

# Dental project begins

A special grant has funded a dental health demonstration project which will send teams of Anchorage Community College dental hygiene students and faculty into the communities of Kiana and Allakaket to do a health level assessment survey, and provide dental health education and dental treatments. The grant was sponsored by Senator Frank Ferguson of Kotzebue.

The \$100,000 program is administered through the Delta Dental Plan of Alaska, non-profit dental service corporation, and coordinated by Dr. Joshua Wright. The end product of the demonstration project, besides dental care for the residents of the communities visited will be a report to the legislature by Delta that will educationally and statistically evaluate the information gathered by the visiting teams. The information will be used by the legislature in preparing to allocate funds for a state-wide dental care program.

The teams will consist of two ACC dental hygiene students, one ACC faculty member, and one adjunct faculty member; from private practice in Anchorage. The teams are taking portable dentistry equipment with them.

The first visit, to Kiana, which has a population of approximately 339 people, is currently underway. The team left July 16 and expected to be in Kiana approximately nine days. The ACC adjunct instructor for the Kiana visit is Dr. Charles Connell.

The Allakaket visit will take place during the first part of August, according to Dr. Geraldine Morrow, RDH, DMD, supervising dentist of the dental programs at ACC, and the ad-

adjunct instructor will be Dr. Fred Bouse. Allakaket's population is approximately 164 people.

While at the bush communities, the teams will provide free dental care, including denture work, and inform the residents about proper nutrition, brushing and flossing techniques and other oral health techniques.

The students who participate in the visits will perform tasks under the adjunct dentists and faculty supervision and receive credit for the course, "Health Resources in Action." The course requires that the students do a dental hygiene-related community project. In the past, according to Dr. Morrow, the students have worked at public agencies like Headstart and the Indian Health Services program.