

# Northwestern Villages Attend In-Service Workshop at UA

By EMILY IVANOFF BROWN

The Inupiat Eskimos, of Northwestern Alaskan coastal villages attended an In-Service Training Workshop at the University of Alaska's Wood Center for a three-day orientation, November 19-22, to the new Cultural Awareness Program for the present and future presentation of their own language, Inupiat, and of English, to the

Eskimo-American students, beginning in lower level village schools.

The Cultural Awareness Program objectives' overall goal is: "to reduce chronic and severe academic retardation of elementary students in target villages."

To obtain this overall goal, the following sub-goals were planned:

- Increased knowledge of cultural heritage

- Increased interest in school.
- Increased self-pride.
- Increased satisfaction in inter-group relations.
- Increased understanding of other cultures.
- Increased incentive.
- Increased initiative.
- Increased academic achievement in reading and mathematics.

It is hoped that in the future all our young students among

our Eskimo-Americans will be proud of new accomplishments in:

- Eskimo language development and facility of translation to English and back to Inupiat.
- Arts and crafts products using Inupiat and English.
- Knowing Eskimo Heritage as well as ordinary American Heritages.
- Knowing how to survive in

Arctic elements.

Mrs. Bertha Lowe, the Coordinator of the Alaska State-Operated School System, based at Anchorage, reported the above Short Session objectives to the Eskimo representatives from the nineteen villages, and oriented them to the main objectives.

The conclusion of the In-Service Training Workshop attendees stated that the value of this new Cultural Awareness Program will show its real social usefulness when:

- Teachers can report that Eskimo-American students are happy and smile in relating their experiences.
- Parents can report that Eskimo-American students in their family are happy and smile in relating their experiences.
- Students can indicate expression of their feeling happy now about being Eskimo.