

John Reimer on Trio Programs

John Reimer, Project Director has just returned from a week-long meeting of the Project Directors of the Region X area in Otter Creek, Oregon.

John is on the Task Force and Steering Committee for Region X Trio Programs (Talent Search, Upward Bound and Special Services programs).

The Task Force is made up of project directors of these programs who are working together to seek some alternative funding possibilities for the future. Projects will be competing for funding next year.

Hopefully, working together the task force will be able to make some recommendations concerning the future programs. Some of the specific topics discussed were: upcoming federal legislation concerning the Trio Programs; other areas of funding; proposal development; needs assessments for the State; student motivation — Upward Bound; Drop-out Retention — Special Service; evaluation — Talent Search; and public information and recruiting. Bill Wood, Upward Bound Director and Connie Simpson, Special Services Director at Sheldon Jackson also attended the meeting with John.

The Upward Bound program is off to a slower start this year, but we soon hope to have finalized plans with the Bethel and Kodiak areas to begin plans for an Upward Bound session with the cooperation and participation of the Regional High School, the Community College and the idea this year is to bring the program to the students.

In the past, students have been transported usually to the urban areas for a one-shot session which was all that could be afforded. With the concept being brought to the regional level, the cost is not quite so prohibitive.

Students are closer to home, there is more local participation and involvement of the schools and parents of students in the Upward Bound program.

Chris Singsaas, Talent Search Coordinator has been heavily

involved in recruiting 6 Field Counselors who are also University Year for Action students. She has recently returned from a field visit to the Seward Skill Center and Kenai.

She will be at the University of Alaska — Anchorage during the fall registration this week. Chris hopes to have the Field Counselors on board to begin working in the rural areas assisting students who want to continue their education.

Following the selection of the Field Counselors, there will be an orientation session involving all staff in the central office and the student field counselors.