

APU awarded contract for bilingual center

Alaska Pacific University has been awarded a federal contract to establish a Multifunctional Resource Center in Anchorage.

The half-million dollar contract is designed to set up programs for Limited English Proficient students throughout the state. The award became effective October 1.

The resource center will be administered by APU's Native Institute Director Ramona N. Suetopka-Duerre. The center will have three

primary goals:

- To provide training and technical assistance to educational personnel and parents who are in bilingual education programs.

- To gather and provide information to other Multifunctional Resource Centers.

- To establish activities in conjunction with the bilingual program funded under the U.S. Bilingual Education Act.

Although the majority of students in

bilingual education programs are Eskimo or Alaskan Indian, there are many students of Japanese, Spanish, Russian, Korean, German and other cultures living in Alaska.

"In total, there are over 106 different language groups among the 52 Alaska school districts," said Suetopka-Duerre.

"In essence, we're talking about any child with a limited English vocabulary."

According to Suetopka-Duerre, there are 16 regional resource centers across the United States that share information. Alaska is a self-contained region with supervising headquarters in Portland, Ore.