

John Shively Joins AFN

ANCHORAGE — The head of Alaska Rural Community Action Program, John Shively, has resigned to fill the post of executive vice president of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. Shively, 29, began Monday handling the key administrative duties of the statewide organization, leaving State Senator Willie Hensley to deal primarily with the presidential role of implementation of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

Before going to work for RurAL-CAP three years ago, Shively worked several months for the AFN, putting together the proposal for its biggest program - Healthright.

"He has amply demonstrated his managerial abilities," said Hensley in announcing the appointment. "John is aware of all the regional leadership and their problems and he is familiar with most of our funding agencies. "This is just one more step to involve the president more directly in implementation of the Claims Act, while Shively will handle the administration and overview of the programs," he said.

Shively, who came to Alaska from Goshen, N.Y. seven years ago, has worked closely with many bush communities during his years with RurAL-CAP. He said that the fact he is not a native should not hinder him in his work. "They hired me to do a job because I have some administrative qualifications," he said. "If I do the job, there should be no problem.

"The native leadership realizes that there is a lot to be done and that they can't do it all themselves. The key issue is that the natives will be in control," he said.

Mike Harper meanwhile will step up from deputy director to Shively's post in RurAL-CAP.