alaska will select one of the annual winners to receive an additional Sohio-Commissioner's Scholarship of \$4,000 per year. That student will receive a four-year-total of \$20,000 in Sohio scholarships.

Nelson said, "This new program has grown from the scholarship program we have had for the past six years. We feel it will be more responsive to the needs of the students who will now be able to use the scholarship money at any accredited, post-secondary institution for the vocational or degree program of their choice."

"There are opportunities in Alaska for people with all sorts of skills," Nelson continued, "So we lifted the requirement that Sohio scholarship recipients be enrolled in a technically-oriented degree program."

The new scholarship program was developed in cooperation with the Alaska Association of Secondary Principals (AASSP) which, through its Board of Directors, will also be instrumental in the year-to-year administra-

tion of the program. The Board of Directors of AASSP represents all of Alaska's school districts.

The 20 high schools with enrollments of 225 or more students will alternate annually in awarding ten of the 25 Sohio scholarships. These schools represent about two-thirds of Alaska's student population. The remaining 15 annual scholarships will be awarded to students from Alaska's other 226 schools (average enrollment - 34), which have graduating high school seniors.

The AASSP and Sohio have identified the following ten larger schools to begin the new program this year with the respective principals selecting the recipients: East High School-Anchorage West High School-Anchorage Dimond High School-Anchorage

Lathrop High School-Fairbanks Juneau-Douglas High School Wasilla High School North Pole High School Soldotna High School Kodiak High School SAVE I High School - Anchorage

The remaining 15 scholarships will be awarded by the Board of AASSP to graduates from the state's smaller schools. In making their scholarship award decisions, principals, the AASSP

Board and the Commissioner of Education will use the following, non-weighted criteria: academic achievement, leadership potential, community/school involvement and financial need.

When the program is fully implemented four years from now, Sohio will be awarding \$116,000 each year in new and continuing scholarships to 100 Alaskan students.

The ten larger high schools which will be eligible for Sohio-Principals' scholarships in 1986 are Service, Bartlett, Chugiak, West Valley, Ketchikan, Palmer, Eielson, Kenai, Homer and Sitka.