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# Educational- Talent Search

The Educational Talent Search program is by no means a new program in the State of Alaska. The Alaska Native Brotherhood in Juneau received the initial grant from the Office of Education to operate the counseling program in the late sixties.

The Educational Talent Search Grant was awarded to the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. in 1971, in addition to the Upward Bound and Special Services programs which became known as the Trio Programs under the Alaska Student Higher Education Services.

A number of different methods have been utilized in delivering Talent Search services, and this year it was decided that the counselors would work out of the Central Office in Anchorage.

The Educational Talent Search program is student counseling and student advocate program that has counselors who travel throughout Alaska to contact and assist those students who wish to pursue an educational goal.

The three major goals and objectives of Talent Search are:

1. Identify qualified youths of financial or cultural need with an exceptional potential for post-secondary educational training and encourage them to complete secondary school and undertake post-secondary educational training.

2. Publicize existing forms of student financial aid, including aid furnished under this title.

3. Encourage secondary school or college dropouts of demonstrated aptitude to re-enter educational program, including post secondary school programs.

So far this year we have contacted 418 students which is a bit lower than we had anticipated for this time in the program year. The problem encountered the most, is identification of these students as we have been under-staffed this year.

We would appreciate hearing from any student who needs assistance or anyone who can give us the name of students that they know of that need assistance. We have four counselors who are assigned to different regions and expect to hire two more in January.