

'Our Rainbow Heritage' — Theme for Conference

"Our Rainbow Heritage — strengthening multicultural education for today and tomorrow" will be the theme of the fifth annual Alaska Bilingual/Multicultural Education Conference to be held in Anchorage at the Westward Hilton Hotel February 7-9, 1979.

The Conference, co-sponsored by the Alaska Bilingual/Bicultural Advisory Council and the Alaska State Department of Education, is expected to draw 250-300 teachers, classroom aides, administrators, school board members, university staff and community members from throughout the state to attend the plenary sessions and a choice of more than 30 different workshops.

Highlights of the Conference include an opening address on Wednesday morning by John Schaeffer, President of the NANA Regional Corporation, whose topic will be "A Commitment to Educating Our Youth for Tomorrow." On Thursday at the noon luncheon the Conference participants will hear a presentation on "Trends in Bilingual Education" by Dr. Edward DeAvila of Oakland, California.

Dr. DeAvila is a recognized authority in the field of bilingual education and has served as a consultant to major

school districts and universities throughout the nation. He is a consulting editor for the *Journal of Educational Psychology* and was responsible for the research and planning that led to the PBS children's television series "Villa Alegre".

Workshop sessions ranging from "The Inupiat Bilingual/Bicultural Education Program" to "Improving Reading Skills of Bilingual Children" will be led by resource persons from throughout Alaska.

Major assistance for the Conference workshop sessions is being provided by the National Bilingual Training Resource Center at the University of Washington (Seattle). Dr. Joseph Beard, Director of the Center, will lead a workshop on "Career Ladder Development for Alaska."

Five other educators from the Seattle-Tacoma area will lead workshops on "Developing Bilingual/Multicultural in the School Curriculum," "Language Development Through Culture" and "Developing Evaluation Plans for Bilingual/Bicultural Education Programs in School Districts."

Tsuguo Arai, chairman of the Alaska Bilingual/Bicultural Advisory Council states: "The purpose of our Conference is twofold: (1) We want to strengthen the skills of key decision-makers

so they will be aware of the range of possibilities for bilingual/multicultural education programs and learn how these can be developed to strengthen a school district's total curriculum and (2) We want to celebrate our rainbow heritage — the cultural pluralism of Alaska's people."

Cultural heritage through the arts will be a major focus throughout the three-day event.

This emphasis will include Athabascan story telling and song, traditional and contemporary Japanese music, Tlingit dancing and singing, Filipino, Spanish and Korean dances, and a modern adaptation of traditional Nigerian folk dancing. A celebration of the cultural pluralism of Alaska's people will be a part of the closing banquet on the evening of February 9 at the Westward Hotel.

Conference participants may elect to register for one university credit for the three-days through either University of Alaska, Alaska Pacific University, Inupiat University, or Sheldon Jackson College. Further information about the Conference schedule and registration procedure can be obtained by contacting Lydia L. Hays, Conference Coordinator, (907) 344-1096 or Tsuguo Arai (907) 333-9561.