

Editorial

Education requires persistence

Alaska Native students and educators have a special challenge:

- Finding ways to counter centuries of racism and its corrosive affect on individual self-esteem;
- Preserving and revitalizing our cultures and all the richness they have to offer future generations of Natives and non-Natives alike; and
- Preparing for survival in a complicated world that is both promising and dysfunctional.

The political and economic climate of this state, infused as it is with the smug, reactionary rhetoric, the ignorance, contradictions and fear of the conservative ruling class, is not a hopeful atmosphere for anyone of progressive views in which to work. This is especially true of Native educators and students. Yet work they must, and with our strong support and encouragement, for our future as Native peoples is on the line.

To these unsung heroes of the Alaska Native community—students, teachers, administrators, parents, elders, all who are pitching in to pass the torch of new and traditional knowledge, our deepest appreciation for your dedication and your achievements.