

# Upward Bound helps high school students

The chance of a lifetime for rural youth to experience college life at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, January 21 through February 4.

One hundred rural Alaskan youth are part of the statewide Upward Bound program. This two week session, one of three college component sessions offered by Upward Bound, is to expose seniors and early graduating juniors to what college life is all about. These students

will be involved in university classes. They will not only be able to audit these selected classes, they shall go through a mock registration, learn how to fill out applications, entrance exams, information on available financial aids, two year and four year programs, and the various degrees available. They will also enjoy college social activities, and be able to live in the dormitories on campus to really get a feel of things.

The Upward Bound Program out of the Alaska Student Higher Education Services, (ASHES) under the auspices of Alaska Federation of Natives, works with high school youth in rural Alaska who are low-income, undermotivated, who have academic potential, but are unlikely to go on to further schooling, due to lack of preparation or underachievement in high school.

The program works with the students all year long via a teacher/counselor in the selected school with extracurricular activities and classes implemented directly into regular school curriculum, emphasizing remedial academics, communication skills, decision making, values clarification, and life skills counseling; then also the biannual college component sessions occurring in Anchorage and Fairbanks.

The program in the past two fiscal years has achieved well over 60 percent success of graduating students, who normally would not have furthered their education.

"The session will provide for these selected students a taste, actually to see and feel what college life is all about, the hassles, the red tape, the experience of learning and becoming, the fun, the maturation," says Bill Wood, statewide coordinator. "Hopefully the exposure will encourage the students to further their education. If they decide against college, other vocational opportunities information will be provided, so they will have a chance to gain some type of post secondary education or at least the understanding of the importance of it. The program doesn't decide for them, but it gives them enough important data to make their own decision—and that's the most important of all."

The students who will attend the session will be from all over the state representing the Upward Bound target schools, i.e., Craig, Dillingham, Fort Yukon, Kiana, Kivalina, Metlakatla, Mt. Edgecumbe, Noorvik, and Tanana high schools.

Comment made by a former successful Upward Bounder

from Shishmaref, "I have gained more information that has helped me understand myself better. Also the experience of being on campus with college students has greatly helped me in looking forward to college; I wish it could have lasted forever, everything fits together for me now."

The Upward Bound program employs in Anchorage: Allan Ridder, administrator of ASHES; Bill Wood, statewide coordinator; Liz Napoleon, assistant coordinator; and Frank Gularte, office assistant. In Fairbanks: Dick Gumm, U.A.F. Upward Bound coordinator.

For more information, please contact: Richard Gumm, Upward Bound Coordinator, Student Orientation Services, 5th Floor Gruening Building, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701, Phone 479-7871.

In Anchorage, contact Bill Wood, Statewide Upward Bound Coordinator, Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., A.S.H.E.S. Project, 550 West 8th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501, Phone 274-3611, ext. 269.