

Alaska Native groups travel to perform in Washington

Interior and Southeast Native groups are holding a series of cultural celebrations and performances this week in Washington D.C.

The celebration will include dance, music, traditional foods and words of wisdom from elders. The event is sponsored by Tanana Chiefs Conference, the Alaska Native Coalition and the Alaska Federation of Natives.

The entertainment includes the Chilkat Dancers and those from Sitka representing the Tlingit Indian community; Haida dancers from Hydaburg; Athabaskan fiddlers Trimble Gilbert and Herbie Vent; and speakers from Denakkanaaga, and In-

terior elders group.

Mitch Demientieff, newly elected president of TCC, said the event has been put together to share Alaska Native culture and heritage with people in the nation's capitol. Demientieff said he had hoped to have an Eskimo dance group or two on hand as well, but none was able to raise money for the trip.

The celebration began with a celebration with the National Congress of American Indians, and will include two shows on the lawn of the Capitol Building and another in a Senate hearing room.