

For Alaska Natives—

Need for Educ. Near Home

ANCHORAGE — Alaska Natives need higher education opportunities to be available closer to home and a group which met in Fairbanks Dec. 18 has assigned a task force to develop a plan which would force the University of Alaska to recognize that fact.

A series of meetings, including a Dec. 26 workshop to study administrative designs for such an arm of the present University system, have been held. The task force, was established by the Alaska Native Human Resources Development Program (ANHRDP).

"The University of Alaska must begin to consider more off-campus programs which Alaska Natives can participate in within their own communities," exclaimed Eric Ekvall, a higher education researcher for the Alaska Federation of Natives and head of the task force. "We've found

that these kinds of programs are useful so we want to turn the university on to the needs and the fact that education can continue outside of traditional classrooms."

ANHRDP was established under a Kellogg Foundation grant. It is primarily concerned with developing a system to provide training to Alaska Natives through the university resource for development of skills which are needed for implementation of the settlement act.

Under the direction of Lisa Rudd and Dr. Lou Jacquot, ANHRDP has studied higher and adult education needs for the

last six months. Now it intends to convince the U of A of the needs.

Jacquot has been reassigned as an advisor for the program and Rudd has indicated she will resign for personal reasons.

"Now I really hate to go," she added. "I'm encouraged by the policy council's recommendation to access where the effort should be directed and encourage the university to make more financial and administrative commitment."

At its Dec. 18 meeting, the council passed a resolution sup-

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porting development of a substantive coordinated effort to address the needs of Native Alaskan citizens. In addition it urged the university's Academic Development Plan Committee to incorporate explicit recommendations into the future plans, thereby constituting a clear and genuine commitment.

At that time, Frank Darnell, a member of the board representing the Center for Northern Educational Research (CNER) expressed concern that such a program might not be representative of the proper role of the university. However, other members urged the role of the university to become more in tune with educational needs of all Alaskans.

Ekvall, in the most recent meeting of the task force in Anchorage, suggested that all present programs for higher education be expanded and modified. This would include the rural community colleges, the Alaska Methodist University off-

campus programs, the Antioch-Sheldon Jackson consortium, the Tanana Chiefs Land Claims College, the U of A External Degree Program and individual corporation training program.

In addition the suggested plan would include a presidential level representative within the U of A in charge of overseeing and lending executive-level clout to the project.

CNER will be holding an advisory council meeting in Anchorage Jan. 7 and ANHRDP will meet here the following day. The task force proposal is expected to be completed by then for presentation to the ANHRDP council.
