

Dixon new President of Inupiat U

BARROW—The Board of Trustees of Inupiat University of the Arctic announced the appointment of Ross Ivan Dixon as president of the Barrow college.

Selected from a field of sixty candidates, Dixon is considered uniquely qualified to head the Eskimo-controlled institution which seeks to meet postsecondary educational needs against difficult odds on Alaska's North Slope.

Dixon's recent experience has been as president of Central New England College, Worcester, Massachusetts, where he also served previously as dean of students and executive vice president. Practicing participative management, he involved trustees, faculty and students in organizing the first long-range planning and budgeting processes. He upgraded the faculty through inservice institutes, opportunities for further study and careful selections. He established a Center for Career Education and a Center for Economic Education, and his efforts resulted in raising the annual gift and grant income by 2,000 percent. He also taught Human Relations and Management Psychology.

Dixon succeeds Lyle Wright, who has served as president on an interim basis since July 1976, and will serve a brief orientation period as president-elect prior to assuming the reins of presidency. He takes over at an important time in Inupiat University's progress. Founded in 1975 by North Slope Eskimos, under the leadership of Borough Mayor Eben Hopson, Inupiat University has been characterized as "the jewel in the Inupiat crown." Its purpose is to fulfill badly needed functions which contribute to achievement of individual goals and which complement and contribute to the work of other agencies such as the North Slope Borough, the North Slope Borough School District, the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation and its subsidiaries, and the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope. Since the summer of 1976, Inupiat University has struggled for survival against tremendous difficulties engendered by charges of malfeasance against former personnel and by funding problems.

As Ross Dixon becomes its new president, Inupiat University has entered a new era, having survived successfully, obtained healthy funding, and developed strong community support. Its Board of Trustees now includes sixteen community leaders, including Joseph Upickson, President of the Arctic Slope Native Association and the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope; Eben Hopson, mayor of the North Slope Borough; Edward Hopson, president of the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation; and George Stevens, president of the School Board.