

Tlingit Haida Central Council honored for jobs hiring program

The Tlingit and Haida Central Council has been honored for its "innovative and outstanding" performance in providing jobs and job training for Alaska Natives.

Jobs given to Natives in the Southeast area of the state in the past year included about 120 jobs in the timber and fishing in-

dustries and in the office and managerial training areas of private industry.

The recognition came at the Second National Indian Employment and Training Conference being conducted in Tulsa, Okla., this week.

The conference is being held to allow speakers from private

and government agencies to discuss critical issues facing Indian and Native people in the employment and training area.

Nationwide, Indian and Native American Employment and Training programs have been successful in reducing the national Indian unemployment during the past six years by

approximately 20 percent.

The programs are being administered by various Native organizations but are actually operated under federal Comprehensive Education and Training Act programs which have been contracted to the Native groups.

Tlingit and Haida Central Council's Title VII administrator, Jerry Arca attributes the success of their program to the overall cooperation and organization of the Tlingit and Haida Private Industry Council.

"The formation of the regional village/urban profit-making corporation under the Alaska Native Settlement Claims Act

provided the unique opportunity for private industry to carry a little clout in the interests of Native American vocational training and employment in Alaska. Twelve of our board members come directly from the Native village and urban corporations in Southeast Alaska, and are directing much of their employment and training services to Native Americans.

The Sealaska Corporation, one of the largest Native corporations in Alaska, has been instrumental in working with the Tlingit and Haida Private Industry Council to provide jobs and training for Native Alaskans.